

# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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Photography: Ted Brown

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Classified Manager: Carol Hall

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Mailing Address: 211 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN, ONT. L7G 4X5  
Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398  
e-mail: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com



## We got lucky

Despite itself, justice was done in a Toronto courtroom last week when, 13 years after the fact, Francis Carl Roy was convicted of the first-degree murder of 11-year-old Alison Parrott.

We say despite itself because almost every facet of the Parrott case spoke volumes of the problems in our justice system. Problems that allowed Roy the opportunity to kill Parrott and then almost avoid conviction.

This case, which paralyzed Toronto in the summer of 1986 when the youngster was lured to a phony photo shoot by an unknown man, raised several disturbing questions:

- Why was Roy's five-year sentence for a 1980 rape reduced in half by the Ontario Court of Appeal?
- Why was a man convicted of two rapes (in 1979 and 1982) on day parole by 1985?
- Why was the jury in the Parrott case given an edited history of Roy's criminal past with the rapes excluded? The judge ruled the evidence too prejudicial but certainly this information would go towards determining Roy's character. Furthermore, should it not be left to the jury to separate their emotions from reasoned thought and not the court to offer a sanitized version of a suspected sex offender's criminal past?

Francis Roy is now off to prison (pending appeal of course) and we can boast about how our justice system has put a killer behind bars.

Yes indeed, the system worked. Barely.

### PUD



## CNIB thanks all supporters

Dear editor,  
On behalf of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Halton/Peel District, a sincere thank you goes out to all the residents and businesses of Halton and Peel who participated in the 10th annual Crocus Campaign. Your purchase of crocus bulbs, note cards and handpainted pots helped us to reach and exceed our goal of \$5,000.

The monies you have generated will support programs that help the blind, deafblind and visually impaired in your community. Many of these vital services have been threatened by reduced funding.

On behalf of the 3,000 clients in Halton and Peel you benefit from these services, and the CNIB of Halton/Peel, your participation and donations are appreciated.

For more information about our Crocus 2000 campaign or rehabilitation services offered by CNIB or to volunteer for CNIB, please call (905) 275-5332.

Josie Quinn, CNIB

## Letter of the day

### Town is not divided

Dear editor,

In response to a recently published letter, I disagree that Georgetown is a divided town.

When residents of Georgetown South ask for the commercial centre they were promised years ago, this is a reasonable request. With a current population of 7,000, the south is a community the size of Acton without so much as a convenience store.

When new communities are planned, they should be designed as neighborhoods served by at least some local facilities. There are great environmental, social and health benefits to be derived from less reliance on automobiles. The fact that Georgetown South has no commercial plaza has an impact on all of Georgetown. For example, the traffic on Mountainview Road is much heavier than it needs to be and this causes great distress to the residents living there. The existing commercial facilities in Georgetown experience overcrowding and parking problems, causing some residents to shop outside the community.

With respect to comments made about a municipal arena or pool being built somewhere in Georgetown, it is my strong belief that people here would be thrilled to get a new arena and pool anywhere in Georgetown, the location is secondary.

In their fight against the rezoning of Georgetown South industrial lands, the residents of Georgetown and surrounding area have shown a unity of purpose and a passion to preserve this small town and its values. I have certainly not received the impression that any one neighborhood wishes to place its needs above another. People are focusing their energy on the big picture—how to make a better place to live for everyone!

Cynthia McMulkin, Georgetown

## 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 and 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