

Opinion

Halton Hills

THIS WEEK

Halton Hills This Week, Weekend edition is published every Saturday 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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.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
OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt

HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.

PHONE: 873-2254

FAX: 873-3918

Life of the party

Friends have the right priorities. They know it's important to be a responsible host, and that means being the Life of the Party, reports the Hamilton Automobile Club.

A responsible host sees that friends have a good time and get home safely. That means putting guests' welfare first and not forcing drinks on anyone. Most important, a responsible host encourages drivers to stay sober.

When there's enough life in a party, guests are less likely to overindulge. The secret is plenty of food, good conversation and activities.

Protein-rich and starchy foods help slow the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream and conversation or activities divert guests from drinking.

It's a good idea to mix drinks on the light side. Drinks made with a non-carbonated base such as tea or juice is a good idea. Prepared this way, alcohol is not absorbed by the body as quickly.

Winter weather and motorists who drink and drive can be a deadly combination - and the cause of holiday tragedies. However, responsible hosts can make a difference.

If guests should drink too much, it's important to keep them from driving. That may mean finding them a ride or driving them home, calling a cab, or even having them spend the night. Real friends make their friends' safety their first priority. That's what it means to be the Life of the Party.

Calendar questions

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

Mr. Noel Duignan
MPP - Halton North,

Please tell me you did not spend my hard earned tax dollars producing the 1994 calendar I have just received!

What a waste of money! This shows the total lack of intelligence and respect of your NDP government towards the people of this province.

If indeed this money has

not come out of your own personal pocket, I challenge you to pay for it immediately. If I want a calendar, I'll go and buy one from a real business (that's if the NDP hasn't put them all out of business yet).

This is just yet another appalling act of a government slowly choking the life out of the once great Province of Ontario. Get your head out of the sand!

Mike Springer
Georgetown

A safe haven?

To the Editor:

Re: Stuart Eckert's letter of Dec. 15

My recent experience with my Georgetown "Friendly Bank" should be another "Friendly Gouge".

During the past summer I opened an account to handle U.S. funds with my "Friendly Bank". Recently I deposited a U.S. cheque for \$2. I found that I had received 2¢ interest each month for my original \$20 U.S. deposit. I was then advised that I had been charged a monthly service charge of \$1 U.S. and could

expect the same for each month that I had a balance less than \$200 U.S. Upon closing the account with the \$22 U.S., I received \$20 U.S. and 15¢ Canadian.

My limited skills in math indicate that in less than two years, I will be in debt to the bank.

Question: The crime situation in Clearwater being a concern, is my \$20 safer in my pocket or in my "Friendly Bank" in Canada, hmmm?

Al McQueen
Clearwater, Florida
U.S.A.

Got a beef or a comment?

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. Opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of Halton Hills This Week or its employees.

Send your letters to: The Editor,
Halton Hills This Week, 232 Guelph St., Unit 9,
Georgetown, ON, L7G 4B1
or fax to 905-873-3918

The People's Corner

Get the facts straight demands Duignan

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter from John Shadbolt which appeared in last week's edition of your newspaper. Although I usually avoid becoming involved in a war of words through the media, I cannot ignore this particular misrepresentation of facts.

It seems strange for someone recently "confirmed" as leader of a political party to be so unaware of the facts of political life. Why would I not attend all-candidates meetings? Why would I not display a partisan interest in the federal election? My party affiliation as a New Democrat did not cease and desist upon my election as a provincial member of par-

liament nor do my duties as an elected member stop at the door of Queen's Park.

Except for the end-of-session midnight sittings, the Legislative Assembly does not meet in the evenings. Nor does it sit on weekends. What better way to listen to some of my constituents than to attend meetings and to knock on doors with the federal candidate? My participation was not personal business but normal political activity of an elected member.

Mr. Shadbolt was just as imprecise with his comments about Norma Peterson whose title, by the way, is executive assistant and not executive secretary. As required of all political

staff running as candidates, she took an unpaid leave of absence from the day of official nomination up to and including polling day. And his allegations about expenses are just as ridiculous. If Mr. Shadbolt had so many concerns about these matters, why did he not summon up the courage to ask her in person at one of the many all-candidates meetings he also attended.

No wonder, as Mr.

Shadbolt declared in his letter, it is "lonely running for the Libertarian Party - people do not want to hear the truth."

If he wants to present himself as a credible representative of his own political party he ought to get his facts straight before publicly attacking the members of other parties and indeed, the parties themselves.

Noel Duignan
MPP Halton North

Time too valuable

To the Editor:

In answer to "A Frustrated Shopper":

No, you are not alone. I too, have spent many wasted hours trying to track down advertised items. One day I wanted to make sure that I was right in my belief that these flyers were, in fact, false advertising.

When I couldn't get one particular item at a store in

Georgetown after three visits (I live 10 km away), I went to their stores in Brampton and Mississauga. Neither store had stock.

Any flyers in my mailbox get thrown out without me even glancing at them. My time is too valuable to waste on game-playing with big stores.

Carol Englert
Georgetown

Taxpayers tricked

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

Dear Mr. Duignan:

I should tell you first of all that I have never been involved in politics to any great extent. However, over the last few years I have become more and more disenchanted with the amount of government intervention and spending at the provincial level and I feel it is now time to voice my opinions.

As a member of your constituency, I recently received your 1994 calendar entitled "Making wise choices". Upon opening this calendar I became incensed at the fact that you probably used your constituents hard-earned tax dollars to have this calendar printed and distributed.

Your first sentence "in these tough economic times, you want to use your money wisely" does not appear to have been applied in generating this calendar. I am fortunate enough to be supplied with ample calendars "free of charge" from other sources and do not appreciate having my tax dollars used for this. I would also be willing to purchase one should I want one.

You are trying to promote information on government services within Ontario and I am sure that most of your constituents could obtain this from other sources. I find it difficult to believe you are using a calendar to tell us how to look after our children, our homes, our gardens, etc. More government intervention!!!

The reply card states no postage needed, but unless I am incorrect the government will have to pay 48¢ per piece to Canada Post to receive the responses. That is 48¢ of my tax dollars you are spending to solicit praise for the Ontario NDP govern-

ment. You do not leave any space in the reply card to say you are not doing a good job. I guess you don't want to hear that.

I am a partner in a small business where all management and staff work long hard hours to remain competitive in these tough economic times. I pay municipal business taxes, corporate taxes, employer health tax, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, property taxes, personal income tax, PST and GST (I probably missed a tax) and want to see my money being spent wisely. When will you learn?

I am returning the calendar to you, maybe you can find a supporter who would like it.

Mary Duncan
Georgetown

Thanks for the help

To the Editor:

On behalf of the St. John's United Church Christmas House Tour, I would like to thank your newspaper for assisting us in the promotion of this event.

I would also like to acknowledge several other local businesses that participated in various ways: M&M Meat Shops, Steak Express, Miller's Bakery, Cakes of Elegance, The Paper Factory, Halton Rapid Print, Hallmark Gifts, Pictures & Presents, Georgetown Fruit Store,

Harris Craft and of course, our Interior Designers, Connoisseur's Court, Interiors, Jane's Design Studio, Jeanette Dodson Interior Design, Jody Rea Interiors and Muir Interiors.

Through the generosity of these Georgetown businesses, our Tour was a tremendous success, enabling us to make a substantial contribution to the St. John's renovation and restoration project.

Thank you, everyone.

Gloria Sinclair
Committee Chairperson



Halton Hills United Way Campaign West chairperson Robin Elliott (at rear, right) gratefully accepted a cheque for \$300 raised by a McKenzie-Smith Middle of Acton school Penny Drive, presented by home base Two teacher Sonya Burns (rear left) and student Jared Sales, representing his classmates. Home base Two raised the most money (\$76) and won a pizza party.
photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW