

Editorial

# Dollar daze

For a government that has prided itself on offering "common sense" solutions, the provincial Tories' were unbelievably stupid in their failed attempt to raise MPPs' salaries by a whopping 42 per cent.

Thanks mainly to public pressure, the Tories backed away Wednesday from plans that would have seen MPPs' base salaries soar from \$78,007 a year to \$110,945. A star athlete or movie actor may be able to finagle that kind of pay hike from their employer but there is no way the Tories could get this increase past Joe Taxpayer who is more likely to see a 2 per cent increase— if he gets one at all.

While we're not adverse to seeing MPPs get a reasonable hike (the aforementioned 2 per cent is appropriate), one must keep in mind that most MPPs get extra pay for extra duties such as chairing a legislative committee (which adds 14 per cent to their salary)— not to mention expense accounts, nice pension, etc.

House Leader Norm Sterling's contention that a hefty salary hike is needed to attract good young people into politics is ridiculous. Good young people should be attracted to politics because they are concerned about others and want to make a difference in society, not because it's a nice way to make a good buck.

Those types we can do without, right Mr. Harris?



## Letters to the editor....

### Vocal students should be commended

Dear editor,

I would like to commend all the high school students who have recently written letters to newspaper and/or actively participated in recent demonstrations concerning issues which they feel directly affect them.

Their actions show an awareness of political decisions and their ramifications which I believe

exceeds that of the general populace.

It has been my experience as a teacher of many years that students bring into the classroom their frustrations and concerns, sometimes reflecting attitudes and opinions that have been hotly discussed at home. If they have been encouraged to engage in discussion and questioning, investigation and debate about issues meaningful to themselves, they are indeed involved in the highest level of education and are certainly worthy of our respect.

I thank students for their lack of apathy. I applaud them for their willingness to stand together and demand recognition and validation of their opinions. I have great hope that young people will continue to write, march, rally and protest in order to achieve their democratic ideals and force accountability from those in positions of power in our society. We need their strong voices to be the future catalyst for

the just society we all want for our country.

Bravo students! Keep informed and keep exercising your rights and responsibilities as Canadian citizens. We should be taking lessons in democratic participation from you.

Barbara Baron, Georgetown

### Remembrance Park no longer forgotten

Dear editor,

I once wrote a letter complaining about the "forgotten park" but it is no longer forgotten as our Remembrance Park will be remembered forever.

It is now a beautiful park for everyone to see, sit and enjoy. To all the planners and workers, a great job well done and a big thank you.

Maddie Howat, Georgetown

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### FoodShare says, 'Thanks'

Dear editor,

Recently, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Calvinist Cadets from Acton, along with the Beavers and Cubs from Limehouse, went door-to-door for the 10th annual food drive they organized.

They had a wonderful response as 9,671 lbs. of food was collected along with \$521 in cash donations.

When the food arrived at the scout hall, the eager youngsters, their parents and leaders pitched in to help sort the food.

Once again, our thanks go to many people including Leathertown Lumber for supplying the tape for the boxes and to Acton IGA for supplying bags.

The *Independent & Free Press*' coverage leading up to the food drive was excellent along with the advertising on signs by the community all helped to make people aware of the food drive.

If anyone was missed and would like to make a donation please call the FoodShare at 853-0457 or drop in Tuesday 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. or Saturday 10 a.m.- 12. We are located at 153 Perth Street (off Wallace). Donations can also be left in the donation box at the checkout of IGA and monetary donations in the donation boxes at any of the Acton banks, pharmacies and other participating stores.

On behalf of the less fortunate, "thank you Acton".

Eileen Dix, Acton FoodShare

### 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,

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