

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

Halton Hills This Week, Wednesday edition is published every Wednesday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville at Q.E. Web Printing. Halton Hills This Week claims copyright on all original editorial and advertising material created by its employees and reproduced by this newspaper. Such material may only be reproduced on written consent of the publisher. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy EDITOR: Colin Gibson
 PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolsek CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt
 OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell

HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.

PHONE: 873-2254

FAX: 873-3918

Editorial

The Thin Blue Line

The Thin Blue Line - and getting thinner. Yeah, we're talking COPS here. Not in a derogatory sense, but in the sense of the acronym; likely penned by a worn and rumpled police beat reporter who felt he had to liven up his story for a demanding and desk-bound editor. 'Constable on Patrol'; pluralized undoubtedly, by the same moribund paper-pusher-arounder who was rewarded for his total devotion to anything closely resembling work by a Senate seat.

But the Thin Blue Line - the connotation either borrowed from military exploits or re-created, in a sense, by stage or screen writers or even novelists - is in fact, a life and death reality.

One need research no further than the senseless death of the young (25-year-old) OPP officer Eric Nystedt, who was knifed to death while investigating a purported domestic dispute in cottage area near Minden. The so-called domestic dispute, was in fact a party-"til your head falls off" drunken affair that had been going on over a period of days.

We have these same "Party 'til you die" happenstances occurring in Halton Hills.

Check the police reports in the local 'rags' and then listen-in on these social-crapouts who just love to be bigshots, when they tell their equally brain-dead counterparts about their exploits; over the ever-flowing brew. They brag about how and when they got charged and what a big show they put on while being handcuffed in front of their kids and neighbors; all the time spewing profane venom at police officers.

These are the same jerks who, when away from the crowd, spill their guts, accusing everybody, with the exception of their "truly macho pet turtle Sidney", of being behind their fall from grace.

The men and women of the Thin Blue Line are expected to be intelligent, polite, efficient, competent, cool under pressure, brave, and willing to risk their lives - even to save the meaningless lives of these same dipsticks who only moments before either threatened officers with bodily harm or a civil lawsuit for roughing-up their ego.

When a police officer dies in the line of duty we should all share the grief and the blame.

More often than not, they are only protecting us from ourselves.

Colin Gibson

Firefighters thank community

To the Editor:

Georgetown and its surrounding areas has been served proudly by its volunteer firefighters for well over 100 years. Over these years, there have been many occasions when our fellow citizens and the corporate community have openly expressed their thanks for the efforts of our firefighters.

Recently, several large fires in our area have demonstrated just how much our community supports us, and now its our turn to say "thanks". Whether it's donating to a special fundraising

effort, allowing one of our firefighters to leave work for a fire, or providing hot coffee on a cold night, each of our firefighters would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who has lent a helping hand over the years.

A cold drink on a hot July afternoon or an extra pair of hands to help pick up frozen hose in February does show us in a very tangible way that you appreciate the work that we do. It's nice to know that you're there for us, when we're there for you.

Georgetown Firefighters Association

Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations.

Send your letter to:

The Editor
 Halton Hills This Week
 232 Guelph St., Unit 9
 Georgetown, ON
 L7G 4B1
 Or fax to:
 416-873-3918

The People's Corner

P.O.W.E.R. deserves community's praise

To the Editor:

What's wrong with this picture?

We allow the town of Acton to grow by 800 new homes. In order to achieve this objective, sewage effluent will be dumped into Black Creek to the extent that it becomes uninhabitable

Bike thief rapped

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter to the thief or thieves who stole the blue Raleigh Portage mountain bike from Main St. on Wednesday, June 30.

It takes a long time to save for a new bike when you are only 13- years-old, a lot longer than it took you to snatch it away in broad daylight. I wonder if it would have phased you to see the faces of the two or more kids when they discovered their bicycles stolen and on the first day of summer vacation.

Did you do it for fun or did you need the money? Next time, I hope you will resort to different methods in achieving both.

If you have any sort of heart, I hope you will return the bikes to Ollie's Cycle and Ski and maybe your conscience will feel a little lighter.

The Bowman Family,
 Georgetown

Timely column

To the Editor:

My congratulations to Adrienne Lilly for the lengthy article, printed under the heading "Change the System" in the weekend edition of July 3.

This item was very well thought out and written, particularly as it highlights the apparent lack of concern on the part of the electorate to make ourselves heard and felt.

We are certainly fortunate to have people such as Barbara Halsall willing to stand and speak out.

For silence is acceptance!
 Lew Ward,
 Georgetown

Mulroneys garage sale

To the Editor:

Looks like Mulroneys had the most successful "garage sale" in history. 150 G's for the junk that would not fit in the new house in Montreal. We should all be this lucky!

Frank Jamieson
 Georgetown

for fish. To provide services, the town must also draw additional water from the Prospect Park well, lowering the water level in Fairy Lake which deteriorates this fish habitat.

The people who move into these new homes may have decided to do so because Acton has safe drinking water and Fairy Lake is a place where the kids can go fishing close to home. Prospect Park is a family park with a variety of activities for all age ranges and at an "affordable" price. How would you feel if, after moving into your new home, you

discovered that Fairy Lake was no longer a place for the kids to go fishing and there is no prospect of it every being clean enough to go swimming.

After moving to town, you also find out there is a big dump going into the quarry. Because the habitat was already destroyed, it was decided it would also be OK for a garbage dump to be built and to discharge the leachate into Black Creek. This garbage dump further puts into jeopardy the safety of our current drinking water.

For me, sustainable development means growth at a

pace and in such a way that we can continue to provide safe water and clean air for our current residents and for the new families who may move to town. As we celebrate "Canada Day", will Halton Hills be a corner of Canada we will be proud to live in 25 years from now?

Just in case we have forgotten, P.O.W.E.R. stands for Protect Our Water And Environmental Resources. Thank you, P.O.W.E.R., for standing up for all the current and future residents of Halton Hills.

Jean A. Hilborn
 Acton

Taxation is simple theft

To the Editor:

The rhetoric about water and building houses in Acton has taken on some rather nasty overtones, much to my dismay. The people involved, as far as I can see, all want the same thing.

What do they want? They want some new houses to be built. They want our environment to be protected. So what is the problem?

The problem, as I see it, is one of consumers not spending money in stores, something new housing will help solve. Or will it? People moving into new houses, as a rule do not have much money left over after paying for the lawyers, moving expenses, cost of house, etc. So will this solve the retail merchants' problem? Not for some years.

The best idea I heard as far as water came from Barb Halsall, a lady I have never met. According to a letter in a paper, the quarries pump one million gallons per day into Black Creek. To me, it

makes sense that that water is used for expansion of the town (if the figures are correct). We should not expropriate the property, or kick the owners out, as I read in a letter, but we should be purchasing the water from the owners. This would give them their income, just the same as when I pay the town for my water. That way, everyone wins, no one is hurt.

The real problem that merchants have, has not even been talked about. A sporting goods store license went from \$25 to \$100 (400% increase), my deer license went from \$20.25 to \$24.25, marriage certificates go from \$11 to \$15, a road test is up 80 per cent from \$14 to \$25. Snowmobile registration from \$25 to \$30. A single person earning \$60,000 per year will now pay \$570 more per year in tax. Etc., etc. I could keep going.

So, there can be no doubt that we lucky taxpayers do not have money to spend. Then, of course, there is the

cost of administration. There are people employed by companies, paid by companies, who collect all these taxes. The government would not expect themselves to work for nothing, but as a businessman, you are considered to be a slave, since you do not get paid for this service, even minimum wage.

Libertarians say taxation is theft. Are you with me?

John Shadbolt
 Leader, Ontario
 Libertarian Party
 Acton

