

Editorial

Law and disorder

The events of Saturday night at the Georgetown Fall Fair should give every resident, and especially, every parent of Halton Hills cause for concern.

After all, it is not every day when dozens of police officers are required to use pepper spray, rubber bullets and water hoses to keep hundreds of young people chanting, "Kill the cops", at bay.

Unfortunately, that was the surreal scene that unfolded at the Georgetown Fairgrounds and the surrounding neighbourhood as police tried to keep the peace following an earlier disturbance.

According to the official news release from Halton Police, the problem started when officers were arresting some teens who had earlier been ejected from the fair for brawling. While those arrests were being made, officers were assaulted with cans, bottles, rocks and other debris from the growing crowd.

What followed was another two hours of mayhem as young punks removed fence pickets and road signs and used them as weapons on officers. What, we ask, were these kids thinking?

There is no excuse for assaulting a police officer and while it is easy to say that a "mob mentality" simply overwhelmed the crowd we don't buy that. The youths of this town who took part in this sorry incident showed their immaturity, disrespect for authority and utter stupidity. They owe these officers, and this town, an apology.

The parents of these kids also bear some responsibility. Is this how they raised their children to behave? To yell "kill the cops" at a group of officers attempting to maintain law and order? To be drinking under age? To destroy private property? Some of these perpetrators were as young as 13 years old—certainly old enough to know better.

Halton Hills has so few venues of entertainment for local youths, with the fall fair being one of the highlight events of the year. It would be a shame if *some* local youths, by their actions Saturday night, were the cause of there being one less event in town.



Letters to the editor...

Gas gouger leaves resident 'disgusted'

Dear editor,

On Friday, August 15 (the day after the blackout) I filled up

my gas tanks in town where the gas throughout was mainly 73 cents per litre.

As the owner/operator of a small lawn and tree care business, I can easily watch \$75 per week go into my gas tanks at that price. Near Stewarttown, at a private gas station, I observed the owner climb down a ladder after changing his gas prices from 78.9 to 88.9 cents per litre.

I was shocked and rightfully told him so. He told me and all the customers on hand that there was no other gas around because other stations could not refill their tanks due to refinery shut-downs and to go ahead and leave. He then said that my recent fill up was much earlier and the stations would be shut down by now.

I then left in disgust and proceeded with my hour and half job on hand.

Rerouting back through town

every station was at normal prices. Armed with this information, I went back and challenged him in front of many other customers who then got angry at him and left before getting gas.

He told me that he had lost \$500 in ice cream and that we were going to pay for it, not him. Well, I blew up and told him that, as a loyal customer of his for four years I would not be coming back.

I now see that I really owe him an apology. I had always thought that in this country we help out our fellow man in times of need, whether it is financially feasible or not. This man has showed me what a good businessman he really is.

My hats off to you sir. But I am wondering, will many patrons come back to congratulate him on his business strategy.

Larry Schertzl,
Norval

Paper thanked for coverage

Dear editor,

As the season draws to a close, we would like to express our sincere appreciation both to Ted Brown and to *The Independent & Free Press* for the outstanding support you have provided in helping us promote the Town of Halton Hills summer camp programs.

Ted Brown regularly attended and provided wonderful coverage of our theatre and dance performances, art shows, Canada Day celebration and other special presentations. His presence at these fun events heightened the excitement for our campers as they anticipated seeing themselves in the newspaper.

Your comprehensive coverage helped increase awareness of our programs within the community, which in turn gave more children the opportunity to become campers, volunteers or leaders. Your active participation in our events this summer certainly confirms your commitment to the well being of our community.

We sincerely thank you for your on-going support.

Laurie Ball & Amanda Storey
Co-ordinators of Summer Programs
Town of Halton Hills Summer Camps

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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