

A look ahead

A new year, like a new birth, is a fresh start and is always a good time to reflect on where we've been, where we're at and where we'd like to head.

As with any year, there will certainly be challenges to tackle, unexpected emergencies to contend with and moments of jubilation and tragedy.

We now are in the Year of the Snake, according to Chinese astrology, and the snake represents wisdom, intelligence and self-control, while also possessing the ability to strike at will, quickly and powerfully.

Here's a brief wish list of what we'd like to see in 2013.

- A provincial government that will actually focus on governing, instead of political posturing. However, that may prove difficult as another election looms.

- The Province to keep its hands off Halton Hills Hydro so that it remains under Town control.

- The Province to understand that it must be responsible for paying for all Ontario Municipal Board appeals to the Places to Grow Act, not Halton Region/Town of Halton Hills. This was a Province-driven plan, and as such the Province should incur all OMB costs.

- A dose of common sense about guns for our U.S. neighbours.

- A compromise—for public school teachers' unions and the Province.

- The same for the NHL billionaires vs. millionaires squabble.

- Better treatment, and laws, safeguarding women and children who are victims of violence, whether here at home or abroad in countries like India and Afghanistan.

- Successful openings for the revamped Georgetown Hospital, Mold-Masters SportsPlex, Georgetown library and Cultural Centre and Georgetown Market Place and for the new Toronto Premium Outlets mall at Trafalgar Rd. and Steeles Avenue.

- A balanced federal budget.

WEB POLL RESULTS

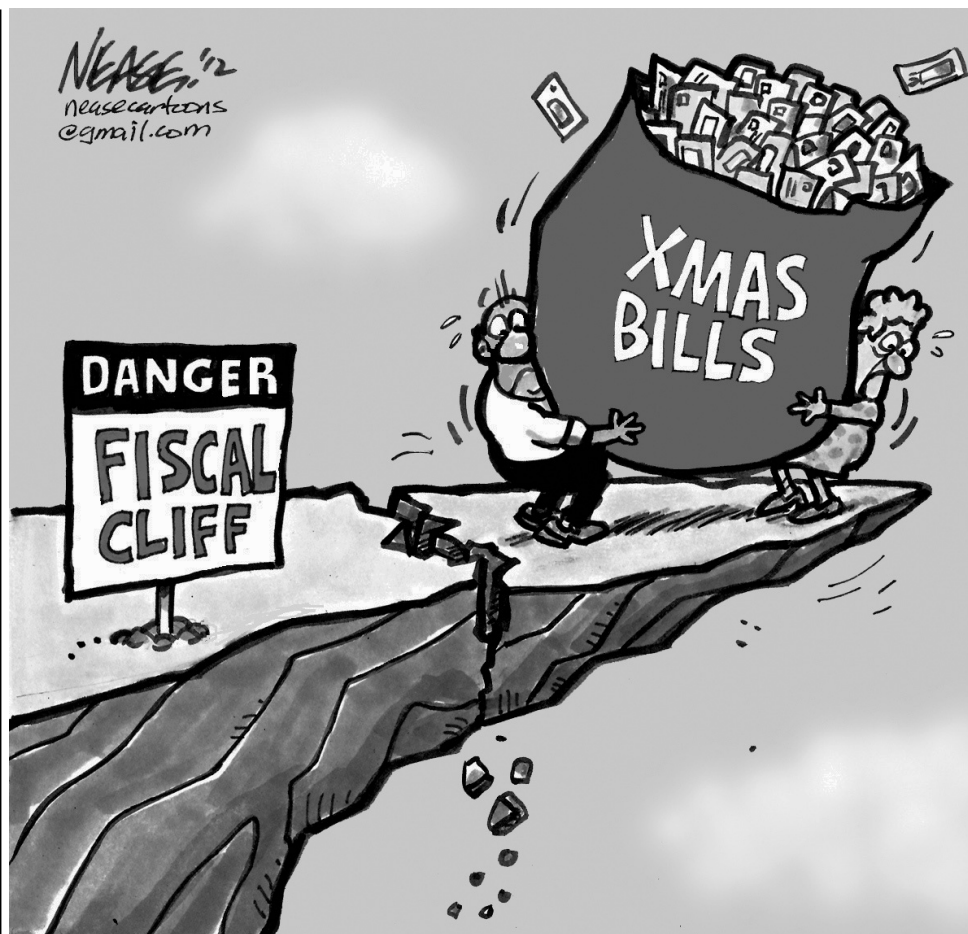
(Go to www.theifp.ca)

How would you personally rate 2012?

- A complete disaster...looking forward to 2013 (50%)
 - A pretty uneventful year (32%)
 - One of the best years ever (18%)

The Independent & Free Press

The Independent & Free Press is published Tuesday and Thursday and is one of several Metroland Media Group Ltd. community newspapers. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.



Steve Nease

905-873-0301
Publisher: Dana Robbins
General manager: Steve Foreman (sforeman@theifp.ca)
Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell (ccampbell@theifp.ca)
Managing editor: John McGhie (jmcghie@theifp.ca)
Distribution manager: Nancy Geissler (ngeissler@theifp.ca)
Classifieds
 Kristie Pells (classified@theifp.ca)
Accounting
 Rose Marie Gauthier
Editorial
 Cynthia Gamble: News editor (cgamble@theifp.ca)
 Ted Brown: Photography (tbrown@theifp.ca)
 Lisa Tallyn: Staff writer (ltallyn@theifp.ca)
 Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/sports (emaher@theifp.ca)

Letters policy

Letters must include an 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.

Email:

jmcghie@theifp.ca

Mail or drop off:

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, ON, L7G 4B1.

Letters to the editor

Apology given to Great team effort would-be grinch

Dear editor,

To the miscreant who mistook my car as a Christmas gift on the evening of Dec. 24 into the morning of Dec. 25 I must apologize.

First of all, I recognize that by accidentally leaving my car unlocked I was an enabler and tempted you beyond any sort of self-control you possess to follow the rules of our law-abiding society.

Secondly, I am sorry for the disappointment you must have felt when you unwrapped the interior of my car and discovered there was nothing worth stealing.

Maybe one day you will earn property of your own, have a job, develop a sense of community, and form a family. Perhaps then you will be at home in the early morning hours, asleep with your family, and will experience the joy of unwrapping gifts you purchased, within your home on Christmas morning instead of in my driveway.

Merry Christmas. You certainly didn't ruin mine. I hope I didn't ruin yours.

Bill Ford, Acton

Dear editor,

The recent news article in *The Independent & Free Press* provides results of the Halton Regional Police's "Cram a Cruiser" food drive held at the Superstore on December 15.

What the article does not mention is the overwhelming generosity of the people of Halton Hills by donating the 9,000 lbs. of food as well as the amazing effort put forth by the officers of 11 Division who, firstly, recognized the need to collect additional food for the Georgetown Bread Basket, organized the drive, then manned the all-day event (some of whom had just concluded a 12-hour shift and insisted they stay until the conclusion).

These actions speak volumes to the generous and caring people of this town and to the dedication of those who protect us.

Well done Halton Hills!

Tom Money, Georgetown

ABI support group now in Georgetown

Dear editor,

I am pleased to announce the start of an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) support group in Georgetown.

ABI is the number one cause of death and disability for people under the age of 45. This support group is for caregivers and survivors of ABI, over the age of 18, including people with traumatic brain injury, concussion, stroke and brain disease.

I am a survivor of a traumatic brain injury and during my recovery, I found that the closest support group was in Mississauga—too far for many to attend.

Starting Jan. 8/2013 at the Real Canadian Superstore on Guelph St. in the Community Room at 7:30 p.m. we will have our first meeting, followed by the second Tuesday of every month.

This group is a chapter of the Brain Injury Association of Peel and Halton (BIAPH).

Visit biaph.com for more information about Acquired Brain Injury and its support groups.

Russell Davies, Georgetown

Send a letter

The Independent & Free Press welcomes your letters.

Letters must include an address and daytime phone number.

Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length. Please email your letter to: jmcghie@theifp.ca