

The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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Surprise hike

For most people in Halton, an \$8.46 a year increase on their water bill won't be noticed. But we have noticed how staff have arrived at the increase.

We question the statement made by Halton Region's finance commissioner Joe Rinaldo at a recent council meeting who, when making excuses for the rate hike, attributed part of it to the building of the Big Pipe. These new water and wastewater pipelines will provide Lake Ontario-based water for new residential/industrial growth in Milton and industrial growth in Halton Hills 401 Corridor.

But it is our understanding the pipes will be financed by the development industry—not by existing taxpayers.

Iron main replacement and heavy plant equipment replacements are all part of getting good water service—and everyone in Halton should share in the capital costs of maintaining the service.

However, no existing Halton residents should be paying extra water bill costs resulting from the construction of the Big Pipe. That's an unwelcome surprise and we wonder how many other surprises that project may have in store for existing taxpayers.

Perhaps these questions can be asked on Tuesday at Halton Region's open house on the Big Pipe at Halton Region headquarters, 1151 Bronte Rd. in Oakville, 6-9 p.m.

The Big Pipe is a big dream (and cost) for Milton and Halton Hills developers—not for existing taxpayers and we hope that's reflected on our tax bills.



Our readers start young

Dear editor,

I am 11 years old. I'd like to comment on your newspaper. I think it's great. It's easy to read and there are some interesting articles. In Country Routes I enjoy reading stories about horses because I'm learning to ride a horse at Meadowlarke Stables. I also like to read the sports section because hockey is my favorite winter sport.

Sarah Capuano, Norval

Fox appreciation

Dear editor,

I would just like to thank all those who participated in the Terry Fox Run this year and helped raise \$11.5 million for cancer research in Canada. Thanks to all who helped us make a great day even better: Independent & Free Press, A&P Food Stores, Baynes Physiotherapy, Country Style, Carl's Catering, Georgetown Fruit Market, Georgetown Market Place, Loblaws, McDonalds, Lions Club, Halton Hills Fire Department, Merdeka Global Clothing, Nell's Driving School, Party FX, Police Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion 120, Tim Hortons, and Water Maker.

Tom Wharton, Georgetown

Letter of the day

MPP viewpoint is challenged

Dear editor,

With all the clamor by MPP Ted Chudleigh's government about how our schools have been failing to deliver a proper education to our children and how teachers were going to be re-examined to determine if they were intellectually fit to teach, it seems appropriate for me to write to you and point out that Mr. Chudleigh's column of Nov. 10 is in substantial error when he says that, "Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent said the 20th century would belong to Canada."

It was actually Sir Wilfred (sic) Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada from 1896-1911, who said "The new century is Canada's", a phrase which has been widely misquoted and twisted to suggest that somehow Canada would "own" the 20th century. Louis St. Laurent, by the way, did not become prime minister until this century was nearly half over, serving in that position from 1948-1957.

Mr. Chudleigh is also incorrect, I believe, in saying that since 1945, Canada has "become timid" and "gone wrong". We, within this country, have been singularly fortunate in avoiding the wars, destruction, devastation, political and social upheaval, crime and turmoil which have visited a great many of the countries of the world, including our neighbors to the south.

We have had to fight wars, and do peacekeeping operations in other countries, in order to accomplish part of this security. The sacrifices made by those Canadians who served and fought, and by their families who waited at home, are what we remember each year on Nov. 11.

And to "keep faith with those who died", I can think of no better way than to re-dedicate ourselves to continuing to keep this country as a progressive, caring and socially responsible one—a society diverse in its origins and aspirations, but more united, I feel, than many of our politicians want to give us credit for.

Allan Johnson,
Georgetown

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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