

EDITORIAL

Erin Fall Fair and Thanksgiving mark the end of autumn. The days are now shorter and cooler and there are never enough hours to do all the chores around the farm. I was grumbling about this over the weekend to a friend who had dropped by with his dogs. "That's the price of living in paradise" was his only comment. He lives in the city and has to drive to his local park to exercise his dogs, while all I have to do is open the door and step smartly to one side as the dogs hurtle past. His city driveway can be cleared of snow in minutes with a hand shovel and the chances of his becoming snow bound are non-existent. On the other hand our driveway is just under half a kilometre long and requires serious power equipment to handle the snow. Living in Halton is the best of both worlds, tranquil countryside mere blocks away from all the urban bustle you can handle.

In the 80's we escaped Bay Street and sought refuge in the backwoods north of Orillia. There our driveway was especially long and rudimentary. I had purchased an old four-wheel drive \square ton truck complete with plough just to keep the driveway open and it worked fine. It was heavy enough to have lots of kinetic energy and could batter all the snow off the driveway without dropping below 20 kph. A very satisfying way to clear snow for a city boy.

Lever-action Winchesters may have tamed the West, but it is full size pick-ups that keep it running. Now the snow in Orillia is deep and the winds are cold. On cold January mornings the only vehicles that will start first time are made of good old American iron. What I had failed to grasp is just because the truck starts first pull doesn't mean it's ready to roll. The significance of my neighbours' going back in for a second cup of coffee, leaving the engine running had obviously eluded me. With the confidence of the cock-sure I gunned down the driveway only to find that once depressed the gas pedal froze in place. The engine red lined in a heartbeat and the truck stopped dead as if a giant hand had swatted it. Picture if you will a landscape covered in three feet of snow with a mortally wounded truck plugging the only way in and out of the farm. It took the best part of a week to dig the driveway by hand so that our little Japanese SUV could get close enough to pull the truck out, a task that actually crippled the SUV. Only a genius from the land of the Rising Sun would position the towing hook off centre so that the sheer weight of the 3/4 ton could pull the SUV's frame out of alignment.

Being literally marooned in a farmhouse for a week gave me a whole new perspective on life. Raging against Mother Nature has no effect. She just ignores you. Take a deep breath, relax and enjoy your unexpected week's holiday. After all, you're already in paradise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Stephen:

The Milton District Hospital Foundation's Blazing Saddles Beef 'N' Beans BBQ was a BLAZING success, netting approximately \$80,000. The Proceeds will be used to purchase a steam sterilizer for the Central Service Distribution Unit at the Milton District Hospital. Over 320 people attended the event, enjoyed Good food, good times, and supported the best cause in town - The Milton District Hospital. Of course, we could not have achieved this level of success without your generous support as a sponsor. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Milton District Hospital Foundation, and The Blazing Saddles organizing committee, I would like to offer our sincere appreciation to you for supporting this initiative. Your generosity has ensured that the residents of our expanding community continue to have access to state-of-the-art medical care. I hope you continue to support the Milton District Hospital, and once again, From the Board and all the volunteers, thank you.

Donna McLaughlin
Director of Development
Milton District Hospital Foundation

To the Editor

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in making the first Miss Halton/Miss Teen Halton Pageant such a rousing success. The generous support of Sun Haven Tanning Salon (Country Depot), Anne Maaden Cosmetic and Laser Centre, the Vacuum Store and Hair Studio 101 in providing some of the prizes was greatly appreciated. It was wonderful to have such supportive local businesses donate prizes to the winners, thank you very much.

We can't thank Chris Orzech, owner of Hot Rods Restaurant, enough for his gracious donation of the venue space and as well both Lee Martin and Bill Northmore for their outstanding work on the lights and sound system.

You can't have a competition without judges and ours were definitely top notch - thanks again to Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, Mayor Gord Krantz and Kirsten Pitkanen (Canadian Academy of Vocal Arts).

We'd also like to acknowledge the entertainment for the evening, local rock band LifeTimeDrive (LTD). Alex, Jonathan, Matt, Ryan and Steven, you were amazing and thank you once again for donating your time and your talent to the event. It was very much appreciated as was all of the hard work from our exceptional master of ceremonies, Bill McKeown.

Thanks again to everyone involved for all of the help and congratulations once more to Chelsea Bouchey, Miss Teen Halton 2005 and Serena Purdy, Miss Halton 2005.

Sincerely
Mrs. Donna Danielli

Dear Editor:

Our local Liberal MP took the time recently to comment on my current series of Town Hall meetings, calling them "publicity stunts." While that may say more about his idea of how to represent people, than anything else, I'll let those coming to the meetings make up their own minds about their worth.

Gary Carr also brags that since he became Halton's MP, "I have voted against the government on half a dozen occasions." Apparently he's not been an MP long enough to learn that being cavalier with the facts about your voting record in the House of Commons is hard to get away with. The record shows Mr. Carr voted opposite to the government twice, on second reading on a firearms bill, and the same-sex marriage bill. Neither of those were confidence votes. He supported the government in 43 of 45 votes, including every one approving the massive spending increases of the Liberal-NDP coalition budget.

If the people of Halton wanted a 15% annual increase in government spending, a refusal to lower gas taxes, higher mortgage rates and the greatest waste of tax dollars in our nation's history, then Gary Carr voted the right way.

Garth Turner
Campbellville

Encouraging today's youth

Nominations are now being accepted for the

Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards

The strength of our community lies in solid citizens. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. If you know a young person, aged 6 to 17, who is involved in worthwhile community service; a special person who is contributing while living with a limitation; a youth who has performed an act of heroism; or a 'good kid' who shows a commitment to making life better for others, doing more than is normally expected of someone their age - help us recognize their contribution - nominate them today!

Nominations will be accepted until November 30.

Contact this newspaper or the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 905.639.8720.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE - NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY!



ONTARIO JUNIOR CITIZEN
OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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35 Crawford Cres., Box 129,
Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0

PHONE: 905-854-3333

FAX: 905-854-4761

EMAIL: info@haltoncompass.com

CLASSIFIEDS: 905-854-3333

EMAIL: classifieds@haltoncompass.com

Publisher and Editor: Stephen Baker
General Manager: Audrey Allison
Assistant Editor: Bernadette Ward
Advertising Manager: Louise Cook
Production Manager: Karen Coleman
Designer: Nina Gunby
Columnists: Jeff Lumby, Dave Redinger,
Sami Jo Small, Garth Turner
Journalists: Donna Danielli, Jennifer Enright,
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Photographer: Peter C. McCusker
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The Halton Compass
35 Crawford Cres., Box 129,
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ON, L0P 1B0

EMAIL: info@haltoncompass.com