

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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.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

A step in the right direction

Steve Dawkins, president of the olde Hide House company in Acton, was at Toronto's Skyline Hotel Tuesday looking to get approval from creditors on a financial formula that would stave off bankruptcy for the once thriving Leathertown enterprise.

The yay, or nay, vote will obviously affect the approximately 100 employees the olde Hide House was forced to lay-off in mid-June due to financial difficulties.

Give Dawkins his due. He believes in the viability of his company and in a similar vein, believes Acton is a community well-worth the investment dollar.

What with Free Trade (?) and the apparent imminent consummation of a bastardized version - which not even the politicians on different sides of three borders admit to understanding - of the North American Free Trade Agreement nuptials between Canada, Mexico and the United States, labor-oriented workers (honest money paid for honest hours worked regardless of how many diplomas or degrees are tacked onto glistening foreheads) are fearful not only for their livelihood, but in some cases quite literally, their lives. How will they survive.

Federal and provincial governmental incompetence has allowed U.S., European and Asian companies to turn both Ontario and Canada into a branch plant wasteland.

When times are tough, the head offices, whether they be located in Dallas, Tokyo or Paris, simply fold their branch plants in Canada and use whatever their computer spews out as tax losses in their respective countries.

These aren't really losses, however, they are in fact gains. Because now these international conglomerates have "mad money" to use to re-open the basically same operation in another gullible country whose desperate wooing techniques (in a pitiful attempt to establish an industrial base) would put even the 'en flagrant' hookers who ply their trade on the streets of Toronto to shame.

Who loses? In our case obviously Canada and Ontario in particular - the province that once provided the industrial base for our country.

The solution? So obvious that even a 3rd Grader could understand, is to not only encourage, but insist, on wholly Canadian owned or Canadian controlled regional-based companies whose first loyalty is to the communities they serve (and pay taxes to), not some cold, faceless robotron-like Chief Executive Officer in the afore-mentioned locales who wouldn't know the difference between a moose and a Mountie.

Then again, 3rd Graders can't vote and can't run for political office - which speaks volumes about our present political system.

Steve Dawkins has attempted this in Acton, and both he and the olde Hide House company deserve better than to be shot down in flames for putting such unCanadian-like theories into practice.

Fully aware of the early deadline we have at Halton Hills This Week, the ever-optimistic Dawkins forwarded a tentative press release based on the assumption that everything would go well in Toronto.

In the release it was revealed that company creditors had approved a restructuring proposal which will pay unsecured creditors roughly 30 cents per dollar of claim over three years.

Further, that the restructuring will result in the permanent closure of two satellite outlets in Acton as well as the restaurant located in the main olde Hide House location.

Chief financial officer of the company, John Brison, was quoted in the release as saying, "We are grateful for the confidence our creditors have expressed by supporting the proposal. This restructuring will work."

If all goes according to plan, a Grand Re-opening is scheduled for early October. However, the store will reopen for a Clearance/Preview sale tomorrow (Thursday) at 10 a.m.

Halton Hills is getting little, if any, help from either regional, provincial or federal governments.

As is becoming increasingly obvious - or should be - we have to help and support ourselves.

In this regard, the hoped-for re-opening of the olde Hide House in Acton, is a step in the right direction.

Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

Put the brakes on town truck traffic

To the Editor:

I am prompted to add my voice to that of Mr. J. Frewen-Lord (HHTW - Aug. 21), in his condemnation of heavy aggregate trucks using 17 Side Road. But in so doing, I would include Maple Avenue, which in my opinion has become nothing more than a truck by-pass.

This, as any reader knows, is not a new problem. Several Maple Ave. residents and myself discussed it at length with a council member and our bylaw enforcement officer a number of years ago.

The problem has since that time become much worse, aided and abetted by the upgrading of the subject roads.

I suggest it will be substantially accelerated in

Kudos to Cable Systems

Editor's note: The following letter was released to HHTW for publication

Mr. John H. De Jong
General Manager
Halton Cable Systems
Dear Sir:

Congratulations! You have made a wise and responsible decision in community viewing of high quality television by retaining the Vision

intensity by the increased traffic flow that will result from the current Guelph St. construction unless corrective action is immediately undertaken (God help us if they ever complete the proposed 8th Line Main St. project.)

I don't know at what point in time Maple Ave. became part of Regional Road 17, (I have been a resident for 15 years) or who was responsible for allowing such a disaster to occur in a prime residential area. But the fact that it happened does not prohibit action on the part of today's elected officials to restore some sort of sanity to our traffic flow.

As I understand it, the purpose of a regional road is to provide access for local commercial traffic not as a substitute for a provincial high-

Television Channel. I hope you continue watching and bringing channels which enlighten, uplift and educate your viewers of all ages. Television, as you know, is a powerful media source and we all join in the responsibility of improvement of human behavior.

Pearl Kerby
Georgetown

Politics of inclusion?

To the Editor:

So Kim Campbell won't make any more patronage appointments until after the election.

That's O.K., because in the last 10 months, Mulroney appointed over 650 loyal followers to patronage heaven.

As a matter of fact, three of our new fresh-faced senators are actually senior Conservative campaign strategists. So they'll be helping plan and run the Tory election machine while on our public payroll.

So that's what Prime Minister Campbell means by "politics of inclusion".

And with so many political hacks receiving payoffs in advance, PM Kim looks...almost clean.

Limehouse appreciation

To the Editor:

Thank you very much for your support over the past few months. We really appreciated the games you printed in your sports section.

Unfortunately, Limehouse Georgetown Revolver Club Mosquitoes are finished for this season as they did not make the playoffs.

Annette Holman
Limehouse Minor
Sports

way.

In the case of Maple Ave., I cannot envisage any rationale that would sanction heavy vehicles on it any more than any other residential street in town.

In the interest of being part of the solution rather than part of the problem, let me offer the following for consideration by our elected officials.

1. An immediate ban on the use of 17 Side Road by heavy vehicles at any hour and the use by trucks for local delivery during the posted hours only.

(Put the Semi-Trailer rigs where they belong on provincial Highway #7.) Not likely to be the popular choice of the trucking fraternity, but they don't pay the residential taxes of the Maple Ave. homeowners.

2. An immediate, enforced reduction of the speed limit on Maple Ave. to 40 km limit on #7 Highway (Guelph Street).

3. Immediate prohibition on the use of engine retard-

ing (Jake Brake) systems, by trucks within all town limits. There is no logical reason that such outrageous racket need be tolerated by resident taxpayers.

4. I suggest that no trucks be permitted on Maple Ave. at all on weekends or holidays except for obvious services.

It is interesting to note than nothing in the above sets a precedent. Other jurisdictions apply them.

All it requires is leadership on the part of the appropriate elected officials, and I wish to assure them that this problem must be solved.

Unfortunately, we as individuals have created a society that obeys one law, - "The Law of the Wallet". It seems to me that one of the best incentives to having regulations obeyed is stiff penalties, which may also help alleviate our regional deficit.

Thank you for permitting me to use your - "Forum".

R.G. Sears
Georgetown

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

Tutors are Guild's greatest assets

From the North Halton Literacy Guild

WHO BENEFITS?

Volunteer tutors are the Halton Literacy Guild's greatest asset. For the time and energy they give to their students, we thank them sincerely. The experience of helping someone learn to read or write is truly wonderful for both student and tutor.

One of our tutors expresses it this way:

"Teaching an adult to read is a challenge on its own. Most of us acquire this necessary life skill at an early age and think nothing of it for the remainder of our lives..."

I first contacted the North Halton Literacy Guild after seeing a notice at the Library - "Looking for Volunteers".

After completing the tutor training program offered by the Guild, I was matched up with a learner. We were

both somewhat nervous at our first meeting. As part of tutor training we learn to respect confidentiality completely, and this was always kept in mind. "J" and I soon relaxed and got down to the job at hand. Basically, he tells me what he needs to learn and I do my best to teach him. It is truly a team effort!

My student is eager - on a one-top-one basis - he is finally going to acquire a skill he yearned for, for a long time. He knows that once he learns to read and understand what he is reading, that a whole new world will open up to him...

We have been meeting once a week for almost a year now. I see a great improvement in his ability to read and write and of more importance, in his confidence to take chances. At our first meeting, "J" told me he had never read a newspaper, and had never attempted a book. He now

frequently borrows a book from the library and we enjoy tackling a crossword puzzle together. "J" recently started a Grade 9 English credit course; I know he will do well.

My student has taught me that we can climb our mountains together and it doesn't matter how long it takes. We can stop and rest and use whatever resources are available to us while we are on our way. We can even change directions when necessary, without any problem at all...

To my student "J", I say, "Thank you, my friend, for what you have taught me. The last 12 months have been a true learning experience."

North Halton Literacy Guild is a non-profit, registered charity offering one-on-one tutoring to adults who want to improve their reading and writing skills. For more information, please call us at 873-2200.