

The Independent & Free Press

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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, Alliston Herald/Courier, Bancroft This Week, Barry's Bay This Week, Barrie Advance, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Mississauga Business Times, Napanee Guide, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Forever Young, City of York Guardian.

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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 helping hand

The federal government's decision to offer sanctuary to 5,000 Kosovar refugees is, unquestionably, the right thing to do.

Surely, a country that was so eager to drop bombs, also bears some responsibility to the innocent victims involved in the conflict.

We do not regret NATO's (and more specifically, Canada's) decision to use force to halt Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic's assault against ethnic Albanians. Furthermore, we believe the NATO forces must keep the pressure on the Yugoslavian madman to stop his murderous ways.

However, as a compassionate nation, we must also consider the human element of war.

Approximately 800,000 Kosovars have already been displaced and that number is rising by the minute. Refugee camps are bursting at the seams and there is a lack of food, shelter and water at many and there is also the ever-present threat of infectious diseases. Families are being torn apart. Lives are being shattered.

Realistically, offering refugee status to 5,000 Kosovars will do little to ease the situation. However, it does send the message that Canada is willing to offer a helping hand when asked.

But, most importantly, we must remember that enabling the displaced Kosovars a chance to return home should be NATO's prime objective. These people, given a choice, would likely prefer to resume their lives in their homeland. NATO, and the typically silent United Nations, should do all they can to ensure this happens.

In the meantime, Milosevic must be shown the error of his ways, and if it takes force to do it, so be it.

Ethnic cleansing has no place in this world. We hope this message is getting through to Milosevic and that ethnic Albanians can soon experience what we here in Canada take for granted far too often... our freedom.



Homeworker supports bill

(This letter was originally sent to MP Julian Reed. A copy was made available to The Independent & Free Press for publication.)

Dear Mr. Reed,

I am most disappointed that a bill to amend the inequities in the tax laws between single income families and parents working in the home, was defeated in the House.

As someone who has worked in many fields (including politics) I made a conscious choice to work inside the home, as opposed to holding a paying job. I strongly believe that, for me, no one else can or should raise my children. I recognize that some women, particularly those in the professions, have little choice as they must remain current, or become obsolete. There are also those who need the stimulation working outside the home provides.

Please make no mistake, I am not judging them, but I do resent being judged by the government system which fails to recognize my contribution. I have also never worked harder in my life. Yes, I could pay someone to raise my children, clean my house and generally keep my life in order, but I will never again have this time when my children are small.

I will never again have an opportunity to plant the seeds of my morality, religion, family values and love.

Numerous unsolicited job offers have come my way since I've been at home— an average of about two per year for the last five years. I am extremely

Letter of the day

Mayor wrong on ravine facts

Dear editor,

Contrary to what Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson states in this newspaper (March 10), the town will not be buying the Hungry Hollow ravine. It will be purchasing only 68 hectares of the ravine, two strips along Silver Creek, for \$50,000.

Even that is no bargain, as even the developer, Halton Hills Village Homes Inc., cannot build on the river. However, as the company still has to pay taxes on the property, to unload it and even make some money on the deal would definitely appeal to that outfit.

This is the second piece of wrong information the mayor has written about the development of more than 460 homes to be built along and in the ravine. The first one was that no homes will be built in the ravine itself. That is definitely incorrect, as she herself discovered once she walked the site, now this one. Are these uninformed errors or intentional errors, designed to deliberately mislead the citizens of Georgetown?

Cathy Oomen, Georgetown

marketable, so this is not a "sour grapes" letter either. It's about choice and discrimination. I have chosen to work in the home, and as a result, there is discrimination against me.

I dare you to even the field. Remove daycare deductions, and all the perks you provide to "working" parents. Or, recognize the long-term benefits

of in-home parenting, the choices made by well-educated, skilled women and men who choose to devote their considerable ability and intellect to a short-term project of child-raising. Dare to be a voice of reason in the Liberal party.

Dare to stand up for what is right, and fair, and just.

Lois Rooney-Giurin, Norval

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 may be edited for content or length and 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