

Editorial

Hike is out of line

Halton Regional Police Services (HRPS) shouldn't be shocked if its proposed budget is met with some resistance by members of Halton regional council.

At a time of economic uncertainty, when airlines are closing and Ontario's government is seeking to slash \$5 billion in spending to avoid a deficit, there's something not quite congruous about a proposed 8.2-per cent budget hike.

It's not that we don't believe the police service should receive sufficient funding to effectively do its job, it's just that its spending forecast seems a tad out of line.

The 8.2-per cent figure sticks out like a sore thumb when compared with Statistics Canada's recently reported 1.9-per cent inflation rate for October and the fact the Bank of Canada this week cut the lending rate for the ninth time this year in an effort to stimulate consumer spending.

We find it troubling that terrorist activities in the United States would be used by (HRPS) board chair Jack Brewer as partial justification for a proposed \$4-million budget hike.

Pardon us for saying so, but what happened on Sept. 11 shouldn't be used as an excuse for budgetary hikes any more than it should be the scapegoat for industries that were failing long before the attacks occurred (see the airline industry).

As in years past, Halton residents are being sold on the increased policing budget as a small price to pay for the service. Try telling that to someone who is no longer employed and perhaps struggling to hang on to their home.

In the past, we have supported the acquisition of additional police officers and new training programs as stepping stones to making Halton's police service among the best in Canada—but not at any price and certainly not in the current economic landscape.

NEASE, OI
(APOLOGIES TO DR. SEUSS)



AMATEUR.



Letters to the editor....

Great team effort shown in food drive

Dear editor,

On November 3, scouts and guides came out in droves to collect and sort over 35,000 lbs. of food,

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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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.

Mail or drop off

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the greatest amount on record in recent years. More than 200 volunteers scouts, guides, cadets, beavers and other volunteers, turned St. Andrew's church into an assembly line that would make Henry Ford proud. Food came in via conveyers and was all sorted and boxed before being trucked to the Georgetown Bread Basket food bank.

As a newcomer to Georgetown and the food drive, I expected the never-ending flood of food to cause chaos and dissension among the ranks, but, the sea of volunteers seemed to have an endless supply of energy and organization filling holes and relieving bottlenecks like seasoned pros. I have never witnessed a finer display of volunteerism, generosity and community spirit.

The many recipients, volunteers and the board of your local food bank wish to thank all Georgetown residents for your support of the door-to-door annual food drive.

We also wish to thank the following organizations for their support: St. Andrew's Church for the production facilities, the guides and scouts who did the lion's share of the work, Andrew Murray Motors for the van, Loblaws, A&P, Brian's Food Basics and McDonalds for helping feed the volunteers, Cogeco Cable and *The Independent & Free Press* for your editorial and advertising support before and after the drive.

Your support makes it possible for the Georgetown Bread Basket to be one of only a handful of food banks in Ontario that is all volunteer and completely self-sufficient. Each year the Bread Basket requires 50,000+lbs of food and \$20,000+ in financial donations to fund rent, heat, hydro and other operating costs to feed those in need.

Your generosity continues to make a tremendous difference!

Jaret Henhoeffler,
Georgetown Bread Basket

Task force appreciated homelessness editorial

Dear editor,

I just want to thank you for your coverage of the meeting on homelessness and affordable housing (Nov. 16, 2001).

Your editorial, Team effort needed, made the important point that the public at large must demand that their political representatives make the issue a priority.

The Halton Hills Homelessness Task Force and the other groups sponsoring the town hall meetings are trying to do just that. I hope that we can count on your continued support for publicizing this cause. Increased awareness will lead to public support and, ultimately, political action.

I have written to Lisa Tallyn, thanking her for the excellent article on the town hall meeting. It, along with your editorial, are a big contribution to raising our community's awareness.

Read Whatmough,
Member of Halton Hills
Homelessness Task Force

For more letters see page 7

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