

GRAPEVINE

HALTON HILLS RANKED AMONG THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE

Money Sense Magazine ranked Halton Hills as the seventh best town to live in Ontario and the 24 best in Canada in their 2017 report. 417 towns—twice as many as last year—were ranked based on 36 categories, including: income and wealth, affordability, crime, health care, and more. Last year Halton Hills ranked 23.

TALENT BASH

Enjoy an evening of local talent this Thursday, July 20 at the Red Harp when Inspire Halton presents its fifth annual Talent Bash. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. This year, Inspire Halton is partnering with the Acton BIA, and one of the evening's performers will go on to perform at the Leathertown Festival. Donate what you can, and all proceeds will go to youth programming in Halton Hills.

MURDOCK MYSTERIES AT ROCKWOOD CONSERVATION

It was no 'mystery' what was happening in the Rockwood Conservation area on Tuesday. The ruins were alive with the sounds of filming. The parking lot was base camp, while the historic Harris Woollen Mill ruins were ground zero for an episode of season 11 of the series 'Murdoch Mysteries'. Audible snippets like "cut", "lunch" and even "Mr. Murdoch" could be heard through the trees. Kept under strict wraps so as not to give away any of the upcoming storylines, speculation on Fandom.com was that artist Tom Thomson might make a return, and given the location, it seems like a pretty good guess.

CLOTHING SWAP

The Acton BIA, in partnership

with the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and Heritage Acton, will be hosting a clothing swap at the Acton Town Hall Centre, 19 Willow Street North on Thursday, July 27 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bring five to 20 pieces of your best, gently used, washed and ironed clothing for a maximum of 10 tickets towards new—to you—items.

Categories include: ladies', men's, teen and kid's clothing. Clean out your closet, do something good for the environment, and get a new wardrobe at the same time. Clothes can be dropped off at the Acton BIA office on Wednesday, July 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Any left-over items will be donated to charity.

HALTON HILLS AIR QUALITY

Halton Region issued a Special Air Quality Statement on Tuesday, July 18 due to high levels of pollution. During high risk days, people with heart or breathing issues, as well as children and older adults, are encouraged to reduce or reschedule outdoor activities. Individuals who experience symptoms such as coughing or throat irritation should also reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. For more information, visit www.halton.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=12472

ROLE OF THE MP

Members of Parliament (MP) are federally elected representatives for a specific electoral district or riding in the House of Commons. MPs are responsible for legislating in parliament, representing their political party, and serving the needs of their constituents, while holding a number of roles in the government. There are 338 seats for MPs in the House of Commons, and Michael Chong is the MP for Wellington-Halton Hills.

LETTERS

The views expressed in these published letters are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The New Tanner Publishing Ltd.



Re: The elephant in Canada's spare room

Dear Editor,

You must know the saying no good deed goes unpunished? Well in the article [The elephant in Canada's spare room] written by Trish Bell, just to make sure were talking about the same one. I have seen a few people get up in arms because their prejudices weren't confirmed. Instead of looking at counter points or

actually criticizing the article all that's been said is that it is an offence and other such nonsense. Even a dash of irony in here as the title is Just A Thought, but apparently discussion on sensitive topics? No, shut them down. I am just here to say I found it to be an amazing article with a breath of real soul put into an article which I don't see too

often and I enjoy picking up a New York Times every week or so. I would be so bold as to say I speak for the silent majority when I say nothing should happen to this writer for writing such a lovely article. If you haven't received any hate mail, then disregard the top half and give her a pat on the back for me.

Yitzchak Azerad

Editors Note: Just a Thought is an opinion column expressing the views of the writer. It is not necessarily the view of The New Tanner newspaper or its Publisher.

JUST A THOUGHT

Look before you leap



By
Trish Bell

In less than a year, the slim majority of us—52 per cent if we continue the record high of 2014—will actually take the small bit of time required to perform our civic duty and cast our ballots for our next provincial government. Ask anyone in conversation across this province and they'll tell you: Premier Wynne has got to go. Yet, according to the results of a recent Innovative Research Poll, Wynne's Liberals have not only halted their disastrous dive but have begun to climb back into contention, despite the fact their illustrious leader is not planning to abandon the ship.

It seems Ontarians either have short memories or incredible forgiveness. According to the same poll, the number of us who are strongly opposed to another Liberal government appears to quickly be shrinking, down to just 27 per cent since February, and a large 19 per cent want change but continue to think the Liberals are the best party to run the show. Almost half of this group are indeed planning to vote Liberal. This thinking can, frankly, be dangerous stuff. It inadvertently sends our democracy askew by not laying blame upon a party for the decisions of their leader—Dalton McGuinty being a most recent example—Voting by party has consequences and many would argue our southern neighbour is the poster child example of why this can be. Sure party alliances make life easy; they take the heavy lifting out of elections: one need not spend time and effort getting to know the people, the policies or the problems and the party doesn't expend energy in gaining money and votes from more than required to gain power. Yet, this unwillingness to vary one's vote means that we involuntarily reward decisions we do not support and we

send the message to those in power that they are not responsible or accountable to us. The Ontario Liberal Party has heard this message loud and clear as we have sent them back to the helm for the last 14 years. But before we take the easy way out again, might we recap the impact our relentless fall back to this party has had on our province. Might we acknowledge the known scandals, mismanagement and outright corruption of Ornge, e-Health, the Pan-Am Games, gas plant cancellations, reneged green energy plans, the Hydro One sell off and resulting ceiling-less pay of Hydro One and OPG CEOs, questionable infrastructure project handouts, partisan advertising, cash for access events, the child abuse case against a deputy education minister—when Wynne was actually Education Minister—and the Sudbury election bribery case to name but a few. Yet, besides all that there are also the slew of legislative decisions that were not necessarily in Ontario's best interest, like the carbon tax, rent control rules, sex education rewrite, guaranteed income, \$15 minimum wage, and the deal to decrease hydro rates by 25 per cent now with the knowledge we are both borrowing against the future and certifying higher prices by 2022—although it must be new math because my bill clearly isn't 25 per cent off. Add to this the over \$300 billion we now owe—more than double the 2003 debt figure—or the fact interest charges alone are our third highest budgetary cost after healthcare and educa-

tion, and the warning lights and sirens should be ringing loud and clear.

But, for many the fear of the unknown is what keeps them choosing red. True, the PCs, NDP or any other group might falter; there would definitely be a learning curve to the seats across the aisle after all this time. Yet, shouldn't known acts of deviance deserve comeuppance before imagined ones? It appears, by the sheer arrogance of decisions made just these past months, that Wynne's Liberals are indeed counting on you to be easily swayed. They have outright rejected the Accountability Officer and FAO, falsely claimed a balanced budget through manipulation of accounting, offered up a concession-free seven-and-a-half per cent raise for government workers—keep in mind that according to the Fraser Institute these folks already have 13 per cent better pay and far better packages than the rest of us—handed out a four per cent raise for education employees—via a two-year deal that coincidentally straddles the election period—did a sudden about face via a moratorium on school closures—although the 121 slated to close and 300 plus already under scrutiny remain on the block—and brag about an ever-worsening health care system that even Health Minister Dr. Eric Hoskins admits "may not be sustainable" despite the fact we pay top dollar for what at best is subpar results. Clearly, the Liberal party is expecting us all to forget and forgive by blindly voting them in yet again, and is willing to spend your hard earned money to ensure the loyalty of the few who might hesitate. The question remains...are they right to assume Ontarians don't care how their government runs?

The New Tanner welcomes your LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, but, please keep in mind that letters must include the author's name, address and phone number in order for us to contact you if needed. Letters that are sent in anonymously will not be published. Letters may be edited for content or length. They are published as a first come first serve basis and we do not guarantee publication due to space availability.