

· EDITORIAL ·

Long live the fourth estate

Democracy requires informed citizens.

Journalism has long been considered an important force in government and key to the functioning of a democracy itself.

Scottish philosopher, writer, essayist, translator, historian, mathematician, and teacher Thomas Carlyle, in 1841, wrote: "Burke said there were Three Estates in Parliament; but, in the Reporters' Gallery yonder, there sat a Fourth Estate more important far than they all" (On Heroes and Hero Worship).

It's hard not to feel it's a profession that's under attack, on the world stage, and in the least, in peril closer to home.

On June 28, four journalists and a sales associate were killed and two others injured when Jarrod Ramos allegedly opened fire inside the offices of a Maryland newspaper. Ramos, who has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder, had a long, history with the newspaper that included a lawsuit and years of harassment.

The Capital Gazette is a community newspaper, just like the one you are reading now. As journalism continues to receive hit after hit it is an inspiration that Gazette staff put out an edition the next day.

And while the suspect's beef was with the targeted newspaper, it's a troubling incident nonetheless considering the attack followed months of verbal and online attacks on the "fake news media" from politicians, among them U.S. President Donald Trump.

Journalism finds itself at a crisis point - municipalities continue to lose their local news sources, major newspapers and television stations are losing staff, and the industry scrambles to find ways of maintaining revenue and holding public trust and interest.

Last week, news broke that a newspaper that's served Pembroke and the Ottawa Valley for 163 years is down to its final month of operation. Postmedia will close the long-serving daily paper with the last edition slated for July 28.

"We are seeing the death of local news across this country at an ever-accelerating rate," said Paul Morse, president of Unifor Local 87-M, the union that represents some of the affected staff.

The newspaper industry is being battered by digital disruption, as advertising dollars once spent in local newspapers are sucked out of the country by foreign tech giants Google and Facebook, says Unifor.

It's time we take action.

News is not only critical to democracy, but to the health of communities. Let's do what we can to preserve and bolster this vital industry.

The pen is still mightier than the sword.



· LETTERS & COMMENTARY ·

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campaign such a great success. It takes a village, and we cannot do this without them!

We are thrilled to announce that our 2018 campaign raised over \$96,000. All of the money raised during the campaign and throughout the year goes directly to helping our clients in Halton Hills. Once again, thank you, and have a wonderful, safe summer.

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills

She's thankful abortions legal, safe says retired nurse

I'm an old lady who, as a nurse 60 years ago, worked in a ward of unmarried

pregnant girls, who upon discovering their pregnancy, tried to abort the fetus and lost their own lives in the attempt (one being a good friend).

Later, I volunteered with Planned Parenthood and, after that, worked in an abortion clinic for several years.

Then, I started the birth control clinic at Toronto General Hospital.

What is the solution when your teenage son has, through possible ignorance, impregnated his girlfriend?

What about those living with developmental disabilities, who can be preyed upon, or the 16-year-old girl living on the street, or those who were raped? What about the woman

ABOUT US



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CASHh thanks Halton Hills residents and volunteers

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills would like to express their sincere gratitude to the residents of Halton Hills and local businesses for their continued support during our April Give Where You Live campaign.

Every year we count on the generosity of this community to help us help those living with cancer. We would also like to thank all of our amazing and dedicated volunteers - canvassers, walkers, team captains, team leaders, mall volunteers, preparation volunteers and everyone who helped us make this

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