

# Letters to the editor... letters to the editor...letters to the editor

## Closing cancer office would be a great loss

The following are excerpts of letters to the editor we have received regarding the Canadian Cancer Society Ontario Division's decision to close the Georgetown office.

Dear editor,

When my partner in life was diagnosed with cancer it was my first time being involved with the disease. All of a sudden my whole life changed.

We decided he'd like to stay home as a hospice patient and I was the caregiver. The support we had from the Cancer Society was second to none. The kindness from the volunteers and the way they organized everything took a lot of the stress away.

Doug would get a phone call on the weekend from Jenny and he knew who his driver was for each day of the week.

Best of all, there was the office in town for me. When I was really upset I could go in and see Sheila for a few minutes and get a hug every time. She answered more questions for me than anyone else. When I left the office I could go home and be calm and do what I had to do.

To close this office would be a great loss to the people in Georgetown.

Our situation is over and now I am doing volunteer work in an attempt to pay back (the local office). I don't know that I ever can, but I'm trying.

Pat Shaw, Georgetown

If the office in Georgetown does not stay, our donation(s) will be walking, too.

John and Nancy Gibson, Georgetown

I am a breast cancer survivor of two years now and I don't know what I would have done without the support of all the wonderful people who volunteer for our Georgetown office.

I was so thankful for the support I received from the Georgetown office that I now volunteer as a canvasser each year and I am sure other people who have received this special support do the same. If you close the Georgetown office you will destroy the volunteer network that exists here.

Lynne Murphy, Georgetown

Both of my parents died of cancer and although I am well to this point, the chances of my getting cancer are high and it dismays me to think I may not have the support of our local cancer office if it closes.

They offer an invaluable service and, with cancer being a disease without a cure and the incidence of cancer rising, I cannot imagine why any cancer office in any town or city should close.

I have worked in the medical profession for many years and shudder at the thought of what will happen to the patients who not only get the devastating news they have cancer but are also told there is no place locally they can go for support.

Linda Paul, Georgetown

## Support the Acton Fall Fair pageant

Fall is well on its way and with it will be arriving the annual Acton Fall Fair, which will take place this weekend, September 15-17.

The Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant is held to select an ambassador to best represent our town at various community presentations and events through the year. The contestants are judged on how well they present themselves and speak in front of a large crowd, skills they will need to represent our town.

Throughout the past year as Miss Acton Fall Fair, I have had many beneficial learning experiences and met many new and interesting people. The events and various experiences I have benefited from include the District 5 meeting, other town pageants, events organized by our Agricultural Society and the Royal York convention where dozens of town ambassadors from all over Ontario gathered. All of these experiences will benefit the way I think and act through the rest of my various learning experiences in life.

This year's Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant will take place today

(Friday). The pageant at the park will start with all the contestants making their way across the stage in office wear and introducing themselves. Contestants will be judged on confidence and how well they present themselves on stage in front of an audience. The contestants return in evening wear to be judged on confidence and presentation as they present their speeches and answer questions. When this is complete, a winner and runners-up are selected.

I strongly encourage girls 16 or older to come and compete for the title of Miss Acton Fall Fair. It is a wonderful learning experience, extremely beneficial and lots of fun. You have nothing to lose by competing and you gain so much from it.

I would like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers and various businesses throughout the community who make the Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant possible. Without your time and generosity the pageant wouldn't be possible. I hope to see you at this year's pageant!

Amanda Corp,  
Miss Acton Fall Fair 1999-2000

## Readers question why publishing details of recent trial was necessary

Dear editor,

Is your staff writer Lisa Tallyn attempting to move The Independent & Free Press into gossip tabloid status?

A headline on page 4 of your Aug. 18 edition states "Brampton man acquitted..." In my opinion the key word is acquitted. Whether one agrees with the verdict or not, he has been judged innocent in a court of law.

With this in mind, I have to wonder at the motivation behind making sure everyone knows who this person is, what and where his business is, and all the personal details of an event surrounding an accusation of which he was found innocent.

I have no doubt this extensive coverage is accurate as to those facts Lisa has chosen to present about the case, however, I would suggest it goes way beyond the paper's norm.

I believe that a person found not guilty of a crime is now, or should be, back to

his or her original status in the community—i.e. John Doe citizen with an inherent right to privacy. "Brampton man, name, etc. accused of date rape, etc. found not guilty due to lack of evidence" would, in my humble opinion, about cover what need be said.

Ron Smith, Georgetown

Dear editor,

I was appalled to read the article by Lisa Tallyn published August 18, regarding the sexual assault trial of a local business owner. I don't know him personally although I do know him professionally. This shoddy article would have equally outraged me if its subject were a complete stranger. This piece might have been worthy of the National Enquirer if it had been well-written, but it wasn't.

The man was acquitted, Ms. Tallyn, found innocent, not guilty, wrongly accused.

Gabrielle Vetro, Georgetown

Dear editor,

On May 15, 1999 I reported to Halton Police that I had been raped by a Brampton man. On May 17, Peel Police charged a Brampton man with sexual assault and forcible confinement. The man was found not guilty on both charges.

The trial was a difficult ordeal but not as humiliating as the "date" or as offensive as the detailed article written by staff writer Lisa Tallyn.

If anyone wanted to know all the details of that night, they could have attended the trial. The courts are a public arena. I have to question why sexually explicit details would be disclosed in a community newspaper.

After being put through the stresses of the "date", a preliminary trial and 15 months later, the superior court trial, the last thing I needed to read was this article. The same article could have been written without the disgusting graphic details.

Perhaps the next time a staff writer reports on a sexual assault case they could do so by offering some dignity and respect to the people involved.

Patricia Selby, Georgetown

*(Editor's note: Court cases, especially those involving alleged sex crimes, are very difficult to report on not only from the fact that evidence presented in the case must explain both the defence and Crown's cases, but also be sensitive as to what the paper's readership will accept as a community standard. The Canadian Press (CP) stylebook, the bible for journalism in this country, best explains why court proceedings must be reported on in-depth. It reads: "One of the bases of an effective justice system is public scrutiny: the public must see justice being done, if not in person, then through the media. Good court reporting takes... fairness and objectivity in the recording of testimony and the description of witnesses."*

## See you at the Plowing Match.

We are making it easier for you to access information on more than 1,000 services.

- Come talk to us at the Canada Pavilion.
- Learn more about what services are available to you.

For more information on government services:

1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232), TTY/TDD: 1 800 465-7735,

www.canada.gc.ca or visit the Service Canada Access Centre nearest you.

International  
Plowing Match,  
Elora, Ontario

September 19-23  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Canada