



OPINION

LocalMedia association



Health warning

With a full week of spring complete and the promise of warmer weather to come (we hope), Halton Region's Health Department has sent a reminder there is also an inherent danger to this season as well.

Spring and summer seasons can bring more encounters with wild animals and with it an increased risk for exposure to rabies.

"The incidence of rabies has been declining over the past few years but people still need to take precautions not only to protect their pets, but also their family and themselves," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health.

Rabies is a viral disease that causes swelling in the brain and spinal cord which is fatal. The virus is spread through infected saliva, usually entering through a bite. Common carriers of the disease are bats, raccoons, foxes and skunks. Infected animals may show unwarranted aggression or be unusually tame and froth at the mouth.

As a general rule, people are advised to stay away from wild animals but there are a number of things you can also do:

- Do not touch dead or sick animals
- Do not feed or touch wild animals and do not try to keep them as pets
- Seek medical attention immediately if you come in contact with a bat or other potentially rabid animals
- Report all animal bites or scratches to the Health Department
- Make sure your pet is vaccinated against rabies

For more information on rabies call the Halton Region Health Department by dialing 311.

WEB POLL RESULTS

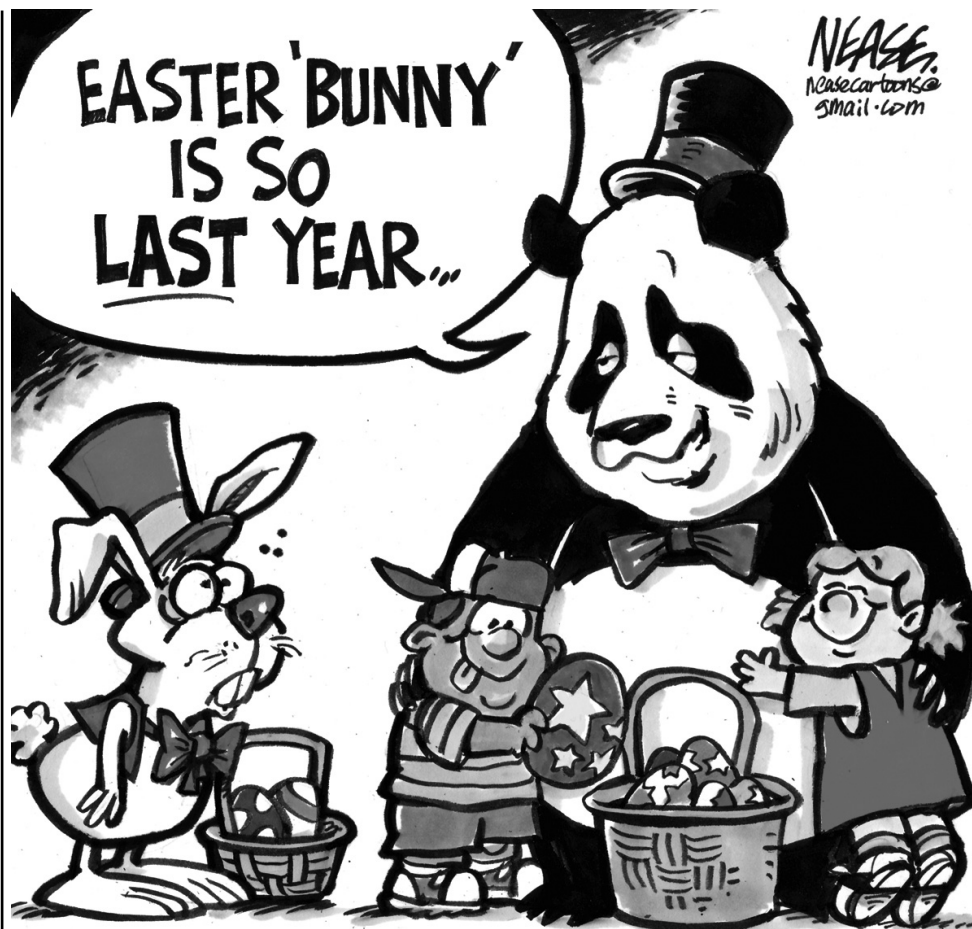
(Go to www.theifp.ca)

The Memorial Arena is scheduled for demolition this fall. What should the Town do?

- Find a way to keep all or a portion of the building (65%)
- Demolish the building, but sell bricks and interior elements for the arena fundraising campaign (28%)
- Demolish the 91-year-old building and sell the land to developers (7%)

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Letters to the editor

Lack of Memorial info disappointing

Dear editor,
 I'm writing this letter in regards to the "last skate" at the Memorial Arena.

I speak for many when I say that I am more than saddened and disappointed at the Town's lack of involvement in allowing local residents to come in celebrate, skate and say our goodbyes properly.

The final skate was at the end of March Break. Why was something not planned for the entire week? I grew up skating on that ice and training for gymnastics up in the Rose room. This historical building has been there for 91 years. It breaks my heart to see this building demolished for condos all in the name of progress.

Yes, we have the "Homecoming" to say our final goodbyes, but for the kids and residents who grew up using that ice, "Homecoming"

doesn't do it justice.

This building has been dismissed just like the Barber Mill. I honestly believe that the Town should take more pride in its heritage. We all need to show more respect for our elders who helped create this wonderful town that we live in today.

Teresa Pollitt
 Georgetown

CtK teachers say thanks for fundraiser

Dear editor,

We are teachers at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School and would like to take this opportunity to thank our students and their families for their generous donations and fundraising efforts in support of our school's Christmas fundraiser (better late than never).

The fundraiser our school champions every year is Chalice, a Christian-based charity that provides food, shelter, educational materials, and other necessities to

third-world countries.

Our students this year collaborated in a bake sale, collected donations door to door and provided caricature drawings for donations. Our classes combined raised \$3,000.

These amazing 56 students contributed an average of \$53 per student, much of which came from their own pockets. In an age of self-indulgence and the media's increasing focus on the self, these students asked their parents to donate rather than buy them frivolous items for Christmas.

The time and monetary sacrifices, as well as the compassion of these students, are truly admirable and demonstrate their ability to work toward a common goal. Their enthusiasm and leadership in fundraising are a testament to the potential our youth possess. Our school is truly blessed to have such thoughtful and selfless students.

Ivana Lauc and Ken Flynn
 English Teachers

Christ the King Secondary School