

Editorial

Canada's PET

It is probably safe to say Canadians will never see another prime minister like Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Some may say, "Thank God", others "Too bad."

To be sure, Pierre Trudeau was a unique man and a unique politician. He himself said he was two men: the reflective, outdoors-loving intellect who "played" at being a politician.

The Canada we know and love today is, in many ways, Trudeau's legacy. He was responsible for bilingualism, the metric system, the waves of "non-traditional" immigration, deficit financing, Charter of Rights... the list goes on.

We thanked our lucky stars he was in power at the height of the FLQ crisis as he stared down the terrorists and we despised him for the arrogance he displayed to average Canadians later in his career.

But that was Trudeau. You could love him and hate him. He had a vision for this country that he was determined to see fulfilled—and all opponents be damned.

He also had the ability to put Canada on the world stage like no other prime minister before or since. He gave us an identity.

Trudeau once said he never planned or wanted to be a politician, it just happened.

We will forever be grateful that it did.



PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU • 1919-2000

Letters to the editor...

Licensing system won't prevent animal cruelty

Dear editor,

It is terribly disturbing to hear once again that an animal in Georgetown has been the victim of a cruel, sick, demented individual (Feline shot, Sept. 22).

Only education and a strict penalty for the crime will curb this type of behavior. Animals give unconditional love and companionship. What type of person abuses

this trust? Studies prove the type of individual who purposely harms an animal will eventually build up to violent behaviour against humans.

In the paper a couple of weeks back, the front page picture showed a cat with his eye shot. In John McGhie's column, he suggested council should pass a bylaw to have cats licensed and that people should keep their felines on their own property.

I agree cats should be licensed but

only to ensure they have a collar and, if they happen to wander, have identification in order to be returned to home.

A licensing system, unfortunately, will not prevent the cruelty endured by any pet. I can only urge that the community come forward with information to ensure those guilty of such acts will be punished and educated appropriately.

Cheryl Bates, Georgetown volunteer, Cats Anonymous

Downtown neighbours a great group

Dear editor,

During the last week of August I spent three days in downtown Georgetown. It was a significant time for myself and my sister as she was moving her shop a block and a half down Main Street.

On each of the three days (and, I understand, days before and after), many residents of downtown Georgetown came to offer help and support. It reminded me of what an

old-fashioned barn-raising must have been like—neighbours gathering together to help neighbours. It was truly inspiring.

To the residents of downtown Georgetown, you are a great group of people. You have shown that, despite an influx of newcomers, the spirit of small town friendship and helping is very much alive and well.

Ruth Roberts, Burlington

FASday a huge success

Dear editor,

Through the medium of this newspaper I would like to thank all those who helped make FASday a success on September 9.

The churches which rang their bells and said prayers for those living with fetal alcohol syndrome, Heritage Acton for ringing the Acton Town Hall bell, Halton Hills town council who agreed to have the Civic Centre bell rung in recognition of FASday, and to Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson for personally ringing this bell.

Also many thanks to friends who made donations to Fetal Alcohol Support Network (Toronto and Peel), who came to Toronto on Saturday for the event held there, and who have supported our family along our journey with FAS. Thank you, too, to this newspaper which printed a wonderful article highlighting the dangers of alcohol during pregnancy.

My final message this year is that if you are pregnant, or there is a possibility you are pregnant, please do not drink alcohol. If you think you may already be living with a child or adult with FAS, please call 853-3265 or e-mail shionaw@stn.net.

Shiona Watson, Acton

Send us your letters

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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.

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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,

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