

The Independent & Free Press

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The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Friday 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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It's your choice

Ontario voters have eight more days to make up their minds as to what kind of provincial government they want.

Although some may argue this four-week campaign is too short to make a sound judgment, we'd argue the parties, and their leaders, are so distinctly different the length of the campaign should have little to do with deciphering the differences between Tories, Liberals and New Democrats.

Through the first three weeks of this campaign, we have seen just about everything from scandals (booze on the Tory teen bus) to mutiny (a Liberal MP jumping ship the day the campaign kicked off) to fear-mongering (Howard Hampton's assertion that people will die with another Tory government).

We have seen a leaders' debate where no one could determine a clear-cut winner but most people had little trouble picking a loser (Dalton McGuinty). The protesters, as promised, have been out in full force dogging Mike Harris and the election ads have had a decidedly hard U.S.-style edge to them.

And, as usual, there has been the almost-daily release of polls that have shown the Tories heading to another majority government.

Yep, this election's had a bit of everything. Which has made the job for voters more difficult than usual.

We hope the majority of Ontarians who head to the polls will have been able to ignore the cheesy props, the out-of-context TV ads and the slanted news coverage of the dailies to make an informed choice.

The three major parties offer Ontarians three distinct choices. We hope you, the voter, has carefully looked at the parties, their leaders and the local candidates because we believe an uninformed vote is a wasted vote.

Regardless of how you vote, we simply urge you to exercise your democratic right next Thursday.



Cancer Society canvassers did a great job

Dear editor,

The residential campaign for the Canadian Cancer Society was completed successfully at the end of April. At this time I would like to thank our hard-working canvassers for their excellent work.

As your readers may be aware, we appealed before the campaign for more canvassers. At the beginning of March, we needed more than 75 new canvassers and by the time the campaign started on April 1 we had gained almost that many new volunteers. These new volunteers helped us provide more households with an opportunity to support the work of the Society.

I would also like to thank Halton Cable TV, Georgetown District High School and The Independent & Free Press, all of whom helped in our quest for volunteers.

However, without the generosity of the public, all the canvassers in the world wouldn't make a bit of difference. While it is still too early for final figures, it appears that this year's campaign has been a great success.

Again, many thanks to our generous citizens, canvassers and contributors alike.

Bob Bairstow,
Residential Campaign
Chair,
Georgetown Branch,
Canadian Cancer Society

Letter of the day

Environment support appreciated

Dear editor,

This spring, events taking place in Halton Hills regarding the natural environment have been a mixed bag. On one hand, we have the Ontario Municipal Board hearings about the Dominion Seed House lands and the Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. lands in Hungry Hollow among many.

On the other hand, we have a wonderful community commitment to events such as TEAC's (Town Environmental Advisory Committee) Naturalization seminar, the Willow Park Butterfly Garden planting and Riverfest, celebrating Norval's connection with the Credit River.

For these latter events, I especially want to thank the many volunteers who have given of their time, energy and funds. The sign-making talents of Georgetown District High School tech classes, the efforts of Don and Jeff Noble, the financial contributions of the Town of Halton Hills, Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment and the Ashgrove Women's Institute as well as Hornby-Putzer Nurseries, Sheridan Nurseries, Red Leaf Nurseries, Wastewise, Halton-Peel Naturalists, TEAC, Willow Park steering committee members and various individuals who have supported our efforts.

The Willow Park Ecology Centre aims to foster a better understanding of the very special natural environment in Halton Hills and to create a culture to care for that environment.

Thanks to all who have assisted so far!

Ruth Kuchinad,
Chair, Willow Park Ecology
Centre Steering Committee

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