

The Independent & Free Press

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It's about time

It's been a long time in coming, but finally 24-hour ambulance service will be available to serve the residents of Acton.

Acton is currently the only community in Halton that does not have 24-hour ambulance staffing and since responsibility for half of the cost of providing ambulance service was recently downloaded to Halton Region by the provincial government, the region decided to remedy the situation.

The yearly cost—\$140,000—will be shared by the region and province.

The Acton station is staffed 12 hours a day Monday to Friday (at night) and 24 hours a day on weekends by volunteer paramedics. According to Jim King, Halton Director of Land Ambulance Service, when the Acton station isn't staffed an ambulance must come from Georgetown, Guelph, Milton, Brampton or another surrounding municipality. Response times can range from 15-26 minutes.

Frankly, that's just too long when an emergency situation arises.

But, the situation now appears to have been rectified with this latest announcement... better late than never.

Confusion reigns

The New Democratic Party wrapped up its party's policy convention this past weekend but we're still not sure who is driving the NDP bus.

Leader Alexa McDonough appeared to be steering the left-wing party to the right with a more business-friendly approach when Canadian Auto Workers' union boss Buzz Hargrove delivered a warning that if the party took that direction he would have his members pull their support.

That sent the NDP bus careening back towards the left. Frankly, we think McDonough, who did a great job in the last federal election, has a more realistic approach, but without union support the NDP is a lame duck.

New Democratic Party? We don't think so. More like No Distinct Platform.



Pageant runner-up enjoyed her year

Dear editor,

My name is Kelly Soutiere. I am the second runner-up in the 36th annual Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant.

I would like to thank the Acton community for the support and encouragement offered throughout the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to comment on some of the community events I attended. Among them were: the Terry Fox Run, Milton Fall Fair, District 5 meeting, Remembrance Day parade, Santa Claus parade, Acton Winter Fair and Leathertown Festival (to name a few).

My favorite event was the Santa Claus parade. I loved seeing all of Acton smiling and laughing as the decorative floats went by. The most challenging role was speaking in front of large audiences. With the support of Tanya Tonkovich (Miss Acton), Steph McKay (first runner-up) and Linda Robson (chair of Miss Acton committee), I can now add this to my list of accomplishments.

The year has gone by so quickly and it will all be over this month. That means someone new will be offered the same opportunities as myself. I encourage young women to enter the pageant because of the confidence and sense of community you gain. Good luck to this year's contestants and I hope to see you at the fair.

Kelly Soutiere,
second runner-up
Miss Acton Pageant

Letter of the day

Senator defends Senate

Dear editor,

I read about your perception of the role of the Senate of Canada and the qualifications of our three new senators with great surprise and dismay (Patronage palace, Aug. 13).

Your editorial writer was both insulting and ill-informed. Contrary to your writer's statement, Sheila Finestone has not been a Secretary of State for some time; she is, however, a tireless worker in the field of human rights and will be a welcome and valuable addition to the Senate.

It is well-known and appreciated by many informed citizens that there are many distinguished and able Canadians in the Senate. They come from different political backgrounds and represent a wide spectrum of the Canadian mosaic, including visible minorities, first nations, the union movement, agriculture, the arts and business.

One only needs to read reports in the national news media over the past few months to recognize that the Senate is doing good work as a place of sober second thought and as a place where important issues of the day are examined in great depth.

As for the two Conservative senators who have been fighting legal battles in our nation's courts, we must remind ourselves that these matters are still before the courts and it remains a cornerstone of our judicial system that one is innocent until finally proven guilty.

Should your editorial writer be brave enough to unmask his identity and spend a day with me sometime in the Senate I am confident he would then be in a position to write and informed and balanced report on the good work of the Senate. All your readers would certainly benefit from such an undertaking.

Lorna Milne, Senator for Peel

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