

Editorial

# We are Canadians

This week Canadians have been more reflective than usual as we said farewell to Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the man who defined a vision of Canada as a peaceful, caring country where we celebrate our differences, as well as our similarities.

We have been thinking more about who we were before, during and after Trudeau— and for most of us, life has been good.

As we sit down to Thanksgiving dinner with our families this weekend, we can be thankful that we do live in Canada—a land of peace and freedoms.

Here in Canada, we can harvest our bountiful crops without the worry of stepping on landmines.

Here in Canada, we can hug our kids in love, not in terror of gunmen shooting at us.

Here in Canada, as prepare for at least one fall election, we can be thankful to know that whoever is elected, will be allowed to take office.

Here in Canada, we can be thankful that those who want to work, can do so— and at a fair wage to support their family.

Here in Canada, we can be thankful that if life knocks us down, our neighbours and community will rally to pick us up.

We are Canadians— and that is something to be thankful for.



## Letters to the editor...

### Crash victim's mother thanks community...

Dear editor,  
Two small words seem so insignificant compared to the outpouring of love and support I have received since the horrific train accident on Thursday, Sept. 28.  
Family, friends, neighbours, co-workers (past and present), clergy, police members of MacKinnon Funeral Home, and especially the

youth of Acton and surrounding area— you are incredible.  
A special thanks to Melissa and Chelsie for their heartfelt thoughts at Travis' funeral— you both made the day bearable for me.  
As my heart continues to ache for Travis a part of it is warmed by the knowledge that I live in such a

caring and compassionate community.  
To the Everson and Dick families, hang in there somehow. If you can be strong I can too.  
Love you forever and ever, Trav.  
Thank you all.  
Travis' mom, Kim Acton

### Barrier arms needed now

Dear editor,  
How many more lives is it going to take before the local politicians and the railway install barrier arms at the Fourth Line crossing?  
Three lives were lost this past month, and it is approximately a year ago a young man lost his life at this same crossing and nothing has been done yet.  
Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson appeared on CTV News Sept. 28 stating that gates will be installed. It's a little too late for the three Acton boys, but hopefully they are up before it happens again.  
David Parker, Acton

### ...and a friend offers a tribute

Dear editor,  
In memory of Travis Toth, Rory Dick and Mark Everson.  
Time does not bring relief; you all have lied  
Who told me time would ease me of my pain  
I miss them in the weeping of the rain  
I cry for them at the shrinking of the tide,  
The old snow melts from every mountainside,  
And last year's friendships will never be the same,  
But last year's bitter love must

remain  
Heaped on my heart, and my old thoughts ride,  
There are a hundred memories that are here,  
So with these memories and these tears,  
You are entering with relief to the heavens above,  
Where you will never feel no pain or hurt,  
I know you will be there to help me in,  
And I will see you all  
When we can be together again  
Jason McGuire, a friend

### School council anticipates great year

Dear editor,  
The St. Francis of Assisi School Council would like to inform the community that, once again, we're off to a great school year. We have many commitments this year, such as the return of Risk Watch, D.A.R.E., our Christmas Angel Tree Project, our Hands of Hope fund-raiser for the poor of Guatemala along with our spring Shakespearean play.  
The Council wishes to thank the school community, along with the dedicated teachers and volunteers who help maintain a vibrant learning environment for our children.  
Donna Owens, parent rep

### 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.  
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# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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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,

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-

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