

Editorial

Make it a fair day

There are few places a 60-year-old and six-year-old can find common amusement, but a small town fall fair is one of those places.

The fair is the ideal setting for adults to let the kid inside them out... if only for a short while. The clatter of the amusement rides, the smell of hay from the animal stalls, the tangy scent of candy floss and other goodies wafting down the midway are enough to make even the most "adult" grown-up become a child again.

While most of Halton Hills' population is well aware today (Friday) marks the opening of the three-day Georgetown Fall Fair—a tradition for 156 years—and next weekend will see Acton's Fall Fair take centre stage, some newer residents to our town, may not realize the fun our back-to-back fairs have to offer.

To these people, we suggest you hustle over to the Fairgrounds (Park Street/Hyde Park Drive) sometime during this weekend (or Acton next weekend) to check out what you're missing.

Fall fairs are a celebration of rural life—a lifestyle that is slowly eroding as development continues. But fair weekends offer every "city slicker" a chance to see, among other things, champion livestock in action, horse pulls, toe-tapping fiddlers and home-made crafts.

The country comes to the town so rarely these days, so why not treat yourself and take in one, or better yet both, fairs Halton Hills has to offer.



Letters to the editor...

War memorial vandal doesn't belong here

Dear editor,

Re: Town has 'missed the boat' on vandalism issue—Chatten

(July 19).

Listen up son, desecrating our war memorial puts you outside our community. You decided you don't belong. Somewhere in the granite and etchings of that memorial is someone to whom you belong; someone your mother or father loved as much as they love you.

August 6 marked a very sad anniversary: dropping the first atom bomb on Hiroshima. One hundred and forty thousand people perished in that instant and collateral damage to people has now reached 226,870, another 5,000 names added this year. That's three Georgetown District High Schools worth of people still affected 58 years later.

Yet, at that time the bomb hastened the inevitable end of war that had cost more than six million lives. Yeah, just a number. And that son, is the problem— it's just a number.

Your community remembers because we are not numbers. Like you, we live, we love, weep in sadness and frustration; we can't do all

we want. But we never laugh.

A bright-eyed kid, not much older than you, went to war no doubt dreaming of bravery, valour and new experiences, and didn't make it home. But you are free to do your thing because of him and others like him or her. If you get a chance, visit the graves in Holland—they are immaculately kept by Dutch kids, like you.

What's the difference? Their parents have instilled reverence for the war dead in their kids. Too many people remember friends, relatives and children who died in the war. Our memories say we remember lives cut short so we, our community, can thrive in a way we want. Community is all we have.

Now, why not go back quietly, so no one sees you, bow your head and say sorry for being such a jerk and perhaps next time you visit the memorial you will pick up, and not tear down, your community.

Bill Hyde,
Georgetown

Theft victim warns others of self-storage

Dear editor,

Our family recently had thousands of dollars of household belongings stolen from a rented locker at a self-storage facility.

A subsequent police investigation showed that:

1. The much-touted 24-hour video surveillance did not work.
2. It was unclear if the video surveillance had ever worked.
3. There was no regular visual check of lockers for theft
4. The security system in general was poor.

The lesson to be learned? Make sure you have records (such as receipts and photos) of everything you place in a storage locker and advise your insurance company that you are storing your things off-site.

Buyer beware of self-storage.

Graham Hatt,
Georgetown

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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