

Editorial

Yada-yada-yada

Politicians, as a general rule, love to use non-speak when it comes to outlining promises. They like to use words and phrases like "forward-thinking", "significant" and "fundamental". Words that carry a positive tone but, in reality, say very little.

Take Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Throne Speech Monday... please.

In it, the PM, in laying out his legacy for his final 17 months in office, promised a "comprehensive plan for reform" when it comes to Canada's ailing health care system. Chrétien hinted at "necessary long-term investments" but necessary in who's opinion? The government's, of course, meaning the federal Liberals could just as easily choose not to spend a dime on health care and still not break their promise.

As a final throne speech, Chrétien's effort lacked any true vision or focus. There were promises of money for natives, cash to reduce child poverty and funds to help crumbling Canadian cities, but no indication where this money would come from, how much would be spent or when the money would appear.

The military was given a commitment the government would ensure it is "equipped to fulfill the demands placed upon it". No infusion of cash to upgrade grossly outdated equipment, mind you, just another vague promise. Africa, on the other hand, will get double the amount of money Ottawa currently sends it by 2010.

If this was truly a throne speech to define Chrétien's legacy it was apropos— plenty of promises, few specifics and one lacking in a true vision for this country.

Much like its author.



Letters to the editor....

Schools' differences should be celebrated

Dear editor,

It's disturbing, people who purchase a home near an airport

then form committees to cut down on the airport noise, or people who buy houses near a chicken farm, then gather to complain about the smell or, as a recent letter to the editor pointed out, the gentleman who bought a house near a railway crossing and now complains about the train whistle.

Now we have another winner. Instead of writing about the beautiful new high school or all the good things it could bring, Michael Xanthios (Sept. 4) appears to be trying to create trouble: "Christ the King sec-

ondary school will display a gleaming white cross while Georgetown High's cross is burning".

If all children went to school together, played together, grew up together, had the same opportunities and were educated together, just maybe there would not be an Afghanistan/Taliban war, or Palestinian/Jerusalem bombings or Catholic/Protestant conflicts.

Perhaps Mr. Xanthios should spend some time in Belfast.

J. Anderson,
Georgetown

Barking dog ruining serenity

Dear editor,

In the last few weeks I have read quite a few letters and articles about the way people raise their dogs. There have been concerns about the type of breed, type of owner, safety of others and training. I would like to address another issue.

I live in the new subdivision of Bradley Gardens. Each day for the last month one of my neighbours has let their dog into their backyard early in the morning. From 8 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m. the dog is in the yard barking constantly. From the sounds of it, it is a pretty big dog.

Training and owning a dog is an important responsibility. This has been proven by the numerous letters received and printed in your newspaper over the summer. It seems to me, though, it's only a courtesy that part of the responsibility of owning a dog in a close-knit subdivision like ours is keeping it quiet.

If your dog barks and barks, find out what is wrong or bring it inside. I can handle a dog barking for a few minutes or even an hour, however, all day long a booming bark fills the quiet serenity of our neighbourhood and I, for one, am sick of listening to it.

Margaret Robinson,
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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Lions Club grateful for support

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Lions Club of Georgetown, we would like to thank everyone who dropped by our display at the Georgetown Market Place August 31.

We would also like to thank Georgetown Market Place for providing the space, merchants for

providing draw prizes, Cogeco 14 and *The Independent & Free Press*.

If you missed us and would like more information about the Georgetown Lions, please give us a call at 905-877-3887.

Thank you for your support.

Gord Wallen, publicity chair
Lions Club of Georgetown

The Independent & Free Press

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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, 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

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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.

