

Editorial

Out of gas

Gas prices in these parts have hovered around the 75-cent a litre mark for weeks now and Finance Minister Paul Martin sent consumers a very clear message Monday:

Get used to the high prices. They're here to stay.

While Martin didn't use those exact words, there was no mistaking The Man Who Would Be Prime Minister's sentiment when he said a cut in gasoline taxes wouldn't happen without federal-provincial co-operation.

Frankly, we're tired of this federal-provincial buck passing when it comes to combating these idiotic gas prices. Ontario says it won't cut taxes unless Ottawa does and the feds say cuts aren't forthcoming until the provinces follow suit.

Prices have hit a 10-year high and truckers, who are struggling to make a living, are so fed up they're planning protests that would knock the wheels off our booming economy. On top of that, analysts predict residential heating prices to rise 45 per cent this winter.

We really don't expect the greedy oil companies to have pity on the poor consumer but the federal government, which hits gas buyers with a double whammy of an excise tax, plus GST, is sitting on a hefty surplus of OUR money and hasn't seen a deficit in three years.

Surely, the time is right for a cut in gas taxes. Perhaps the 1.5 cent per litre increase Martin brought in 1995 to pay off the deficit would be a start.



Letters to the editor...

Parents should determine reading habits

Dear editor,

Re: John McGhie's This 'n That Sept. 13. (Harry Potter... evil incarnate?)

I'm with you John!

Oh dear and tsk tsk, ban Harry Potter?

Sorcery huh? Sounds like the book Nazis are at it again. Hmm...while we're at it why

don't we ban Alice in Wonderland, Lord of the Rings, ALL things Walt Disney and God forbid, Halloween...now there's sorcery for you!

What about David Copperfield? He'll have to cease making small chunks of the planet disappear and how about censoring some those 'magical' Saturday morning cartoons?

Part of child rearing is teaching right from wrong, good from bad, phasing out fantasy is what children do themselves when they realize who Santa really is. Censoring a child's imagination stunts the learning process used to evolve into adulthood, we learn all our base emotions as children, this teaches us to recognize them when we mature.

Fear and awe are the strongest emotions we begin with. If the Potter adventures evoke those, then the stories are doing their job.

Children aren't stupid—they know the difference between magic and real life even if they choose not to acknowledge it.

Parents should be sensible about this, if a story is too mature for their youngster then it shouldn't be read until later years. It's the parents who should know if their child is ready or not, but don't ban a book on the basis of their own child's mentality.

Keep the books coming if they promote reading pleasure. Lord knows we need rehabilitation in that area of life!

Paula Suckling,
Georgetown

For more letters to the editor see Page 5

Cancer office should go it alone

(This letter was sent to Ms. Penny Thomsen, Executive Director, Ontario Division, Canadian Cancer Society and a copy was made available for publication.)

Dear Ms. Thomsen,

The citizens of our community are appalled at the plans to close the office in Georgetown. Surely, your mandate must be to bring services closer to the people who need them most, not make it impossible for patients to receive the help they need.

If cost is a factor, say so. Space can be donated. Reports from the public meeting make it evident that tactics of fear and shame were used rather than dealing with the facts. One fact of interest: Statistics from 1988 indicated that this area is a 'hot spot' for breast cancer with numbers 25 per cent above the national average.

If your policy were followed across the province, then you should close all offices and ask the patients to travel to Toronto. Clearly, ridiculous!

Both my parents died of cancer and if you are not aware, a cancer patient does not have the energy for extra travel.

My recommendation: We should incorporate under a charitable number as Halton Hills Cancer Support and keep that huge amount of money that is raised in this community to open our own office. Funds that are left over can be donated to cancer research elsewhere. Do not consider this an idle threat. I have already had discussions with people who could donate space and with local cancer officers.

Barbara Halsall, Georgetown

Send us your letters

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters requesting names be withheld will only be published pending a valid reason at the editor's discretion. Letters should be not exceed 300 words and may be edited for content or length.

Mail or drop off

280 Guelph St., Unit 29,
Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1

Fax

(905) 873-0398

E-mail

independent.freepress@aztec-net.com

The Independent & Free Press

Mailing Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1

Telephone: (905) 873-0301 Fax: (905) 873-0398

E-mail: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager

John McGhie, Managing Editor

Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief

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, Jeanette Cox, Sue Spizziri

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 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown Ont., L7G 4B1. 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.

