

Editorial

# A time for thanks

Thanksgiving is a uniquely North American holiday—here in Canada we celebrate it this weekend, while the Americans will next month.

No doubt as Canadian families and friends gather this weekend, we will all give thanks for the presence of each other, and remember that as of Sept. 11, there are more than 1,500 children who won't have all their parents at the table this year.

But while this act of terrorism was horrific, a death occurring as a result of an accident on the highways can be just as devastating to a family. This week, the Ontario Provincial Police launched Operation Impact, which targets road safety this holiday weekend.

Last year, 3,000 people died in car crashes in Canada, and more than 220,000 people were injured. Impaired driving is Canada's number one criminal—note criminal—cause of death and injury. In fact, alcohol is a factor in the deaths of 1,100 Canadians every year—that's three lives every day, according to the OPP.

"When you consider the numbers, they are staggering, if not unbelievable," says an OPP spokesperson.

Other staggering stats—four of every 10 vehicle occupants killed in crashes are unbelted and another one in four fatalities occur at intersections as motorists ignore traffic signals and signs.

So while you're giving thanks for the turkey this weekend, also give thanks for your kids, your spouse, and your self.

Have a safe, and happy, Thanksgiving.



## Letters to the editor....

# Politicians should be working together

Dear editor,

Why do we keep hearing in the news about terrorists linked to bin Laden originating from Canada?

### Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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How could immigration just let them in?

When our prime minister visited the U.S., President Bush remarked how the Opposition (Joe Clark, not in so many words) was playing politics. How embarrassing is that? In the middle of the biggest crisis to hit North America the U.S. president's view of Canada is that some politician is trying to drum up votes. Give it up Joe!

The Bush administration is trying to re-start the economy in the midst of a war. Here at home we see write-ups in the paper from MPP Ted Chudleigh about what a wonderful job Mike Harris and his Tories have done. Guess what guys, Ontario is a manufacturing province. Up until the last 15 months or so the economy has been strong. Anyone could have looked good running the province.

I'm aware that politicians will never make everyone happy but they may have a chance if they keep one thing in mind: to realize how

very lucky we are to be Canadian and to have such good and very capable friends to the south—the United States. Why not check their egos at the door and work as unit to preserve our nation and its identity.

Scott Brown, Georgetown

## Fair photos made this reader smile

Dear editor,

Wow! I was so impressed with Herb Garbutt's photos (Acton Fall Fair, Sept. 19 *Independent & Free Press*) I had to write and say thanks.

Herb captured the spirit of the fair and the thrilled children's faces beautifully. The photos were a welcome reprieve from all the sadness in our papers and they made me smile.

Thanks Herb, for brightening your readers' day and keep up the great work.

P.S. I hope you're going to enter the llama photo in a contest.

Lois Fraser, Georgetown

## Canada needs more refugees

Dear editor,

Re: G. Vinkle's letter (Sept. 26) Canada can't afford additional refugees.

I cannot begin to imagine how devastated I would be if I had to leave my homeland in order to provide a safe and peaceful life for my family. Can you?

I, as well as most Canadians, have never really known hunger, fear, oppression or war. What we take for granted daily—water, food and shelter are luxuries for a vast majority of war-torn and Third World countries. We have access to medical and dental care, legal aid, and education. Even these are not luxuries to us.

Computers, cell phones, home theatre systems, eating in restaurants, are not rare for many Canadians.

What have I, we, done to deserve so much more than any one of those 40,000 "homeless" foreigners?

What have they ever done to deserve your harsh words? Have they not suffered enough? Should we not welcome them as we would like them to welcome us? This Canadian taxpayer would gladly pay more taxes and welcome more refugees. Should Canadians seriously question their government's motives when 40,000 "homeless" foreigners... invoke the magic password—refugee? You bet.

We should question why we are not welcoming more refugees!

Carrie Latendresse, Georgetown

# The Independent & Free Press

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