

The Independent & Free Press

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager

Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief

John McGhie, Managing Editor

Carol Young, Business Manager

Dave Coleman, Director of Distribution

Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble

Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt

Photography: Ted Brown

Advertising Sales: Dianne Fascinato, Sharon Pinkney,

Cindi Dermo, TerryLynn Guest, Jeanette Cox, Aron Goodden, Shannon Patriquin

Classified Manager: Carol Hall; Mary Watson

Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier

Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

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.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate.

In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier, \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

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.

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



Decide now

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh has thrown down the gauntlet to trustees of the Halton District School Board and we hope—but fear not—they are up to the challenge.

Chudleigh gave the trustees an F for failing to close almost empty schools in south Halton. Under current funding rules, the provincial government will only provide funding for new schools in growth areas until the number of empty spaces in the older schools has been eliminated.

Last spring, when given the option to close two schools—one in Oakville and one in Burlington—the board split the vote, leaving the schools open. That despite the fact that closing these schools would have paved the way for much needed provincial funding for new schools—in particular, one in Georgetown south.

Instead against all staff recommendations and to appease a small, but vocal, group of parents, five trustees voted to keep the schools open.

Then just a few months ago, when once again given the option to close Fairfield School—which has only 69 students—trustees voted to keep it open.

Their logic for keeping this school open completely escapes us. It's about time their knuckles are rapped.

Last spring we suggested these trustees were incapable of making a decision to close schools and perhaps this duty should be taken over by the province. It seems someone was listening.

Chudleigh says he wants to change the funding formula so schools like Fairfield must close. "If there's a need for a new school, I'd say take the option (to close schools) away from the board," said Chudleigh.

While we caution public input must always be part of the equation, we agree changes are necessary.

More importantly, it's time board chair Ethel Gardiner takes charge and demand action from her colleagues. If trustees can't decide to close schools, then the decision belongs in the hands of someone who will.

Whoever makes the decision, it must be now.



Ceremonies are impressive

Dear editor,

In response to the What You Said question of Nov. 10, Are schools doing enough to recognize Remembrance Day?, please permit me to say this.

As a veteran of the Second World War, I have been privileged to address six different schools during their Remembrance Day services, including several times at Georgetown District High School.

I have always been impressed with the manner in which these services were conducted. The opening addresses given by the staff at each school was to the point and meaningful.

Today, (Nov. 11) I took part in the service at St. Brigid School, along with Martin Boomsma, who was the principle speaker. The opening address by principal Cynthia Tobin could be used as a guide in any school.

I believe most schools make a true effort to deliver the message of what Remembrance Day means.

Robert McMenemy,
Georgetown

Wrong P.M.

Dear editor,

To MPP Ted Chudleigh (Nov. 10 Independent & Free Press).

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent did not say that, "the 20th century would belong to Canada"—it was Sir Wilfrid Laurier who said this at the turn of the century. Please get your facts straight, just as the rest of your government needs to learn to do. By the way, where's Mr. Harris lately? I'm sure and the rest of the boys have got some dandy declarations to make to "wisely" lead the public into the 21st century. Look out!

John Hansen, Acton

Letter of the day

School decision saddens mom

Dear editor,

As every year, I was pleased to see the children of Park Public School at the Remembrance Day services. I know a lot of effort by teachers is placed on teaching the importance of the event to our children, and in Park's case, physically getting everyone down to the cenotaph. Unfortunately this effort and the impact of the presence of these children on the veterans, was marred I believe by the children's failure to join the adults in singing, God Save the Queen, the finale of the service.

The service opens with the singing of O Canada, sung proudly by all, young and old alike, but our children do not sing God Save the Queen, simply because most do not know how. After the service I happened to mention to Park's principal how tragic I felt this was only to be told that they could and would not teach the song in school.

God Save the Queen, completely regardless of any religious or monarchist leanings, is a song of extreme cultural and historical significance to all Canadians, and as such should be taught to our children. We must teach our children that Canadians met the call to war years before the Americans, mostly because we were a Commonwealth country. Any feelings towards our present Royal Family have absolutely nothing to do with this.

The fact that "God" is the first word in the song is also an issue of contention. It shouldn't be. I have no problem with asking my children to sing a song entreating that "God" be that god we personally believe in or the god the monarchy worships, aid our monarch, both historically and today, to use their power of influence, justly.

As a mother of three children attending Park School, my sincere apologies to all veterans. My children will be taught to sing proudly next year (at home), in recognition of the sacrifices you made on our behalf. When the call to war came from our government and our monarchy, you went to pride to serve King and country.

Helen Marschall, 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 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