

# Developers should have facilities in place before adding homes

Dear editor,

Regarding the page 5 infomercial printed in the October 28 edition of The Independent & Free Press. Never has something published in a paper made me so angry and upset that I felt it necessary to write a letter to the editor.

Seems a certain developer wants more land to build houses. This is, after all, what developers do. But then this propaganda page goes on to describe why it is necessary to acquire this land because it provides funds for recreational facilities, parks, schools etc. and how committed this developer is to the community.

When my wife and I decided to purchase our home, we were told by the

developer's agents, that all the necessary recreational facilities, shopping and parks would begin construction within a matter of months. Well, it has been three years now: no community centre, no shopping, and our parks could really use some more playground equipment for the current populace. But now, the developer needs to build more houses to provide funds for these projects. So, is he saying he never intended to build these facilities at the time we purchased our home? Seems someone has a credibility problem.

It seems to me the developer should provide for the expected population, and have these facilities in place before, or months after, people move in. Places like

Brampton and Mississauga don't seem to have a problem, but these cities made their developers follow and complete the plans. Instead, my child and the other kids in our neighborhood have to hope that through a lottery system, they get to go swimming or get a spot for any other recreational activity.

Why does this town continue to approve new residential development without first ensuring that the needed recreational facilities, shopping and parks are finished or at least under construction before giving a developer permission to begin another phase? If this developer is so committed, prove it, provide for the existing community, build those facilities.

The developer has loads of funds to fight with the town and Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) over this rezoning thing, why not divert some of that cash? Show some "commitment to Georgetown."

In the past we had a lack of facilities and planning—the future is not ours to see, let's worry about the present. First, build the necessary recreational facilities, parks and shopping for the existing population, show the commitment that was so loftily mentioned over and over again, that cost so much to advertise on page 5, then consider the future. I live in the here and now, and my child wants to go swimming again soon.

Jeffrey Bilger, Georgetown

## Tories' governing, editorials criticized

Dear editor,

The Tory old boys club and The Independent & Free Press must believe that Ontario's citizens are gullible, our thinking, when we bother, is prejudicial and, as far as our voice of democracy is concerned, (they hold the majority, you hold the pen) we are powerless.

How else can their style of government and your style of reporting it be explained?

Your editorial "Avoiding the axe" (Nov. 1) implies that you are concerned, but avoids placing any real criticism on the Tories' seriously flawed funding formula.

Education was sent into chaos and we are told that quality is the agenda.

Parents are turned against teachers and the suggestion is that kids will somehow be the beneficiaries. Now, finally, Premier Mike Harris has conceded that education funding is inadequate.

Provincial hospital restructuring was ill-conceived and we are told health care is in better shape than ever. When critical hospital fund-

ing was delivered six months late, the premier assumed his goodwill posture and seized the photo opportunity.

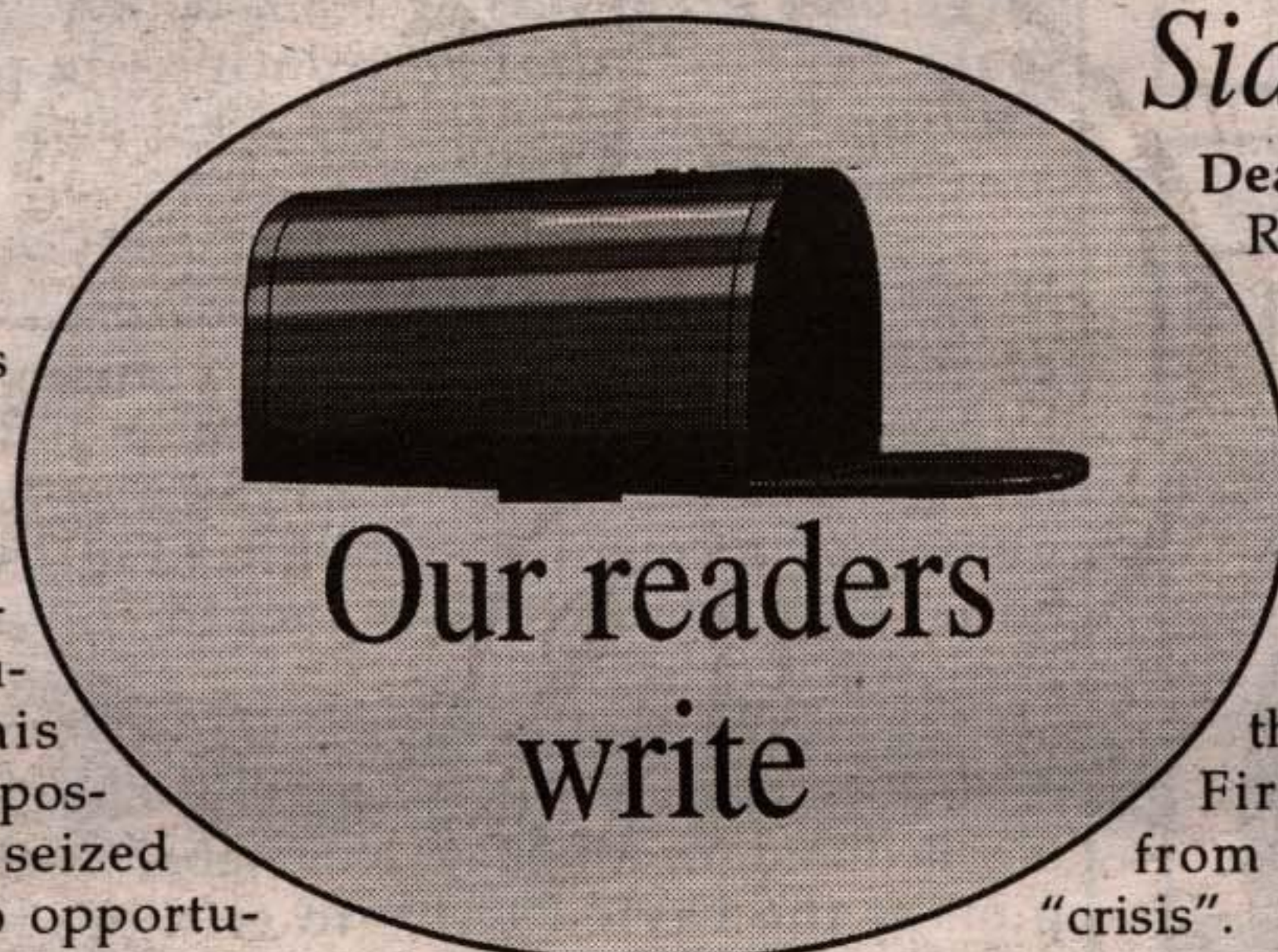
The Tories have spent millions of dollars to commission prime time television commercials designed to convince us of the wonderful job they are doing. This brazen act of pre-election marketing reveals a subtle contempt.

The money spent on this solicitous campaign belongs to the people and could well have gone towards health care, education, social programs or any number of other initiatives for the people.

It's our Ontario tax dollars at work!

Dare you glance from your right-wing perspective?

Don Crocker,  
Georgetown



## Sidewalk would be welcome addition

Dear editor,

Re: Article "Sidewalk construction angers homeowners", Wednesday, Nov. 4 Independent & Free Press. I could not believe my eyes when I read this article. There are a couple of things that bother me about this.

Firstly, the quick response from the mayor's office to this "crisis".

A number of residents on River Drive, east of John Street, have been requesting a sidewalk for ages without much response. One was to have been put in on the south side of River Drive running from Maple Ave. to Mountainview Rd. by Law Development in conjunction with the development of some townhouses (much to John Day's credit he has been trying to get some action on this front, but to date to no avail).

As most of the residents are currently on the south side of River Dr. it would somehow make more sense to have one there as well, instead of constantly trying to cross that busy road.

The sidewalk on the south side seems to somehow have been put on hold, as has the development of a park and townhouses. I haven't seen the mayor rush out

to see what state the residents along River Drive and Corey Circle are living in... a never-ending construction site!

How a developer is allowed to do this is unbelievable. However, I digress...

The town appears to want lots of development in the Barber Mill area but does not want to put in the infrastructure to make it habitable. Property taxes aren't reduced in our area for not having any of these luxuries, (i.e. parks and well-lit sidewalks).

Secondly, I can't for the life of me understand the vehement opposition to a sidewalk. Whatever happened to community spirit; of people going for an evening stroll (to one of the many nice parks in Georgetown South); of saying hello to my neighbors as they are busy in their garden; of kids walking, playing, skateboarding safely on the sidewalk, instead of on the road.

This attitude of "not in my front yard" is beyond my ken.

Georgetown South is hardly a small rural village like the Glen where life is much quieter. In an urban setting like Georgetown South one would think anything to make it more inviting for people to get out of their cars and go for a walk would be an added bonus.

Henk Glastra,  
Georgetown

## Town's plans for 'beautiful' Norval don't make sense—reader

Dear editor,

As a resident and business owner in the Village of Norval, I am outraged at the decisions that are being made affecting the future of our community in the Town of Halton Hills. In the recent articles printed by The Independent and Free Press and The Toronto Star in regard to the approval of a sewage pumping station, not one of the decision-makers who were questioned will accept responsibility for the damage that is being done or admit to a process that is severely flawed.

My family has lived in the Village of Norval for generations. All the community has

ever asked for is the ability to preserve, protect and enhance their village and the quality of life here. This is a very special place, a beautiful village surrounded by hills on the banks of the Credit River. It has a strong sense of community and from an economic standpoint, it has the potential to be one of the most important tourist areas in Ontario.

It was home for nine years to one of Canada's most famous writers, Lucy Maud Montgomery. In addition, with the relentless efforts of local councillor Kathy Gastle, her family and countless volunteers, it now boasts a heritage garden, a

human interactive sundial (one of only seven in North America), ecology park and the beginning of a trail system that could connect the village to the Trans-Canada Trail.

Why then, does the Town of Halton Hills and its planners continue to make decisions that erode Norval's beauty, its heritage, community spirit and its tremendous potential as a tourist destination? It doesn't make any sense. Questions need to be answered and the time has come for an investigation into the whole process.

The question I find most baffling is why Norval doesn't have an approved secondary plan?

The community has been asking for it for over 10 years. The town and its planning department keep stalling and the subdivisions keep coming.

It was a tragedy to see all the trees of the YMCA land clear-cut on Hwy. 7 by a developer. Now there's a sewage pumping station that has been approved on lands that were to be used for a trail in an environmentally sensitive area, for the sole purpose of servicing land in the village owned by a very aggressive developer.

There is also land that is in Norval's secondary plan study area that is in very real danger of being developed without a plan in place. The mayor defends her

staff's integrity and professionalism and is quoted in The Independent & Free Press, in relation to the pumping station, as saying, "We are making a decision and voting in a way that we feel is in the best interests of the town."

I question whose interests are really being served here and what vision is guiding the decisions that are being made. Who is in control of this town, and why are the residents' and taxpayers' wishes being ignored? The developers are the only ones that are making any progress. If the developers aren't in control, then what is going on?

Julie Pomeroy, Norval

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