

- EDITORIAL -

Small efforts can make a big difference

This is the week we get our annual nudge to be better citizens of the planet.

Spring cleanups are happening, kids are considering ways to reduce their family's carbon footprint, and we're being slammed with information about how devastating our wasteful lifestyles are to the environment.

We get it, but not all of us change our ways.

And every year we hear the message expressed with a little more urgency.

We can't continue to ignore our impact on the planet and think it's sustainable.

But does this heightened awareness really resonate? Are we changing our lifestyles to reflect the grim reality of our wasteful habits?

Evidence of human neglect for the environment is everywhere.

Last month, an autopsy on a sperm whale that had washed up on a beach in Spain revealed why it died - 64 pounds of plastic and other debris was lodged in its stomach.

On the other side of the world, a massive patch of floating garbage spins in the North Pacific.

It's not all bad.

There are some good local stories, like the University of Guelph hospitality department's recent promise to eliminate plastic drinking straws and bags across campus starting in September.

It's a small gesture that should give a renewed emphasis to annual protests calling on the university to ban bottled water, in part because of the plastic waste it creates.

Let's all go further. Don't be a jerk and toss your coffee cup, plastic lid included, into the garbage.

Get it into the blue cart.

Carry a reusable water bottle and fill up at the fountain.

Some municipalities recycle plastic bags, as do most of the retailers that offer them at carry out.

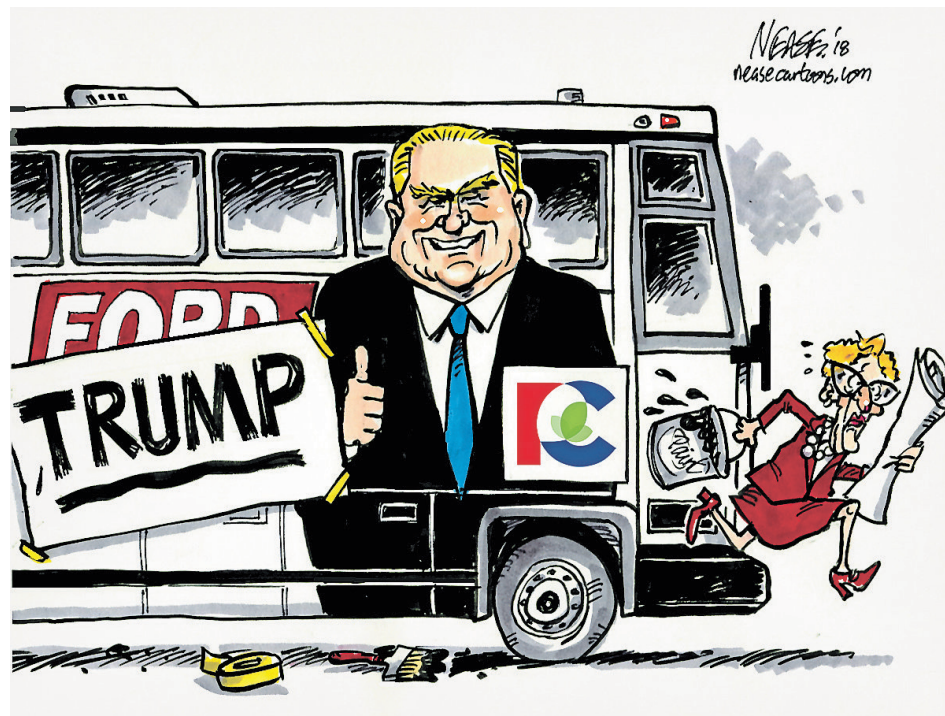
These are small things we can all do to make a big difference.

Recognized annually on April 22, Earth Day is a world-wide event to create awareness for the environment and to encourage people to be environmentally friendly and take action to reduce environmental impacts.

More than six million Canadians and one billion people from over 170 different countries participate in Earth Day celebrations and events.

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Is the Green party the only answer?

For the most part, I do not comment on elections and who someone is voting for.

You are allowed to vote for whom you wish.

Most of the people I know would not mind a Liberal government in Ontario, and some would vote Progressive Conservative, but almost everyone I have spoken to would not like Kathleen Wynne as our premier.

Some people are voting PC just to get another party in power, regardless of who they think might be up for the job.

For most people who have a common sense, they will try and deduce who would be best for the job.

One thing that Kathleen

Wynne may have going for her is comparing Doug Ford to our south of the border president, Donald Trump.

That way of campaigning may very well backfire on her, as it did for Hillary Clinton, and believe it or not the campaign has not even started.

Although most people do not want a Liberal government under Kathleen Wynne, they do not want a PC or NDP government either. Where does that leave us? Green party?

Ron Horner

Does Facebook need to know when we call a plumber?

I did what Facebook said and downloaded all my data and what did I

find? - everything.

It had about 200 numbers, including the washing machine repairer.

It had every email address I seem to have used on the phone and every phone call including the recipient, date and duration.

Why would anybody want to know how long I spoke to the washing machine repairer?

It's time for Facebook to provide some answers, rather than 457 pages of data.

Dennis Fitzgerald

Voter hopes to have last laugh at election time

To the editor:

Re: Doug Ford is no miracle worker, letters, April

ABOUT US



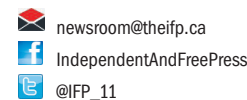
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