

More Letters to the Editor

New community mailbox will sit on reader's lawn

This letter was sent to Mayor of Halton Hills Rick Bonnette, with a copy sent to The IFP.

I have received notice that a community mailbox will be placed on my side lawn—not within the property lines—but on the lawn that I maintain and consider my side yard. I have lived in Georgetown in this same home for the past 25 years and being a widow for more than 30 years work hard to maintain my home and lawn.

I have looked at my side lawn and wondered why this location was chosen. There is a stop sign on Keats Avenue, which may make an immediate stop to access the mailbox a traffic or accident problem. It is just past an intersection.

I am concerned with the interruption of my peace and quiet. My home is a small bungalow and my bedroom window is directly across from the proposed location. I am a light sleeper and in bed quite early

and I am sure those coming to retrieve mail will not be respectful of lights, horns, exhaust fumes, etc.

I recently had work done to my foundation and have just cleaned up the lawn destruction, which included the removal of some privacy trees, which may have made this situation tolerable.

I have looked around the neighbourhood and have seen several areas that I would have considered if I was planning a mailbox location. One being at the apartment at the end of Shelley St. where it is already a concrete area and cars would not interfere with any private residence.

I have contacted (Canada Post) Business Transformation.... they have offered me no solution or acceptance of my dissatisfaction. I am asking for your help in this matter. I just want the remainder of my life peaceful and without the additional groundwork that this location will cause me. I am asking that another location be chosen.

*Audrey Brown
Georgetown*

Principles of western Enlightenment will prevail over terrorism

Earlier this year, the world was shocked by the terrorist attacks in France, which killed twelve people at the satire magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, a French policewoman and four hostages at a Jewish grocery in Paris.

Within the last year there have been a number of similar attacks throughout Europe, Australia and North America. Like the attacks last fall in St. Jean, Quebec and Ottawa, they all were perpetrated by radicalized jihadist individuals.

In late January, Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, the leader of the Yemen-based Al Qaeda, called for even more lone wolf attacks on countries like Canada, France, the U.S. and the U.K.

One of the most important responsibilities of the state is the security of its citizens. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms enshrines this responsibility, guaranteeing all of us, "life, liberty and the security of the person".

The Government of Canada is committed to protecting Canadians, here and abroad. Canada's counter-terrorism strategy, Building Resilience Against Terrorism, sets out basic principles that underpin the Government's counter-terrorism activities.

Building resilience is the strategy's core principle. The ultimate goal is to establish a Canada where violent extremist ideologies are not permitted to thrive, and where individuals and communities are resilient to a terrorist attack, should one occur.

The strategy also includes fighting terrorism and extremism abroad. Western powers learned a difficult lesson when extremism was allowed to flourish be-

fore 2001, under the Taliban in Afghanistan. Similarly, we ignore the extremism that exists in northern Iraq and Syria at our own peril.

That is why last October I voted, along with a majority of MPs, to send the Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force into northern Iraq. The mission, in conjunction with our allies, consists of air strikes against the Islamic State for a period of up to six months.

This mission comes up for renewal in early April, with a vote expected in the House of

Commons. However, more needs to be done to combat the terrorist threat. The Government is expected to introduce new legislation in the House of Commons that will provide additional powers and tools for security agencies to identify potential terror suspects, make arrests and detain persons considered a threat.

The *Charlie Hebdo* attack in Paris was not only a senseless act of violence, it was also an attack on one of our most cherished freedoms: The freedom of expression.

This freedom is why we will prevail. As English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton wrote in 1839: "The pen is mightier than the sword." Ultimately, the principles of the western Enlightenment which underpin modern liberal democracies, backed by the power and force of the state, will prevail over the anti-liberal nihilism and medievalism of the radical jihad movement.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (866) 878-5556 or at michael.chong@parl.gc.ca



Michael Chong

FROM OUR READERS

TOBOGGAN TUMBLES

The toboggan hill in Cedarvale Park on Main St. at Maple Ave. became busy after a recent snowfall.

Photo by Rein Pater



Got a photo you want to share? Email — with details — to cgamble@theifp.ca

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