

· EDITORIAL ·

Weep for Toronto, but stand with its citizens

April 23, 2018, will go down as one of the darkest days - perhaps the darkest day - in the history of Toronto.

Never in living memory has Canada's biggest metropolis experienced the horrific and indiscriminate violence that hit from out of the blue on Monday, when the driver of a rented van embarked on a three-kilometre rampage along a sidewalk that left 10 people dead and 15 others injured.

What can be said with certainty, however, is that this cruel attack on people simply going about their daily lives will fill us all with grief, shock, incomprehension and, finally, resolve.

Sorrow comes first, and it is for the innocent lives lost and damaged, for the searing pain felt by so many people and the pain that will linger, not only with the survivors but their families and friends.

Next comes the shock that this atrocity happened in Toronto, which by any standard is a vibrant, global city with a laudably low crime rate. Toronto stands as a model of how a diverse, tolerant citizenry lives, works, plays and thrives in harmony.

We know cars or vans have been used as weapons in cities such as Edmonton, Berlin, Paris and London, England. But we still somehow wonder how such carnage could occur in Toronto.

And that fuels the incomprehension.

Yes, some relief comes from the preliminary reports that this was not a terrorist act. Unless and until authorities say otherwise, Toronto and Canada need not fear this is the start of an organized campaign of ideologically-inspired violence.

But what if this turns out to have been the act of an alienated and dangerously deranged mind? Will that not feed existing fears that modern life is never quite safe enough despite our best efforts? Canada works hard to control guns.

A rental van can prove lethal, too.

But just as appropriate would be a defiant display of resolve.

Toronto can be proud of how it acted collectively in the face of this tragedy. The first responders, especially the calm arresting officer, were admirable.

But the whole city was, too. It might have seemed incongruous on Monday night to watch on TV the thousands of people cheering the Toronto Maple Leafs in a pivotal NHL playoff game after a brief, official acknowledgement of what had happened only a few kilometres away and a few hours before.

Yet this was an inspiring example of how we must stop, mourn and then continue going forward, just as this city goes on.



· LETTERS & COMMENTARY ·

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Time to send Catholic trustees a message

For many of us opposed to the new HCDSB fundraising policy, it goes beyond the merits of the proposal itself. It is about five of the nine trustees forcing this through to forward their own agenda. In doing so, they have contravened The Education Act, broken board policy and breached their own Code of Conduct.

They refuse to listen to the concerns of constituents and instead are implementing policy based on their own opinions and definitions of Catholic morality. This goes against everything they were elected to do.

Some of these trustees are making this a pro-life

issue and are galvanizing an extremist pro-life group (LifeSiteNews) to become involved in supporting this policy. This means many responses in support will not even be members of our HCDSB community.

I am asking every parent, student, teacher, support staff, ratepayer and anyone else who is concerned to make sure you provide your feedback by the deadline of 11:59 p.m. on June 1.

The policy and feedback form can be found on the board website (hcdsb.org), or you may have received an email link. It is intentionally confusing and verbose. Proposed changes are in red. Feedback can simply be I do or do not

agree. No reason is necessary but reasons including the policy is too complicated to understand or not agreeing with the process are perfectly acceptable.

All responses will be reviewed and included in a board report given to the trustees as a public and official document. This is the only opportunity you have been given to have your voice heard. Please use it and ensure everyone you know uses theirs.

The Board of Trustees is supposed to speak for us, be our voice and represent our opinions. Right now they are only representing their own.

Our job now is to provide feedback to this policy. Our job in October is to re-

move these people from the board.

Anne-Marie Jander

Good Samaritan appreciated

On Feb. 15 while walking my dog, I hit an icy patch and went down hard.

A passing motorist stopped and helped me. He drove us home and then helped us into the condo building where we live.

Having just returned from a one-month stint in the hospital and rehab, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to this gentleman (whose name I don't know) but who told me he lived on Charles Street.

Thank you so much for your help and your kindness. It very definitely was greatly appreciated.

Irene Green

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