

## Just silly

The urge to grab a sled and head for a hill when winter weather allows is deeply embedded in the Canadian psyche. Yes, there are risks in tobogganing, but personal responsibility should prevail. So it's commendable that Halton Hills hasn't followed the bad example set by places like Hamilton and Orangeville in banning tobogganing on city property.

It's a good idea, when possible, for parents to assess hill safety and try to make sure their kids don't sled near roads, parking lots, fences, trees or rocks. Helmets are a safety option. But for the most part, people should let kids be kids and let them learn about risk tolerance while having fun on the slopes.

It's possible to make tobogganing safer. But going overboard by an outright ban on the activity is just silly, not to mention, un-Canadian.

## Michael Chong has leadership potential

Word that Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong is mulling a run at the leadership of the Conservative Party of Canada likely proved comforting to those made anxious it could become a one-horse race featuring Kevin O'Leary.

In a host of ways, Chong would present as the anti-O'Leary candidate.

O'Leary, the finance sector mogul and pundit and TV venture capitalist-celebrity, offers ample sizzle as a leadership candidate but quite limited experience or investment in the Canadian democratic process.

By contrast, Chong can boast of a considerable track record as a conscientious parliamentarian, a respectful activist for democratic reform and as a citizen richly invested in building appreciation for Canada's democratic traditions.

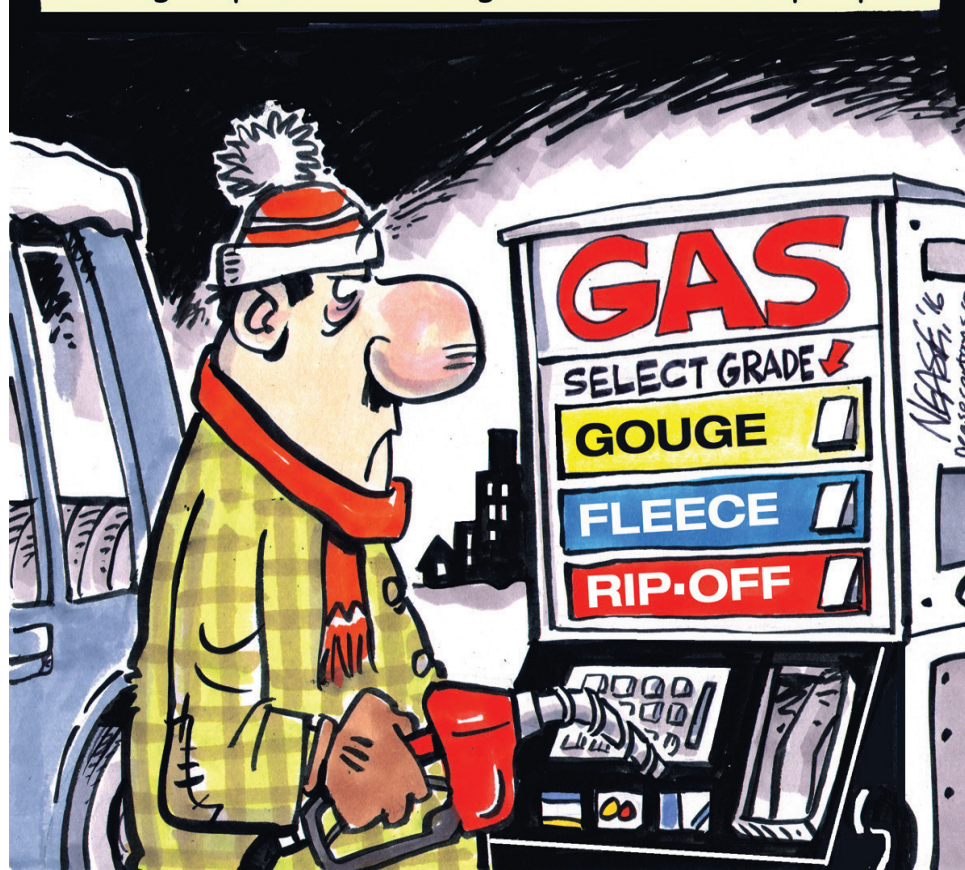
To be sure, Chong's launch of a leadership bid is no sure thing. And, a great deal may change in the potential field of people officially seeking to replace Stephen Harper before the May 27, 2017 vote to permanently fill this vacancy.

But if the former cabinet minister regards a run as viable and right for his family, he would present as a candidate worthy of serious consideration.

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Falling oil prices not being reflected at the pumps...



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## Letters to the editor

### Knox Fund helps struggling artists

Knox Presbyterian Church wishes to acknowledge the wonderful support of everyone from the local area who came together for the 5th Annual Artist Benefit Concert on Jan. 9.

Thank you to *The New Tanner* and *The Independent & Free Press* for the great coverage of this event; to Sobey's, No Frills and Giant Tiger for generously supplying the refreshments; to George McCowan MC, Bob Jeffries and Kevin Hazzard for technical support; and the near-capacity audience who celebrated the performers and artists who volunteered their time and talents.

We are grateful for everyone who donated to the Fund that gives an opportunity for gifted, but perhaps struggling, artists to further their dreams. Applications are available from the church office, 44 Main St. N. 519-853-2360, knox-acton@gmail.com or from our website [pccweb.ca/knoxacton](http://pccweb.ca/knoxacton).

The winners of the young artist art competition are: Ages 6-8— Hannah

Rhynold (first) and Siena Clappa (second); Ages 9-11— Jessie Gedge (first) and Jacob Hilton (second); Ages 12-14— Kieran Roberts (first) and Abby Sweezie (second); Poetry winner— Sloane Boorman.

Our great community helping a local community project!

Marjorie Britton

Artist Concert Committee

Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton

### French immersion is important

I'm a Grade 12 student at Georgetown District High School. In July I will graduate with my French Immersion diploma and one of the things of which I am most proud is that I speak fluent French.

Recently, however, I have seen many complaints about the French immersion program, speculations that the students in it are taught differently. Many people don't like the program and think we should get rid of it all together in order to standardize education.

But Canada is a bilingual country

and if we want everyone to be on the same level shouldn't we integrate more French into our curriculum instead of less? In order to graduate, the only class students must take throughout their four years of high school is English and we must pass only one literacy exam—which is in English.

French is an official language yet it seems that only English is mandatory for kids to learn. In order to truly be "equal" when we graduate, it's time to start treating French like the official language that it is.

Emma Ayers

Georgetown

### Family grateful for hockey family

To our very special hockey families present and past, we thank you. We are so touched by your kindness and generosity. The outpouring of love and support has filled our hearts.

With much love and gratitude,

God bless

Sean, Angela, Riley and Cole

Tannahill