

Editorial

Community effort

What kind of person throws out a sofa onto a parcel of public land? What kind of person discards a bedspring...a pool cover...fencing...or diapers?

The kind of person who has no respect for his/her community or the environment. The kind of person who is too lazy to take their trash to Halton's well-run and inexpensive landfill site.

The kind of person this town could do without.

On the other hand, the majority of Halton Hills residents do care about their town and they showed that this past Saturday during the second annual Clean Up Halton Hills Day.

Approximately 60 groups, from families to neighbours to organized community groups put their muscles to work in cleaning up Halton Hills. Kudos to all of them.

By the end of the day six tonnes of regular trash, 12 tonnes of metal, three tonnes of wood and 60 tires had been collected.

However, the battle against litterbugs is not an easy war to win. As Halton Hills Litter-Free Task Force chair Jane Fogal said, littering is an ingrained behaviour and the town must raise awareness to make sure the public realizes it is unacceptable behaviour.

That means residents should report cases of illegal dumping to the police and point out to others who do litter that it is a practice they should stop.

In the end we all will benefit.



Letters to the editor....

Council accountable for public's safety

Dear editor,

Re: In case of fire: call first (April 16).

The real issues in this debate are

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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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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adequate response times and adequate on-scene staffing.

As a professional firefighter, who resides in Georgetown, I am very concerned for the safety of the residents of Halton Hills and for the health and safety of my fellow firefighters. I have had the opportunity to represent professional firefighters from across this province as a health and safety representative. I am also aware of the challenges faced by predominately volunteer services.

As a municipality reaches a certain size, it needs to wean itself from an over-reliance on part-time or volunteer firefighters. Halton Hills has an approximate population of 50,000 and although the tax base is such that it cannot afford a full-time service, it should not rely solely on call-backs and volunteers after 5 p.m.

The residents of an urban area, which our town is becoming, expect more with regard to municipal services. Specifically, core services such as: policing, EMS and fire protection. Many residents are unaware that our fire trucks are only staffed

between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. It comes down to setting proper priorities through the budget process.

This needs to be brought to the forefront, especially in a municipal election year. We need to hold members of town council accountable for our public safety. They have deliberately disregarded recommendations from the fire marshal that they staff one apparatus with a minimum complement of four, 24 hours a day. The current long-range planning for the department does not acknowledge this need for adequate staffing levels. They are also, in my estimation, unable to meet the fire marshal's guideline of 10 in 10 (10 firefighters on scene within 10 minutes).

No one is questioning the dedication, commitment and ability of the part-time (volunteer) firefighters that serve our town. They deserve our praise. However they cannot be expected to provide as prompt and effective a service as a full-time department would.

Steven Buckingham,
Georgetown

Daffodil sale nets \$6,000

Dear editor,

Despite freezing rain and cold temperatures, the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society had another successful daffodil sale this year and raised more than \$6,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The money raised through our sale helps fund research, provide information on cancer, treatment and risk reduction, and provides support for people living with cancer, family members and friends.

Thank you to all the volunteers who visited local businesses to take orders for daffodils and to those who packed the orders and sold daffodils to the public. Thanks also to the Royal Canadian Legion who allow us to use their facility to store our flowers and pack our orders.

We are grateful to the wonderful people at the Acton IGA for giving us the opportunity to sell our daffodils at the store. *The Independent & Free Press* and *New Tanner* promoted the daffodil sale and we appreciate your assistance.

Thank you Acton for your continued support.

Cathy Gerrow,
Acton Branch daffodil convener,
Canadian Cancer Society

The Independent & Free Press

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