

# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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## Children first

Finally our children will come first. The provincial Tories have released new legislation that will make it easier for children's aid workers to remove abused children from an environment they should never be in in the first place.

The best part of the new legislation is where the rights of the abused child are placed— ahead of the rights of the parents. And it's about time.

Social Services Minister Janet Ecker made the announcement in the Legislature, claiming that in the perfect world, we would not need legislation like this. Unfortunately, we live in a world that is far from perfect. For that matter, there are some who might argue that we live in a world that is far from acceptable.

The change in legislation is a direct result of recent findings and recommendations from coroners' inquests into the deaths of six children. Those findings were strongly supported by the children's aid societies and will be part of the new legislation.

The legislation will now include neglect as a reason to determine if the child needs protection. It also toughens the rules on reporting suspected abuse and neglect by health care workers and doctors. And the new rules will make it easier for the courts to take past conduct into account.

The legislation won't make child abuse disappear. It won't make every child safe— only we can do that.

But at least it's a step in the right direction.



## GCS is a gem

Dear editor,

I've recently been perusing the Town of Halton Hills' web resources. I'm a professional musician with a strong association with community music endeavor in many areas of Canada.

In words, I could not adequately express how profoundly I have been impressed with one Halton Hills organization, the Georgetown Choral Society (GCS). I could be (and am) easily employed by any number of Toronto cultural groups. Yet I cite with no difficulty one group among my Toronto-area clients which best exemplifies the ideal of community music making, the GCS.

Further, beyond the archetype of 'community music making', the GCS has exhibited remarkable artistic achievements in its appearances at Roy Thomson Hall and the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts, as well as in its two CD recordings and European tours in the last decade, with which I have been privileged to participate.

For me it has been a great honor, for nearly 10 years, to

## Letter of the day

### Community support is great

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, I would like to thank the community of Acton for supporting our recent daffodil sale. The weather cooperated and we were pleased to sell all 1,300 bunches of daffodils. The \$5,000 raised will be used to help support the need for research, patient services and health promotion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers that went to the local businesses to take daffodil orders. Thanks also to those who packed orders and sold daffodils to the public. Without their dedication we could not possibly have a successful sale. We are also fortunate to have wonderful people at the Royal Canadian Legion, who generously allow us to use their facility to store our flowers and pack our orders.

We are grateful to the Acton IGA, LCBO and Blooms Away for giving us the opportunity to sell our daffodils outside their businesses. Thanks also to the Independent & Free Press for its excellent coverage during the month of April.

Thank you Acton. Once again you have shown that you are a community that cares.

Cathy Gerrow, Acton branch daffodil convener  
Canadian Cancer Society

be involved with the GCS. There can be no doubt that this group offers to its community both an artistic and ideological example for the arts as a meaningful presence in societal life: commodities greatly under attack by many forces in government and society today.

No jurisdiction, of any size, should fail to acknowledge this role: a testament to the unique role that the Town of Halton Hills can play in the hearts of both its residents, and of many more in the years ahead.

Chris Dawes  
Toronto

## PUD

