

OPINION

Power of posting

At the best of times, social media is written off as nothing more than a fad, a time-waster, a realm filled with cute cat photos. At worst, it can be a dangerous forum that provides a haven for bullies or predators. Most of the time, it falls somewhere in between: harmless, but insular.

Over the past two weeks, as many first searched for, and then mourned, the loss of young husband and father Tim Bosma, we witnessed the powerful potential of online networking.

Within hours of leaving his Ancaster home on May 6 in his truck with two suspects who had contacted him to arrange a test drive through an online classified site, Bosma was determined missing; as police issued a press release through traditional media, a very organized campaign overtook Facebook and Twitter— spearheaded by Acton resident Peter Lowe.

A downloadable poster featuring Bosma's likeness and a photo of his truck, along with contact numbers for the Hamilton Police Service and Crime Stoppers, was repeatedly posted and spread to thousands of Facebook users, who continually re-posted it to their own timelines. These online flyers were soon adorning the windows and notice boards in area establishments.

According to Hamilton police, who have made one arrest, more than 700 tips have been called in. In an investigation in which speed is of the essence, the logistics of spanning municipalities stretching from Brantford to Kleinburg and hitting several points in between, we imagine, can be a logistical nightmare. In the Bosma case, however, the momentum never wavered— everyone had the same singular focus.

Following the arrest of a suspect and the discovery of Bosma's remains last week, social media again rose to the occasion providing not only solid information in the search for additional suspects (a second man was arrested yesterday), but also creating a space to send wishes to Bosma's widow, Sharlene, and their daughter.

The tragedy that knocked on the door of the Bosma house this month came to us all— but so did the realization that we have the power to strengthen our bonds to each other.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

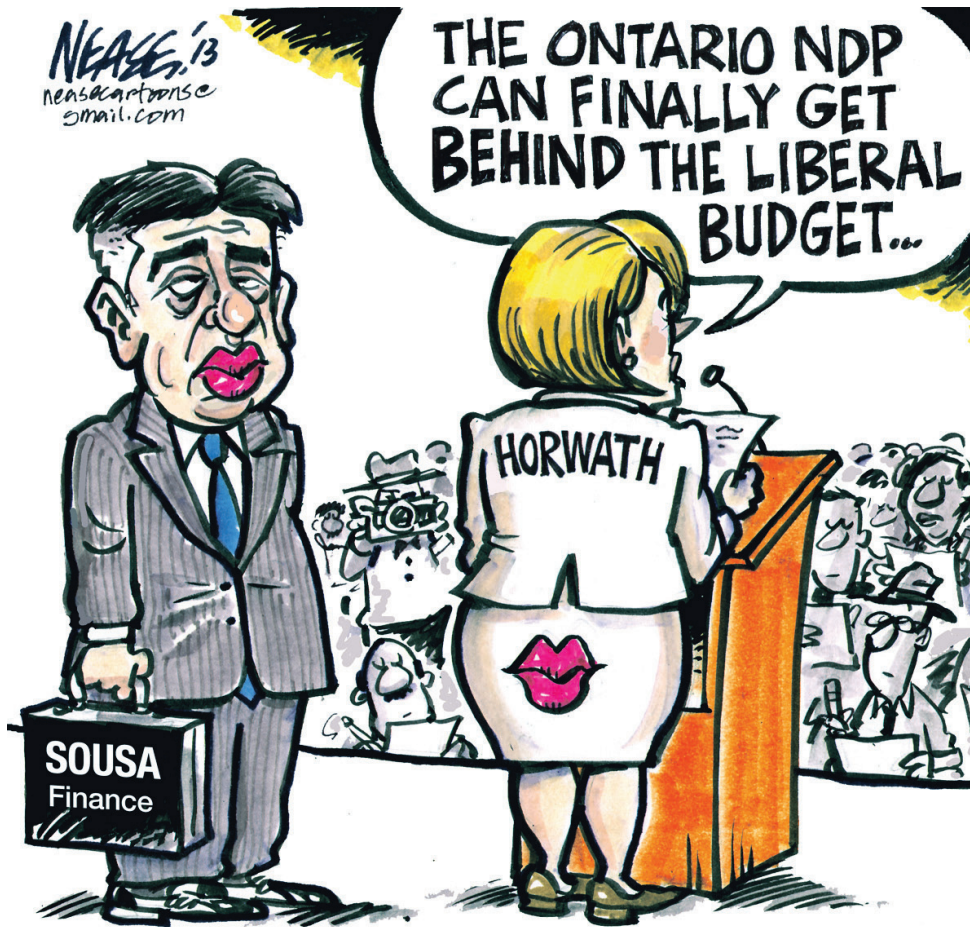
Many Dufferin County residents, citing privacy issues, are upset with a new bylaw forcing residents to use clear garbage bags.

Would you oppose such a bylaw in Halton?

- Yes (63%)
- I don't care one way or another (21%)
- No (16%)

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Letters to the editor

Earth Day was well organized

Dear editor,

On April 27, my husband and I headed to the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre for Halton Hills' 13th annual Earth Day event to drop off used motor oil, to pick up compost and wood chips, and to purchase a couple of shrubs for our yard.

We want to send a very big 'shout out' to all of the staff and volunteers who made our day!

The event was so well planned and organized, with lots of helpful folks directing traffic through and between the various drop-off and pick-up points. Every single person met us with a smile, happy to answer any and all questions. We really appreciated the advice of the master gardener when making our selection.

And another round of thanks goes to those who provided our

hot dog lunch (from which proceeds were to go to the Georgetown Bread Basket) and the volunteers who manned the barbecue.

Just another great example of the community spirit that makes us glad that we're residents of Halton Hills!

Elaine Van Doorn, Norval

Synchro success

Dear editor,

The Halton Hills Synchro Club would like to say a huge thank you to the everyone who donated their empties and to the Beer Store employees for all their hard work sorting during our recent fundraising bottle drive event.

Despite the cold, wet weather the community really came through and the girls had a great time.

Thanks again to the community for proving why Georgetown is such a great place to live.

*Andrea Houtby, registrar
Halton Hills Synchro Club*

Outlets job fair isn't

Dear editor,

It doesn't seem "job fair"— the recent announcement that the mayor and Town staff have agreed to support a job fair with the Toronto Premium Outlets in Milton is surprising.

The concerns were over congestion at Mold-Masters SportsPlex and space at the Gellert Centre.

Surely more thought and planning could have gone into this! Aren't we trying to keep our residents in town on the weekends rather than giving them a reason to go elsewhere? Why could we not have multiple locations and stretch the fair over a two-day period to make it a weekend event?

Mold-Masters would have been perfect— it's in the center of town across from the mall, shopping and parking.

Half the jobs could now go to our neighbours in Milton!

Nick Bruce, Georgetown