



SENSELESS VANDALISM: Brad Hesselink (left) and Len Tuitman, hired to keep the downtown clean and the plants watered, cleaned up plants that were ripped out of two planters on Mill Street early last Saturday morning by vandals who also tipped over two planters. — Frances Niblock photo

Vandals on rampage...

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"Write your plans in pencil, but give God the eraser," before the vandals struck.

While police took a report on the damage from a Salvation Army employee on Saturday morning, a resident from across the street said she'd seen two people from a small crowd of teens open the cover of the sign, but didn't call police, thinking the kids would be long gone before the police arrived.

Salvation Army Major Lyndon Hale called the vandalism "senseless," and choosing his words very carefully, added that it is a "reflection of how our society has become somewhat promiscuous with the concept of discipline towards young people or children."

As he prepared for services on Sunday, Major Hale said his sermon, written before the vandalism, talked about defining sin.

"The scripture itself, in I John, 3:4, says sin is lawlessness and we had a demonstration of that, first hand," he said.

Further east on Mill Street, resident Marie Ramsay woke up Saturday morning to find vandals had snapped an elm tree, planted by the town on her property, which she has painstakingly landscaped over the past few months.

"All the more reason to get a wrought iron fence with pointy tips to protect



VAPID VANDALISM: A vandalism rampage in downtown Acton early last Saturday morning included the snapping of this elm tree on Andrea Ramsey's Mill Street property. — Frances Niblock photo

your property," Ramsay said as she looked at the ruined tree.

Asked for her opinion on the senseless vandalism, Ramsay pointed to the Canadian justice system and uninvolved parents.

"I think the Young Offenders Act is a sham and I think parents have to know

where their kids are, and I don't know that you can do much more than that," Ramsay said, adding when they moved in they were warned that their plants might get pulled out, so she didn't plant any beds near the perimeter of her property at the corner of Mill and Wallace Streets.

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Sunday 10:30 a.m.

September 1 - The Good Life? Matthew 16:21-28
September 8 - Is Big Brother Watching? Matthew 18:15-20
September 15 - Must I Forgive? Matthew 18:21-35
September 22 - Is God Fair? Matthew 20:1-16
September 29 - What Do You Think? Matthew 21:23-32

Suggest vandalism task force

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Believing that littering is a behavioral problem that can be changed with community and political will, Georgetown Councillor Jane Fogal suggested the Town consider setting up a littering task force to deal with the on-going problem.

Fogal noted that within 24 hours of a spring cleanup in Halton Hills, the litter re-appeared and outlined her proposal for a task force to reduce littering on the streets, in parks and in open spaces.

She suggested the committee, made up of Town staff and politicians, citizens and local businesses, could come up with a slogan, logo, strategies and a communications plan.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette pointed out that littering is a form of vandalism — including beer bottles thrown along rural roads — and suggested the littering task force tie in with a vandalism committee, which was established earlier this year, but so far hasn't met.



DOWN SLIDE: four-year-old, Charles Barnhart goes down the slide at Prospect Park during the Halton-Hills Recreational Department's Water Wigglers program. The program is for kids 3-5 years of age. — Ellen Piehl photo

When it was pointed out to the vandalism committee members and bring her suggestion back to Council on Tuesday.

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