

# PUTTING A FOCUS ON TRANSPARENCY

UNNAMED PHOTO CREDITS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE IN OUR PAGES, 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.*

Journalistic transparency should apply to everything a newspaper publishes — whether major, or seemingly insignificant.

Case in point: a while back Metroland publications did away with the once standard 'submitted photo' credit for images received from non-professional photographers.

A person or organization's name is now required — no exceptions. A nameless photo credit simply leaves the door open to potential problems for all concerned.

Taking a firm stance in this matter means the occasional awkward back-and-forth once we've received a potential photo for publication, when this policy is called into question. However, we feel this rule — and any headaches it presents — is necessary, as it falls under the umbrella of being forthright in all we do.

A mandate of integrity

shouldn't be conditional.

Having faith in your local newspaper should mean being able to trust them about everything.

And while there's rare exceptions, where — for example — a person's safety is at stake, we need full names of those in the photos we publish, as well as any other information that may be pertinent to the story.

And speaking of submitted photos, while we always prefer a pre-event invite for our award-winning photojournalist Graham Paine, we simply can't promise he'll be able to get out to everything going on in our bustling Halton communities.

So submitted photos are certainly encouraged.

But before taking an image you hope to send to your local newspaper, please keep things like spacing, lighting and the number of people in the photo (sometimes less is more) in mind.

And props tend to enhance many a photo. If appropriate, please include them.

Remember, a little extra thought and effort can go a long way when sending us a photo you hope will grab your fellow readers' attention.

*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](mailto:trust@metroland.com).*

## YOU OPINIONS

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Tony Fortunato photo

An oriole 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.

## WILL ELECTION AFFECT MY INVESTMENTS?

STOCKS INFLUENCED BY MUCH MORE THAN WHO'S IN POWER, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON  
Column

Investors have two questions.

Who will win the federal election and how will this affect my investments?

We will look at the United States for some insight.

TO LEARN HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR OWN CONTENT VISIT THEIFP.CA

## SNAPSHOT

the time in power has been shared by the Democrats and Republicans on a fairly equal basis.

You might expect the stock market would perform better when the pro-business Republicans were in power. Not so.

Will a political party influence business? Absolutely.

But so will an endless number of other variables, like the advancement of technology and other countries' actions.

We are not implying how the Canadian market will be affected as a result of the election. It is a realization that by viewing the U.S. experience, politics and stock market performance have not been related.

*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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