

OPINION

Wise choices

Halton's two school boards had to make tough decisions recently regarding health issues concerning its students and both boards earned passing grades for the actions they took.

First, the Halton Catholic District School Board wisely opted to reverse a five-year-old ban on allowing public health nurses in local schools to administer the HPV vaccine to Grade 8 female students.

HPV is a common virus, with many strains that is spread through sexual activity. It is the primary cause of cervical cancer and can also cause other cancers in both men and women.

The Halton board was the **only** one of 29 Catholic boards in the province that didn't allow onsite HPV vaccinations. What did the local board know that others didn't?

The decision to lift the ban, does not mean the Halton board is encouraging sexual activity among its students nor does it mean it is promoting an unsafe vaccine.

The majority of medical opinions indicate the vaccine is safe and the decision to vaccinate or not is still in the hands of parents—so it boils down to a matter of choice. Maintaining the ban was not the proper course.

Meanwhile, Halton District School Board trustees wisely voted to continue to allow Wi-Fi in all schools but will monitor the health risks as new information is revealed by world and Canadian health experts. Most trustees believe there aren't any risks associated with electromagnetic effects of wireless use in schools.

Maintaining the status quo but being vigilant is a prudent approach.

We don't blame some parents for being extra cautious when it comes to their kids' health, but there comes a point when caution morphs into over-protectiveness.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

The Acton and Georgetown Santa Claus Parades will be held Saturday, Nov. 16.

Do you attend the parades?

- Yes. Georgetown only (48%)
- No. I never/rarely attend (33%)
- Yes. Acton only (15%)
- Yes. I go to both (4%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Old photos sought to preserve past

Dear editor,

For the past eight years I, along with great help from Don Fendley and Al Darby, have been building a pictorial website of Georgetown.

It started out as a scan of one of my sister's yearbooks from GDHS and has turned into more than 15,000 items, including all of the yearbooks from GDHS up to 2006. With much of our history now being torn down my aim is to preserve our memories by pictures.

My plea to the community is this: please have a look and see if you have anything to share. Class photos and or yearbooks from any of the schools. Currently I only have two from the middle schools. Team pictures—hockey, baseball, soccer... etc. The bantam hockey tournament is one event that is in big demand. Our newest gallery is "In loving memory" which includes family and friends who have passed away.

So before you throw away those

old photos see if there's anything in there that you could share with us and preserve for future generations.

The website is www.thegeorgetownvault.com and you can reach me via email at courchesne14@hotmail.com or on Facebook.

Bonnie (Hayes) Courchesne,
Georgetown

Not enough shops honour veterans

Dear editor,

Georgetown is a nice, small bustling community. However, during the past several weeks I have noticed something that concerns me.

Canada has just finished honouring our veterans. In downtown Georgetown I observed that only one business went to the extent of putting up a Remembrance Day display. One other did so on Guelph Street. If I happened to miss one or two others, please accept my apology.

At the same time there were a number of Christmas displays up in various stores. I realize Christmas makes money and Remembrance

Day doesn't (for stores).

Do these businesses not care about the message they are sending to our veterans? I know there are veterans here because there is a Canadian Legion. It was the veterans who bought us our ability to celebrate Christmas.

J. Sullivan, Georgetown

Cab rider grateful

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the Town of Halton Hills for providing half-price taxi tickets for seniors.

Also, thank you to McKab Taxi and its wonderful drivers who are always courteous and friendly and on time.

Merle Carr, Georgetown

Letters policy

Letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length. Publication is not guaranteed.

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