

## Storm reminder

Well, that certainly was a wake-up call, wasn't it?

Last week's storm that buried most of southern Ontario in 20-plus centimetres of snow was a blunt reminder to area residents of what to do (and not to do) when Old Man Winter decides to flex his muscles.

We haven't seen that kind of snow activity in five years and, by the time the flakes stopped falling late Friday, Halton and other regions were left under a blanket of white stuff that left many with aching backs from shovelling.

However, the storm certainly reinforced the fact that, yes indeed, we live in Canada (despite the recent mild winters) and there are certain precautions to take when it comes to a storm of this magnitude.

First, when weather forecasters are suggesting driving in a storm is not a wise choice and police are urging residents not to drive unless absolutely necessary—heed their advice when possible.

Unnecessary vehicular traffic only adds to the problems a storm brings—specifically it makes the job all the more difficult for snow-clearing road crews.

And as for those road crews, here's a tip of the hat to the beleaguered workers we are quick to blame when roads aren't cleared fast enough to our liking. They did a stellar job last week, for the most part, both in prepping for the onslaught of snow and dealing with it when it came. Most streets were passable by early Saturday.

As we said, there are little things that can be done during a snowstorm that make a big difference: digging out any fire hydrants near your property, ensuring your outside dryer vent area is clear of snow, helping to shovel out an elderly neighbour's driveway/walkway or ensuring your vehicle isn't in the way of a snowplow.

For your own sake it's also important to make sure your vehicle has an emergency kit in the event you do get stranded in a storm.

### WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca))

The Halton Region Waste Guide and Calendar was sent out to homeowners this week. How often do you use the Guide?

- 6 or more times a year (75%)
- 1-5 times a year (14%)
- Never (11%)

### The Independent & Free Press

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### 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**Anonymous letters will not be published.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.**

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## Letters to the editor

### 'Shop local'... but be on guard

Dear editor,

From time to time we, as Georgetown residents, are urged to 'Shop Local'.

I have had several unfortunate experiences doing that at local retail shops.

Today at a supermarket I selected French fries from a bin marked \$1, which was the price advertised in their weekly flyer. I was charged \$2.29 for them. Also today I tried to buy envelopes, and saw a packet on the shelf marked \$1.67; the cashier tried to charge \$6. Last month I wanted to buy a two-slice toaster and saw one in a flyer of a local store advertised for \$14.99. The cashier tried to charge me \$29.99. The assistant who checked this for me, agreed that the price on the shelf was as advertised, but they still insisted that the price of \$29.99 was correct. I didn't buy it.

In each of these cases the excuse offered by the store employees was the same—the products had been placed in the wrong bin, or on the wrong shelf. I pointed out to them that, as a customer, it is not my

responsibility to put things in the correct places, and they should check to ensure that their products are in the correct places.

Needless to say the supermarket has lost a customer and so has the store selling toasters.

'Shop Local' by all means, but be on your guard and don't get ripped off.

*Terry Brown,  
Georgetown*

### Acton displays hometown spirit

Dear editor,

Last year, after a successful concert in January, an "Artist Assistance Fund" was set up at Knox Presbyterian Church (in Acton) for the free will donations received. Darrelle London was the featured performer, and many other local individuals and groups entertained us. We later chose applicants who received monetary awards to further their artistic endeavors.

This year, we were pleased to feature James Franczek from Acton and his ensemble from the Georgetown Celtic Fiddle Orchestra. Also on the program were

Rylea and Olivia Wilson, Aiden Hammond and her Failed Magician's League, Total Dance Innovations, vocalist Kevin and Jake Hazzard, gymnast Emily Boycott, Cheryl DaPonte with Staying Alive Fitness Dance group, vocalists Marie Zions Fryer and Earl Burt, and the Knox choir, led by Sharon Dutton.

There was an impressive display of paintings and artwork by Carla Snels, Janet Holdridge, Lois Bugala and Maria Sallay, and woodworking projects by Bill Mainprize and Ken Petty.

Thank you to everyone involved in this concert, our MC Bruce Graham, technicians, Bob Jeffries and Kevin Hazzard, and Cathy Gerrow for the advice, Sobey's and Giant Tiger for the contributions of food for the lunch, and *The Independent & Free Press* and *Acton New Tanner* for the great publicity.

And, thank you to this community for supporting and showing your hometown spirit, and again generously donating over \$1,000 to the Artist Assistance Fund, and for encouraging local talent, as they strive to achieve their dreams.

*Knox Presbyterian Church,  
Acton*