

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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Election Letters

Truth the first casualty in an election

To the Editor:

Last week your newspaper carried a press release issued by Liberal candidate Julian Reed. That release criticized me for my actions regarding development issues in the community of Acton.

Your readers might have been intrigued by Reed's allegations that Garth Turner "contributed to a state of turmoil in the community" and displayed "totally unacceptable conduct", especially since a story on the front page of the same issue completely contradicted these allegations.

Reed alleged (without checking any facts) that I had information from a federal government agency which was important to Acton, and that I sat on this for two months waiting for an election call so I could take credit. As officials from the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce said in a press conference last week, this is false and

untrue.

The local Chamber asked me at a meeting on Aug. 31 to assist them by getting this information from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Within a week I did that, receiving on Sept. 10 a memo the fisheries minister had signed (at my urging) on July 6. I released that information on Sept. 13. Julian Reed then issued his press release several days later, and has yet to respond to the Chamber's clear statement that he was wrong.

By the way, your readers might be interested in Mr. Reed's response at a recent all-candidates meeting in Acton when he was asked to comment on his actions and his failure to confirm facts: "Well, there's an election on", he said.

There sure is. And truth is the first casualty.

Garth Turner
Progressive
Conservative candidate
Halton-Peel

Reform party plan would reduce deficit

To the Editor:

Your weekend editorial suggests that all the political parties are locked in a bidding war to reduce the deficit.

I would like to remind you that the Reform Party announced their detailed Deficit reduction program (zero in three years) in the spring of this year and the other parties have failed to respond in kind.

The Garth Turner Conservatives hope to reduce the deficit in five years or maybe by the turn of the century, but no specific plans on how to do this, however. And, after nine years of talk, actions always speak louder than words;

The Liberals will reduce the deficit by increasing government spending (new math). As Preston Manning stated, "Trying to kick start a 700 billion dollar economy with \$5 or \$6 billion worth of government spending is like trying to start a 747

with a flashlight battery";

The NDP haven't clued into the deficit yet.

Our "Zero in 3" deficit reduction plan was introduced six months ago and remains still, the only detailed plan with cuts spelled out in detail.

Last week, we received full endorsement from the Globe and Mail, as the only party which has a plan, and the only party which "trusts" the voters with the truth". If I may quote from their Sept. 23rd editorial:

It cuts deeply, but judiciously. It would entail no genuine hardship to anyone, nor would it harm essential services."

The debt and deficit is killing the economy, jobs and our children's future. The last 25 years of Liberal-Tory majority rule have left us on the edge of bankruptcy.

Dick MacDuffee
Reform Party
Candidate for
Halton-Peel



The People's Corner

Hockey school '93 a great success

To the Editor:

On behalf of everyone at the Halton Hills Sports Academy, we would publicly thank all those involved for a fantastic week at this year's hockey school (Aug. 30 to Sept. 3).

Thank you to all the counselors who laced hundreds of skates and showed their patience when there was "just one more to do".

Thank you to the on-ice staff, Adam and Jay, your new ideas and focus gave the school just what it needed.

Thank you to the dry-land staff, Kevin and Simon, who really put the kids through their paces and kept them motivated.

Thank you to all the volunteer goalies and Curtis, who gave us their time and energy everyday without

fault.

Thank you to all the sponsors who helped to contribute to one of the best schools in years. You were an immense help.

Thank you to all the arena staff for all your help and hospitality over the entire

week.

A very sincere thank you to all the parents and players who made this all possible. The enthusiasm and smiling faces from the children surely numbed all those sore muscles and vocal chords of the staff.

We hope to see all of you again for the 1994 hockey school Aug. 29 to Sept. 2 with even bigger and better programs.

Dave Krause and
Tim Bennett
1993 Halton Hills
Sports Academy

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months and apparently found this article relevant and reassuring.

I am including a second article which I have been holding until you were able to make use of the first. I hope this will be useful to you.

I appreciate your support so very much and cannot thank you enough. There is such a great need for service

in our area but because of the separate communities, it is very difficult to disseminate the information. If I can be helpful to your readers in some manner, please allow me that opportunity.

Elayne Tanner
Rockwood
Editor's note: Halton Hills This Week will be running future articles by Elayne Tanner, a psychotherapist.

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Let's put the blame where it really belongs

By Jack Imhof

Kill the messengers!
 I say this because I believe all of us are missing the real issues during the Acton OMB. What then are the real issues and who are the messengers?

On one hand, the messengers are those "unreasonable" agents of the provincial and federal governments. On the other hand they are those "damn" trout swimming in Black Creek.

It appears from my reading of the news reports of the OMB hearings and council meetings that the way to take care of the concerns raised at the OMB are to tell the provincial and federal agencies to mind their own business and take care of pollution in the Great Lakes (as one Acton resident suggested) and then to "re degrade" Black Creek through poor planning and design and get rid of those fish that are hindering Acton's ability to grow.

What are the messengers telling us? First of all, I have not read any comments that would lead me to believe that the federal and provincial people stated that Acton could not grow. What I did read was that they were asking for information that could help them determine to what extent Acton could proceed with growth so the results of growth would not impair fish habitat and water quality in Black Creek. This request is not based upon "bureaucratic irrationality" but upon science.... old science.

Since the mid-70's when the International Joint Commissions Pollution from Landuse Activities Research Group (PLU-

Guest column

ARG) report was released, scientists and politicians around the Great Lakes have been aware that the major loading of contaminants and nutrients polluting the Great Lakes were coming from the rivers and streams feeding the Lakes. Urban development and agricultural intensification were the culprits. Since then, many studies have been done to determine the specific causes and the types of information necessary to collect and analyze, so that development could occur be planned and engineered, so as to not further degrade (but hopefully improve) the water quality of the Great Lakes and the streams that feed the Lakes.

What has this got to do with Black Creek? Black Creek flows through Acton, Limehouse, Stewarttown, Georgetown, and then into the Credit River and then from there through Norval, Huttonville, Meadowvale, Mississauga and then into Lake Ontario, a Great Lake, I believe. If too much ground water is prevented from arriving in Black Creek, the purifying action of ground water to Black Creek will be diminished and water quality will worsen in Black Creek and all the way down the system into Lake Ontario (proportionally, of course). The ability of brook trout to reproduce will be diminished as well because they require spring discharges for spawning.

The additional water would mean more urban growth for Acton and without proper information and design, more storm water

discharges into Black Creek (storm water from some urban developments can be as bad as raw human sewage). These discharges, if not managed properly, will pollute Black Creek further, increasing bacteria levels, eroding property and increasing the potential for human health issues and property loss downstream.

After the loss of ground water, and the increased storm water, the increases in treated human sewage entering Black Creek, without proper planning and management would further increase pollution levels in Black Creek, downstream to the Credit and from there downstream to Lake Ontario. The fish by this time would be long gone.

Oh, by the way, Black Creek flows through Georgetown so that we would also receive the benefits of contaminated and degraded water quality from our neighbors in Acton...thanks, guys.

Marilyn Serjeantson was quoted in one paper as stating: "That stream (Black Creek) was a mess when the Beardmore property was there. It was the region that cleaned it up - and now we're being penalized for it". I am certain that my understanding of Ms. Serjeantson's comments is not correct but it does lead me to believe that what she means is that now that the region has been able to restore a degraded stream to health that the region should be allowed to degrade it again...? What message is this sending to our children?

From my understanding,

the agencies messengers are asking for information to determine to what extent the use of ground water from Prospect Park, the increase in storm water from new development and the increased sewage to be treated by the Acton Sewage Treatment Plant would affect the stream and fish. This information can then be used to determine how to plan for some level of growth in Acton.

Growth that would not kill the stream, further damage the Credit River and increase pollution in Lake Ontario. And what about the other messenger, the fish?

Yes, there is federal legislation that must be considered, but in reality, the message relayed by the fish is that Black Creek is healthy...because they are the results of a healthy system. Therefore, by ensuring the requirements for those "damn" fish we also get the benefit of a healthy environment. Sounds like a good deal to me. If done properly, the new residents of Acton have the opportunity for the same quality of environment as those living there now.

Now we arrive at the real issue. The real issue is not "Fish or People", or that some government bureaucrats hate Acton and refuse to allow the community to grow. The real issue is that someone has not done their homework. Mind you, it's easier for the region or town to kill the messengers and blame a few little fish than to explain why they haven't been doing their job.