

Editorial

Animal crackers

It takes a sick mind to inflict pain on a defenseless animal. Having said that, it appears there are a number of sick minds out there.

On the front page of this newspaper there is a picture of Acton teen Sarah Rosenmeier and her cat Blackie, who had to have an eye removed earlier this week after it was shot with an air rifle.

According to Dr. Stephen Hess of the Acton Veterinary Clinic, the shooting of pets "is not that rare".

That's a chilling thought.

While Blackie is back home and doing well, the same can't be said for two cats in Brampton who were doused with what was believed to be paint thinner. Both felines are in serious condition and likely have suffered liver damage.

Studies have shown that people who are abusive to animals often have little problem making the leap to being abusive to humans. Unfortunately, current animal cruelty laws are pathetic, to say the least, with the maximum penalty being a six-month jail term and \$500 fine.

We understand the frustration of residents who don't appreciate cats wandering on their property but injuring someone's pet is not a solution... it's a crime.

Perhaps it's time for council to consider introducing a cat bylaw requiring cat owners to control their pets.



Letters to the editor...

Teacher union reps are colleagues, not 'bosses'

Dear editor,

Regarding your editorial, 'Another bad example' in the August 23 edition, your reference to "the teachers and their union bosses" needs clarification.

The teacher union representatives are our colleagues who have offered their time for this thankless job. They have campaigned and were elected by

their fellow teachers to whatever position they hold. Once their term is completed, they return to the classroom. All that is decided is done by democratic vote. If the membership is opposed to the actions of these elected teachers, the representative can be removed at election time.

Your term "boss" is inaccurate. As a newspaper editor, you should know this and be able to do more than parrot phrases used by our other elected officials.

Frank Loreto,
Dufferin-Peel Secondary Unit,
Ontario Catholic
Teachers' Association

Alliance official's remarks 'unfair'

Dear editor,

I would like to comment on the intolerant remarks made recently by a Canadian Alliance Party official that Atlantic Canadians are lazy.

It is unfair for a political official to subscribe to such a stereotype.

It has been my personal experience that Atlantic Canadians are generally a very hard-working, decent, and down-to-earth people. I believe the people of Newfoundland recently voted to not lower taxes so that

much-needed social programs and health care will be available to all citizens. I see that as an indication these people are very socially responsible, and understand what it means to live in poverty especially during poor economic times.

Would it not be unfair for us to stereotype all political right-wingers such as the Canadian Alliance or Progressive Conservatives as bigoted and self-serving?

Michael Xanthios,
Georgetown

Reception's success was a credit to supporters

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Halton Hills Mayor's Youth Action Committee and Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, I would like to thank all those who made the recent reception for youth and volunteers possible.

The event, attended by the Hon. Hilary M. Weston, Lt.-Gov. of Ontario, was a complete success thanks to the hard work and support of a large number of people.

Thanks go out to everyone who went above and beyond the call of duty in the time and effort they put into making a young boy's dream a reality.

I would also like to thank Mayor Serjeantson, Regional Chair Joyce Savoline and the Lt.-Gov. for their incredibly moving speeches. My organization and I are eternally grateful for all your help and are acutely conscious of just how lucky we are to live in a town filled with so many wonderful people.

To all the guests of the reception, keep up the good work and never take your eyes off the ultimate goal.

Matthew Rowe,
special events co-ordinator,
Mayor's Youth Action Committee

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