

Besmirched

The robocalls scandal that played out during the 2011 federal election is well known—several voters in nearby Guelph, largely Liberal supporters, were contacted by an automated system and provided misleading voting instructions.

Last week, former Conservative staffer Michael Sona was convicted of preventing or trying to prevent voters from casting a ballot. It's not yet known if Sona will appeal; sentencing is set for next month.

The Liberal candidate in Guelph still won, but the riding was viewed as vulnerable to the Conservatives and someone, or some group, pulled out all the stops in an effort to dodge democracy and manipulate their way to a win.

This type of tactic sets a new low in political wrangling and further erodes the often tenuous public trust in the electoral system and our representatives themselves, with heavy suspicion about a "wizard" behind the green curtain.

Voter turnout was up, slightly, during the recent provincial election, but the quantity of people engaged in the political process is generally trending downward.

It's vitally important anyone and everyone involved in the robocalls case is sussed out and charged to the fullest extent possible.

Restoring faith in democracy is of utmost importance, as this scenario could easily happen again if not judiciously curtailed.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

Will you be attending the CNE?

- No (81%)
- Yes (19%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Karma will get you

To the unscrupulous person(s) who stole my mom's wallet in the Georgetown Walmart—you don't know or care that my mom just lost her life partner of 65 years, how she struggles to get through each day and put on a brave face, saying my dad would want her to carry on.

I hope whatever you do with the money you stole from her wallet and her bank account, along with the advance and charges you put on her credit card render you with sleepless nights.

If you have her wallet, please return it to us—the pictures and cards inside are priceless.

Think about what you have done, dig down deep and have a conscience.

Remember what goes around comes around.

Julie Freemantle,
Georgetown

Editorial was appreciated

I was so pleased that last week's editorial was devoted to the topic of mental illness, specifically depression. It's a topic that has been more prevalent in the media in the last few years, with campaigns like Bell's Let's Talk and Clara's Big Ride. Yet there's so much more that needs to be done to break down the walls of silence, to make it okay for people to admit and acknowledge they're struggling and to ask for help. There needs to be more funding for mental health services and especially for research in the area of brain science.

In addition to the CMHA/Peel Branch mentioned in the editorial, there's also the Halton website (halton.cmha.ca). In our area we're fortunate to have good mental health care through the North Halton Mental Health Clinic (Georgetown Market Place) and a new CMHA office at 211 Guelph St., Unit 5.

Yet there are still long waiting lists for those seeking help.

Further, I'd like to remind folks about Equilibrium-Georgetown (www.equilibrium-oakville.com/georgetown), a peer support group for individuals and families who are affected by a mood disorder, specifically depression and bipolar disorder. Meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, September to November and January to June at Norval United Church, 486 Guelph St., Norval. Doors open at 7 p.m. There's usually a guest speaker from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. and then discussion groups until 9:30 p.m. Meetings are free.

Let's continue the conversation that was sparked by Robin Williams' tragic death and help those struggling to regain good mental health. I'm certain Robin would approve.

Elaine Van Doorn,
Equilibrium-Georgetown

Letters policy

Letters must include the author's name, 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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