

The Independent Weekend Edition & Free Press

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Drive sober

With the holiday season in full swing and people preparing for New Year's Eve parties, we feel it's only appropriate to issue another plea to area residents to not drink and drive.

An accident is no way to ring in a new year and the odds are very good that if you decide to climb behind the wheel after drinking that is what will occur.

Halton officers will be out in full force this week looking for impaired drivers and with the new automatic 90-day licence suspension in place, is it really worth the risk of getting caught for the price of a cab or getting someone else to drive you home?

We've said it before and we'll keep on saying it until everyone gets the message: drinking and driving is deadly serious. But, no matter how severe the penalties, some people just don't get it.

Last week, for example, a man who ran a stop sign 11 years ago and killed four people in Pickering pleaded guilty to impaired driving in another incident. A two-year reformatory sentence from the first incident obviously wasn't enough of a deterrent. Frankly, we'd like to see habitual impaired drivers lose their licences for life and if they're caught driving then throw 'em in jail for 10 years.

Tough? You bet. But it's time to rid our roads of these ticking timebombs.

Bread Basket says, 'thanks'

Dear editor,

Thank you to everyone who made the opening of the Georgetown Bread Basket possible.

We have met and complied with municipal bylaws and we built a firewall to comply with building and fire codes. We are incorporating as a legal charity and have insurance to operate safely, but most of all we met with, and were accepted by, the community.

In these times of financial hardship we set out to help our neighbors, and as a community we worked together providing money, food, professional advice and assistance, emotional support, physical assistance with builders, food collectors and wonderful volunteers.

Churches, schools and businesses assisted with food drives and monetary donations. The Kiwanis Club came out to help us set up shelves and many private citizens were also there. Several of our larger stores donated items for food bank use.

A special thank you goes out to the scouts, guides and volunteers who made the Dec. 7 food drive possible. More than

Letter of the day

Computer deal raises questions

Dear editor,

I do not understand why council had so much difficulty in dealing with the computer leasing issue.

I would assume this item was allowed for in the budget and therefore it would just have been a matter of accepting the most favorable tender. If the computers were not approved via the budgetary process then it appears we have an economics of convenience situation here.

Did the need for a complete computer upgrade arise as a result of lower interest rates or was council aware town staff had computer compatibility problems? If the latter is the case, then I assume council would have directed staff to solicit requests for proposals for computer upgrading.

This raises my second point. Was this purchase tendered? If it was not, why not? What is the town policy? Computers are a commodity now and many different companies can offer comparable proposals. Were local companies offered the opportunity to submit a proposal?

I am still waiting for the day when I read in your paper that council has approved the Acton Arena or a seniors' centre or a recreation centre that we did not expect but because of the economic conditions allowed the project to be moved forward several years.

Ron M. Johnson

15,000 pounds of food and almost \$300 was raised.

A final thank you to the private citizens who came forward to form a board of directors and a volunteer base. Many hours of hard work was put in by everyone and the single

tear in the eye of a grateful recipient is thanks a hundred-fold.

To everyone who has helped us and continues to help, thank you.

Colleen Brown,
Georgetown Bread Basket

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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