

Editorial

# Problem solver?

Given the events of the past few weeks in Ottawa it's not surprising that a recent poll found the majority of people surveyed believe corruption is alive and well in the federal government.

Heck, even Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has acknowledged he made a surprise cabinet shuffle this week to clean up "a few problems."

Problem No. 1 was now-ex-defence minister Art Eggleton who has been nothing short of a disaster as a minister. Eggleton, who sticks to his belief he did nothing wrong, was turfed Sunday after it was revealed he gave a \$36,500 untendered contract to a former girlfriend to produce a 14-page report on post-traumatic stress disorder among military personnel.

Problem No. 2 was now-demoted Public Works Minister Dan Boudria who Chrétien said showed an "error in judgment" by spending a weekend (with family) at the posh mansion of the president of a Quebec ad firm that received million of dollars in federal government contracts.

This revelation came only weeks after Auditor General Sheila Fraser said the government "broke just about every rule in the book" when it granted the contracts to the Quebec firm.

Throw in the patronage allegations against ex-Public Works Minister Alfonso Gagliano (now whiling away the hours as ambassador to Denmark) and Chrétien's own obfuscation about lobbying for a Crown agency loan for a friend and you can begin to see fire where there has always been smoke.

In 1993 the PM promised he would appoint an independent ethics counselor who would report to Parliament and not the prime minister. We're still waiting.

Given recent events, it's likely Chrétien will be even less inclined to have someone watching over he and his cronies.



## Letters to the editor...

### Town's baseball diamonds are 'a big joke'

(This letter was sent to Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle. A copy was made available for publication.)  
Mayor Gastle,

#### 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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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**

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1  
Georgetown Market Place

**Fax**

(905) 873-0398

**E-mail**

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

**Editorial e-mail addresses**

**John McGhie**

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

**Cynthia Gamble**

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

**Lisa Tallyn**

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

**Herb Garbutt**

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

**Ted Brown**

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

For the second consecutive week, the Georgetown Slo-Pitch League recently had to cancel softball games due to poor diamond conditions.

To satisfy my curiosity, I stopped at the Georgetown South diamonds on my way home from work and saw what has become an all too familiar sight—the infield saturated and submerged under water.

Now, I do not claim to be an expert of diamond construction or maintenance, but I do know if you landscape a diamond properly then persistent flooding problems can be eliminated and avoided.

My question is, why, after so many years of problems, has our town refused to correct these drainage problems? It would seem to me, given the number of residents who use these diamonds, and not so coincidentally pay for the privilege, that it would be in the town's best interest to address this problem?

This year the Georgetown Slo-Pitch League increased its team fees, in part, due to "increased town costs". Yet the diamonds still remain

quite frankly "a joke, a big joke", especially when compared to other communities.

As it exists, our summer leisure facilities are insufficient to handle the large demand in Georgetown. Therefore, scheduling has become a nightmare for all leagues. And it will only get worse with the increasing population due to the rapid development of any available lot into residential housing.

Therefore, I find it really disturbing that the topic of new ball diamonds is not even on the recreation department's budget plan for the next two years.

As always, it is sad to say, Georgetown appears to once again be putting the cart (increasing residential development) before the horse (services, specifically new ball diamonds).

I look forward to your comments and some action on my concerns.

Greg Last, Georgetown

More letters pg. 7

### Closed library frustrates student

Dear editor,

In OAC at Bishop Reding, the long weekend in May means we all have one badly-needed extra day off school to finish up the many essays and research papers that are all due the following week. For this reason, I had planned to basically live at the Georgetown Library for the duration of the long weekend.

As if it was open.

For some reason unbeknownst to me, the town, or whoever decides these things, decided to not open the Georgetown Library. Now, I'm not talking about their obscure regular hours, such as closing at 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and not even opening Sunday and Monday. I'm frustrated that the library was shut down for the entire long weekend, leaving me and many others out of luck.

It is time for the Town of Halton Hills to take a look at putting money into upgrading facilities, rather than building massive new ones.

Forget the youth community centre, we all have basements and parks we can do nothing in. Forget the new pool, we can all swim at Cedarvale or our bathtubs. How about thinking about fixing up our libraries. I cannot keep driving to Toronto every time I have another research essay to write.

Our school libraries are already pathetic. We should at least try to make our public libraries accessible (i.e. open) and adequate.

Nora Loreto, Georgetown

# The Independent & Free Press

Mailing Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1  
Telephone: (905) 873-0301 Fax: (905) 873-0398  
E-mail: production@independentfreepress.com  
Georgetown Market Place

Ken Nugent, Publisher  
Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager  
John McGhie, Managing Editor  
Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief  
Carol Young, Business Manager  
Dave Coleman, Director of Distribution  
Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

Distribution e-mail: distribution@independentfreepress.com

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble  
Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt  
Photography: Ted Brown  
Advertising Sales:  
Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Kerlaan, Alexandra Stabins,  
Christina Marshall, Angela Reynolds, Elaine Petkoff  
Real Estate: Sue Spizziri, Jenn Hunziger  
Classifieds: Mary Watson, Sharon Pinkney,  
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier  
Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harris  
Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall  
Distribution: Kim McClure

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, Enn 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-

Whitby/Clarington Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Forever Young, City of York Guardian.  
Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance

of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate.

In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in

all other countries. Plus G.S.T. Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

