

The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Sunday at 211 Armstrong Ave. Georgetown Ont., L7G 4X5. It is one of the newspapers published by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, City Press, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Today's Seniors.

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Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

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A good start

Under the proposed Tory reform, rent controls will be eliminated on new buildings and on vacated apartments. When a tenant moves, apartment rents could be increased to market values.

For current tenants, landlords would be limited to rent increases of 4 per cent, but they would also be allowed to pass on repair bills and increases in municipal taxes and utility bills.

The current rent registry would be replaced with a new system to deal with landlord and tenant problems.

The proposed legislation would protect tenants from "unfair or double-digit rent increases, evictions and harassment" through a new enforcement unit.

The intent of the reform is to stimulate construction in rental housing, which has been stagnant for so many years. Landlords claim it's because rent control hampers their ability to pass along "real" costs to the tenants.

The reform is bound to be contentious — and bring out the vocal extremes on both sides.

No matter what, the province must perform a balancing act with this legislation by providing landlords with an incentive to do business while at the same time protecting the tenant from unfair price increases.

This is a good start.

Why single out one man, reader asks

Sensationalism

Dear editor,

You showed poor judgement in publishing the intimate particulars of one of the people arrested in Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police's Operation Rosebud. By doing so you show little regard for this man and his family's well being given that last year one man, after news reports connected him to a series of arrests, committed suicide.

Why single out one man and make him an issue? Sensationalism, poor judgement and poor journalism.

A worthless article and in very poor taste.

Carlo Toccalino

Ed. note: the man charged is a Superintendent of Education.

Appreciation

Dear editor,

Recently council for the Town of Halton Hills passed a motion acknowledging our community's cultural diversity, opposing discrimination and supporting the North Halton

Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com

Cultural Awareness Council as it works to further the aim of increasing respect and understanding among all citizens.

Councillor John Day was instrumental in drafting this motion and bringing it to council, and members of the NHCAC would like to thank

Councillor Day for his tremendous efforts and encouragement. Over the coming year, we plan to continue with a full slate of training workshops, school programs and an ongoing effort to network with similar groups.

Judy Scannell
NHCAC secretary

Letter of the day

Campaigning in column

■Regarding the Ottawa Report in the May 22 newspaper, it would seem that our honorable member of parliament has over stepped the bounds of proper communications with his constituents in this article.

The issue is that Mr. Reed is taking open shots at the opposition party utilizing free space provided by the newspaper. I believe the column is valuable for an MP to communicate with his constituents however this is not the forum for open campaigning. I refer you to the MP's derogatory remarks about the opposition parties, these are clearly campaign words that should be bought and paid for by the Liberal party. Is Mr. Reed so insecure in his job that he must start campaigning now?

Finally, I agree that the voters of Halton-Peel don't want a member who votes the way the wind blows. What they really want is someone to represent their views. Unfortunately the MP in Ottawa is merely one of many puppets who vote only as the Prime Minister tells him to.

Brian Shirliffe

PUD

