

# DIGGING DEEPER FOR OUR READERS

INVESTIGATIVE WORK AN ESSENTIAL PART OF WHAT WE DO, WRITES MELANIE HENNESSEY



MELANIE HENNESSEY  
Column

*It's about trust. Our relationship with our readers is built on transparency, honesty and integrity. As such, we have launched a trust initiative to tell you who we are and how and why we do what we do. This column is part of that project.*

While a lot of our day-to-day stories focus on what's happening in the immediate moment, there are times that we journalists get to flex our investigative muscles with a deep dive into a topic.

Such stories, like our Behind the Crimes series that takes a closer look at the little-known details and victim impacts of the most heinous injustices, are just as important as the breaking news and local happenings that readers have come to know us for.

There are a few reasons that we devote our time and resources to these feature pieces, and I've been fortunate enough to work on several over the past couple of years.

First, we're giving a voice to those who otherwise wouldn't be heard, like local residents who are missing or were murdered.

It's human nature to care about these victims and want to know more about what happened to them, and we strive to deliver this information in the most respectful way.

In the case of unsolved crimes, we hope that keeping them in the spotlight will lead to new tips that could ultimately give the family the answers and closure they so deserve.

I've also seen these stories result in families connecting with others in the community who care about what happened to their loved one, going on to honour their memory, provide support and even help further the search for a missing person.

And some of these pieces simply cover fascinating, important stories that would never be told otherwise, if it weren't for a journalist showing interest and taking time to delve into the topic.

Be sure to search "Behind the Crimes" on our website ([theifp.ca](http://theifp.ca)) to read the latest investigative pieces that shine a light on our region and beyond.

*Melanie Hennessey is a reporter for Metroland's community newspapers in Halton. She can be reached at [mhennessey@metroland.com](mailto:mhennessey@metroland.com). We welcome your questions and value your comments. Email our trust committee at [trust@metroland.com](mailto:trust@metroland.com).*

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## SNAPSHOT



Tony Fortunato photo

A raven visits a backyard in rural Georgetown. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to [sleblanc@metroland.com](mailto:sleblanc@metroland.com), along with a brief description.

## CAN TAXPAYERS AFFORD THIS BUDGET?

FEDS DELIVER NEW IDEAS YET LEAVE ONE THING MISSING, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON  
Column

The federal budget was progressive and supportive. But at what cost?

It's a unique opportunity for Ottawa to inject significant new ideas that will shape our country for decades.

Canadians are emotionally drained from the health and financial ills

that started when COVID-19 struck. We are tired, frustrated and eager for a new beginning — for new ideas.

The budget delivered as advertised with two prominent new ideas: a national child-care program and a green approach to our environment. Plus, there was focus on immediate needs. The government is spending freely to support Canadians during the third wave of the pandemic.

The annual federal deficit is projected to be \$354 billion. That leads us to the question — Is this budget affordable?

There is a direct cost of government programs, plus the indirect cost of interest on our massive deficit. Ultimately, it is the taxpayer that pays the bills.

During a crisis, bold measures are needed. The budget was bold, but there was one thing missing.

Bold measures should include a proactive strategy on how to regain financial stability. This was a perfect opportunity for the government to set targets on how it could be more efficient. That's not a direct criticism. From time to time, all organizations must look at how they deliver their goods and services to see where efficiencies can be gained.

A strong investment in Canadians was needed. That was the budget's strength.

We still have that one question — Is the arithmetic of this budget affordable?

*Peter Watson, of Watson Investments MBA, CFP®, R.F.P., CIM®, FCSI offers a weekly financial planning column, 'Dollars & Sense'. He can be contacted through [www.watsoninvestments.com](http://www.watsoninvestments.com).*

## ABOUT US

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