

Editorial

What happened?

In retrospect, the 2003 Halton Hills municipal election campaign will likely be remembered for everything it was supposed to be...but wasn't.

The race for the mayor's chair was supposed to be a tight race with much of talk on the street indicating a tough battle between Acton Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette, Georgetown Regional Councillor John Day and incumbent Mayor Kathy Gastle.

But when the votes were tallied Bonnette— or "Bunny" as most residents know him— surged to an early lead and never looked back. Day, who by most accounts ran an aggressive campaign, never seriously challenged. Even more surprising was the terrible showing by the ever-confident Gastle who finished nearly 3,000 votes behind Bonnette and nearly 2,000 in arrears of Day. Clearly the outgoing mayor misread the temperature of the electorate.

With the most exciting mayor's race in memory, it was also expected voter turnout would be high. Advance poll turnouts, which were almost double those of 2000, also pointed to a high turnout. But, in the end, only 32.65 per cent of town residents— seven per cent less than in 2000— cast their ballots. To those who didn't make the effort to vote we can only say, "shame on you". By not voting you essentially forfeited your right to complain about the performance of those who bravely put their name forward and won election.

Even the counting of votes didn't go as planned as town staff had worked to streamline the process and make results available quickly. However, while many municipalities were already declaring winners, Halton Hills voters were left staring at blank screens as the town computer system crashed repeatedly.

While for Bonnette and the other victors it was a night to remember, for many others it was a night best forgotten.



Letters to the editor....

Changes needed at dangerous intersection

Dear editor,

There was another accident at

the intersection of Guelph Street and Main Street (Oct. 4).

I say another since this has been the fifth accident at this intersection since we have been living here (two years). Luckily, no bystander was injured, though the driver may have been.

It is amazing the town has not done anything to prevent these accidents from happening. Why they do not install a light, a flashing light or some sort of warning for drivers is utterly confusing. Every time there is an accident, we call the town, yet nothing is done.

Drivers come flying over the hill going southbound on Guelph Street and suddenly find themselves having to merge into one lane. During the morning hours it is almost impossible to get onto Guelph Street North from Main without risking life or limb!

Sadly I fear that we are waiting for tragedy before the town does anything about this problem.

If the latest accident happened an hour later there would have people standing there or walking to the downtown market.

High school students walk to and from school and many of the nursery schools are in this area. The town has reworked the road, but that has made no difference.

Yes other factors played a part in the accident, but the local neighbours see a pattern here...why can't the town?

John Uren, Georgetown

Lost keys returned thanks to war amps tags

Dear editor,

I am making use of *The Independent & Free Press'* letters page to thank a special person who picked up my keys with their war amps key tag and dropped them in the mail box.

Two weeks later they were returned by special courier. The key tags work so do support and use them. I lost keys four years ago with the same result.

Marion Hunter, Georgetown

Thank you, veterans

Dear editor,

This month 14 of our choir members had the opportunity to meet with eight veterans, who agreed to open their homes, minds and hearts to our young people. These vets shared their stories in hopes of educating young people about the sacrifices made by their comrades, and to emphasize the need to strive for peace.

The children and teens were awed by the veterans. In spite of the difficulty in sharing sometimes painful memories, the veterans enjoyed the company of our young people and appreciated that they cared to know how it was for them during the war. Our thanks to John Nichols, Ed Rollinson, Russell Davis, Peggy Dalimore, Hector Guay, Renee Watson, Sydney Clark and Morley Barnes for all that you have done, including these personal efforts to keep the memory alive.

We love our freedom. Thank you veterans!
The Georgetown Children's Chorus

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

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1

Fax

905-873-0398

E-mail

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Editorial e-mail addresses

John McGhie

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Cynthia Gamble

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Lisa Tallyn

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

Herb Garbutt

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

Ted Brown

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

The Independent & Free Press

Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, (Georgetown Market Place)

Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398

E-mail: production@independentfreepress.com

Web site: www.independentfreepress.com

Ken Nugent, Publisher
Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager
John McGhie, Managing Editor
Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief
Carol Young, Business Manager
Dave Coleman, Director of Distribution
Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager
Distribution e-mail: distribution@independentfreepress.com

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble
Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt
Photography: Ted Brown
Advertising Sales: Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Campbell, Jennifer Spencer, Angela Schurman, Paul Agius
Real Estate: Sue Spizziri
Classifieds: Mary Watson, Kristie Pells
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier
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

Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Forever Young, City of York Guardian.
Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance

of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per

year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T. 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.

