

*Editorial*

# Be fire smart

Most of us have never had to live through the horror of a house fire or experience the sheer panic that would surely envelop a person as they saw their personal possessions go up in smoke.

While losses of such important things as photo albums, furniture and clothes would certainly be upsetting, none are worth the price of a life.

To reinforce that mindset, this year's theme of Ontario Fire Prevention Week, which runs Oct. 5-11, is "When Fires Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!"

Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services fire safety specialist Doug Andrews said in the event of fire, people should get out right away, call the fire department from a neighbour's phone, and never go back inside to retrieve possessions.

"Most fatal fires occur when people feel safest—in their homes, usually during the night when everyone is sleeping," said Andrews.

"Eighty-five of all fires occur in the home, and most of the fires are preventable," said fire safety specialist David Ford. "In a fire, every second can mean the difference between life and death. Install smoke alarms, change the batteries twice a year and test them monthly."

Between 1995-2001 the number of fires in Ontario fell by 17 per cent and during the same period the number of preventable blazes fell from more than 14,000 to just under 10,000.

Fire safety prevention and public awareness of fire safety measures has improved as these numbers indicate. However, it is still up to each and every one of us to make sure we have working smoke alarms in our homes and that all family members know how to safely exit the home in case of fire.

These are reminders that cannot be repeated often enough.



## Letters to the editor....

### MP should speak for constituents, not himself

*(This letter was originally sent to Halton MP Julian Reed. A copy was made available for publication.)*  
Dear Mr. Reed:

I am writing further to the September 17 *Independent & Free Press* article on the same-sex marriage motion. For some time now, I have been considering writing to you in support of the proposal to change the definition of marriage to include same-sex unions. I was concerned that the majority of people taking the time to contact you might be those opposing the more inclusive definition of marriage. Consequently, I wanted to take the time to add my voice to those in Halton Region who support the federal government's draft legislation to allow same-sex marriage.

However, this letter has now become about so much more than providing you with a statement of the views of one of your many constituents on this controversial issue. According to *The Independent*, you are quoted as stating that you would not support an amendment allowing same-sex marriages, based on your personal view. I find it disturbing that while I am writing this letter, and you may receive many letters

on the issue, (either supporting the changes or not), the opinions of your constituency may ultimately not affect your decision when the time comes to vote in the House.

Even if your personal views more closely reflected mine on this issue, I would be extremely concerned that you seem to think that your role as an MP is to vote using your social values. I was under the assumption that in Canada, MPs are elected to represent the views of their own constituents on federal issues.

Of course it is difficult to put one's personal views aside, especially in a matter as contentious as this one is, but I would suggest to you that your role would perhaps be better served as one who takes the voices of your own constituents into account, rather than relying solely upon your personal views. This particular voice supports the proposed changes, and I would urge others to contact you as well, to provide you with their opinions on this important issue.

Susan Detmers, Georgetown

### Car wash support appreciated

Dear editor,

Our hockey team has just celebrated its first victory and they weren't even on the ice! Recently, the Bantam BB Twisters hosted a car wash as a team fund-raiser. Thanks to the management at the Georgetown Market Place we were permitted to use the parking lot next to Zellers.

The car wash was a huge success thanks to the generous contributions of two local businesses. We were overwhelmed by the support that Zellers offered us. They donated a box full of Armor-all car wash products as well as giving us access to their water pipes. We sincerely thank Zellers for showing such strong community spirit.

We would also like to thank Carl's Catering. This generous company provided all of the equipment for the barbecue at our car wash. Unbelievably, they even donated the food! Our customers could enjoy hotdogs and hamburgers while their car was being washed.

Our car wash was a fun-filled, team-building event. The girls worked hard for the generous donations given by our customers. The Twisters are proud to represent this great community and look forward to a successful hockey season.

The Bantam "BB" Twisters

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### 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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Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

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, Barrie Advance, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes,

Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, 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, Orangeville Banner, Orillia Today, Oshawa-Whitby/Clarington

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