



OPINION

LocalMedia association



Poverty exists

There has been plenty of talk lately about the expanding Sunshine List of public sector workers earning six-figure salaries.

Certainly, matters of concern surround the Sunshine List, but what really needs attention is the growing number of Halton residents who could be placed on a 'Poverty List'.

Metroland West Media Group's four-part series, *Living in Poverty: A Special Report*, examines the complex social issue of poverty in Halton, a region not as affluent as you might think.

According to Statistics Canada data analyzed by non-profit group Community Development Halton, the number of low-income families living in the region increased from 8,700 to more than 10,000 between 2006 and 2009— a jump of 19 per cent. The subsequent economic downturn is believed to have inflated that statistic even further.

In the series, Halton Poverty Roundtable co-chairs Marc Hamel and June Cockwell inform us that poverty does indeed exist here in no small numbers and will continue to grow unless the community can come to terms with it and work together to address it.

Perhaps that's the ultimate goal of this series—to open the eyes of readers to a situation that isn't going to improve unless a solid plan is executed.

That first requires education, an attitude of compassion and non-judgment and a willingness to take action.

Living in Poverty looks at the issue's multiple dimensions, those who deal with it on a regular basis, contributing factors and barriers, possible solutions and resources that can offer assistance. The series begins in today's paper and will continue in three consecutive Thursday editions.

We hope you find it enlightening and significant, and that it inspires you to become part of the solution to this dark spot in humanity.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

Metrolinx has come up with a short list of ways to possibly pay for expanded transit. Which of these ways is the best option?

- Development charges on projects (24%)
 - Highway tolls (14%)
 - Gas tax on motorists (6%)
 - Employer payroll tax (3%)
- Sales tax (1%) on all consumer goods in GTA (2%)
- None of the above (51%)

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Letters to the editor

Issue of violence is no laughing matter

Dear editor,

As a young woman who enjoys the various aspects of the media, I find it sad that lately within the media there seems to be an ongoing joke about violence against women.

Recently, I watched the Oscars and the host made a crack about the Rihanna and Chris Brown scandal.

It was offensive that domestic violence can become a joke of worldwide proportions. Too many women continue to be victims of abuse and the media doesn't shy away from making jokes or negative comments about it.

The shocking part of it all, is that a lot of cases aren't reported to the police, many women feel powerless, and are in a never-ending vicious cycle.

There needs to be more positive advocating for this issue, it isn't

something that we should turn a blind eye to and not openly talk about. It needs to be done sooner rather than later.

Victoria Bello, Georgetown

Bylaw exemptions available— mayor

Dear editor,

Re: April 9 letter Parking ticket sends wrong message by Tim Abbott.

Tim, I read your letter in Tuesday's paper with respect to your guests getting parking tickets.

We do have a program where you can have guests visiting and your guests can be exempt of the parking bylaw. It is on our website <http://www.haltonhills.ca/parking-exemptions.php>.

Of course there is a limited amount of times you can be exempt to avoid a party palace showing up in the neighbourhood. This program has been in effect for a few years now.

In future, if you have guests coming over you can call the Town of Halton Hills or go on the website and give your address etc. and they won't get parking tickets.

Rick Bonnette, Mayor, Town of Halton Hills

Manes a good choice

Dear editor,

The performing arts groups in town were pleased to see that the Manes family of Acton Home Hardware won the Chamber's Business of the Year award.

Not only is Acton Home Hardware a great supporter of sports and Acton in general, they also sell tickets for Globe Productions, Georgetown Little Theatre and most recently, the Georgetown Choral Society's May 4 performance of *Brahm's Requiem*.

The owners of this business and their staff are generous to the arts. Thanks, Val and Bill!

Lois Fraser, Globe Productions