

Editorial

Expand DNA bank

A recent call by Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino to have the national DNA databank expanded to include samples from anyone arrested, and not just those convicted of certain crimes, raised the hackles of civil rights activists and defence lawyers alike.

Frankly, we support the chief's call.

Under the current Criminal Code, DNA samples can be taken only from offenders for certain offences or when police ask judges for a warrant to collect samples from suspects in specific crimes.

Fantino would like that law relaxed so that DNA samples are taken from anyone arrested—much like fingerprints have been for decades. The chief points to the fact decades-old cold cases have been solved by use of DNA testing and people wrongly convicted have been exonerated.

Critics argue that DNA holds sensitive personal information and that expanding collection opens up the potential for abuse.

Surely, Ottawa with its ability to wrap everything in red tape, can devise a system that would ensure samples are protected, access to the databank is limited and the rights of individuals are not trampled on.

On the up side, police services across the nation would be able to use this vital crimefighting tool to do what we want them to do—get the bad guys off the street.

The United Kingdom has the world's largest database in the world, holding the profile of 2.1 million people and police there use it to make 3,000 matches a month.

Any individual arrested for a crime should not fear DNA testing. Unless, of course, they have something to hide.



Letters to the editor...

Stop using rural areas as a dump—reader

Dear editor,

I was inspired in writing this letter by witnessing a fellow co-habitant of this earth, pull up to the side

of the road just past our home just after 10:30 p.m. recently and proceed to open the back of his mini-van and take out an office chair and stand and just toss it into the ditch!

In his haste to get away, (and unfortunately before I could get his full plate number), he dropped his gloves, no doubt used to avoid finger print evidence! I have your gloves here, at the house across the road you use as a dump, please feel free in claiming them.

Now for the inconsiderate buffoon who changed his oil recently and neatly put all the used motor oil back into the Mobil Oil containers and then very neatly into the box and decided to share his used motor oil with the woodland creatures living in the country at the same time poisoning your and my water.

There is a hazardous waste disposal site just down on Hwy. 25, and it is free!

For all the others who figure that a pop can or coffee cup can't do any harm chucked out your window

while going for a drive out in the country, just take the time to walk down a country road and look at the accumulation of garbage!

Don't be a coward; add some adventure in your life and dump in front of the police station or your next-door neighbour. Better yet, take your usable office chairs to the Salvation Army or the Goodwill, where it can be used again. Take your oil to the hazardous waste depot on Hwy. 25.

Take my advice, it is far cheaper than the \$5,000 you could be paying in fines when you get caught!

Erik Kowal,
Hornby

Vandals ruining project

Dear editor,

Thank you for your excellent front page coverage of the powderhouse restoration project in the Limehouse Conservation Area.

Gerry Inglis and his crew are making significant progress in restoring this historic limestone structure in spite of the recent thefts and vandalism. The motor and belts were removed from the mortar mixer the day after it was brought to the site. Now all mortar is being mixed by hand. Rock pieces being used for filler have also been transported elsewhere. The Trillium sign is badly cracked even though it is behind the fencing and is mounted on a steel pole.

All we're trying to do in Limehouse is preserve our cultural heritage before it's lost forever and it is becoming an unnecessary challenge.

Mary Shier, president
Limehouse Kiln Society

Support for annual MS ride appreciated

Dear editor,

In ideal conditions, we completed the Brampton-to-Guelph (and back) MS Bike Tour Aug. 21-22. This was our 10th year, and thanks to your generosity, we raised \$3,300 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Hundreds participated and with the help

of some 150 volunteers, the ride raised \$245,000. Warm thanks to all of you who contributed to an important cause. We really appreciate your support, and hope to receive your support again next year.

Laurent & Paulette Thibault,
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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