

JUST WHAT'S FIT TO PUBLISH?

THE ANSWER ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS YOU MAY THINK, WRITES STEVE LEBLANC



STEVE LEBLANC
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 article is part of that project.

Withholding information goes against the very nature of a journalist. But when does leaving out certain details of a story — from an ethical standpoint — become the right thing to do?

That's a question being asked more and more in newsrooms (of the virtual variety) these days, as the spotlight continues to shine on the problem of racism, in all its ugly forms.

Recently a colleague of mine shared the concerns of two Halton students who've faced racism within their school community — and said they've been told of similar experiences from their peers.

Before publishing the article, it was decided that some nasty-worded questions allegedly directed at students of Asian descent

would be potentially hurtful — either to the youths themselves or those sharing their ethnicity.

With that said, they were not included.

This type of decision isn't made lightly.

As journalists, we strive to uncover and share as much information as possible. But rest assured, our intention is never to hurt or offend.

So if graphic or potentially harmful aspects of a story can be omitted without compromising our ability to adequately inform our readers, that's what we'll do.

Transparency and integrity can often butt heads when it comes to sensitive subject matter, and as conscientious as we believe ourselves to be, there's no foolproof set of rules that govern our decisions on what to report and what not to report.

The factors that weigh into how a story is reported can be as varied and complex as the stories themselves, and we take pride on how seriously we view that.

As each new story unfolds, we meet it with the best interest of our readers at heart. We strive to be responsible every bit as much as accurate and balanced.

Of that, you can be certain.

Steve LeBlanc is news editor of Metroland's Halton community newspapers. We welcome your questions and value your comments. Email our trust committee at trust@metroland.com.

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SNAPSHOT



Alanna Baron photo

A friendly squirrel accepts a nut from a homeowner on Dawson Crescent. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

OWNING STOCKS TAKES COURAGE

STOCKS ARE VOLATILE AND IT'S NORMAL TO LOSE MONEY SOME YEARS, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON
Column

Some years you win when your stock portfolio increases in value. Winning is easy. Anyone can handle a victory.

Losing is different. Significantly different. That is where courage is needed.

There was a sudden decline of stock values after COVID-19 invaded North America. Many investors lost about one third of the value of their stocks.

Then suddenly, the market had a full rebound and went on to post significant gains.

Again, in round numbers, the portfolio was up

magnitude.

History shows us that you will lose money if you own stocks. Those that were able to resist the temptation of selling at a loss were rewarded.

That is not a guarantee, but based on past decades of history it is a certainty.

It takes courage to own stocks.

Peter Watson is registered with Aligned Capital Partners Inc. (ACPI) to provide investment advice. Investment products are provided by ACPI. ACPI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. The opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of ACPI. Watson provides wealth management services through Watson Investments. He can be reached at www.watsoninvestments.com.

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