

*Editorial*

# Beauty or a beast

**B**eauty, it has been said, is in the eye of the beholder. That old axiom holds true in case of a (a) barn-like "monstrosity" or (b) garage that Peter Payne has built on his property on Joyvelyn Crescent in Georgetown.

Some neighbours of Payne's claim the two-storey garage, which resembles a small barn, has changed the character of the neighbourhood, infringed on their privacy and lowered their property values.

Payne contends (on page three of today's edition of *The Independent*) the garage is not oversized and he "deliberately picked that building to make is as low as possible."

He says he could have built a full two-storey structure but went with a gambrel-style roof to "soften" its look.

The debate about whether this structure is esthetically-pleasing to the rest of the neighbourhood is moot and is no more relevant than if he chose to paint his house pink and black with yellow polka dots. In this case a homeowner has followed all the planning regulations set out by the town. In short, it's his property and he should be allowed to do what he wants on it as long as he is not going outside building guidelines.

The problem lies not with Payne, but with the town's outdated zoning bylaw which came into effect in 1957. In an effort to keep tax increases down, town politicians over the years have opted not to spend the money necessary to update these bylaws. They might want to rethink that position.

Fences may build good neighbours, but updated bylaws are more efficient.

(Acton Free Press readers can access this and a related story on-line at [www.independentfreepress.com](http://www.independentfreepress.com))



## Letters to the editor....

### GDHS graduate defends cafeteria staff

Dear editor,

I am writing in response to the article published in the Friday, September 24 edition of *The*

*Independent & Free Press*. This article was regarding the firing of cafeteria staff at Georgetown District High School.

I am an alumni of GDHS, I graduated in June 2003 and attended the commencement ceremonies in October of that year. I am currently attending post-secondary studies elsewhere in the province. I have fond memories of the cafeteria staff at GDHS, they were all very friendly and were excellent people to talk to during lunch periods. I am sure if you examined yearbook comments over the past few decades you would see that I am not alone in feeling this way.

I am appalled at the fact that cafeteria staff, who have served students at GDHS for the past 20 years, could be dismissed with such little regard for the service they provided students.

There is much to be said for a friendly smile of recognition and a "hello" in a world where such courtesies are not always extended

to youth. I have spoken to numerous other alumni since discovering that this dismissal had taken place, and together we all shared pleasant memories of the cafeteria staff.

If Principal Maruya is looking to cut expenses at GDHS he should consider dismissing employees who are shall we say "less than useful" in terms of the service's they provide students. I would hope that the administration will reconsider its position.

Joe Upfield,  
Guelph

### Staff dismissal unfair

Dear editor,

Upon discovering that the cafeteria staff at GDHS had been dismissed, I was quite disappointed.

During the four years I was a student there they not only prepared the food I was going to eat, but their kindness and warmth made me smile on many occasions. They were individuals who not only did their jobs, but went beyond expectations by being polite and treating the students with respect, which during this day and age doesn't occur very often.

It upsets me greatly that some people who went out of their way to make the place the students eat into a friendly environment were dismissed. I truly feel that the friendly staff excelled in their positions.

Nicole Johnston, Guelph

### Support for Georgetown fair appreciated

Dear editor,

The executive of the Georgetown Agricultural Society would like to acknowledge the dedication of its members and volunteers, and the generosity of the community in organizing and running the recent Georgetown Fair.

We are thankful for the assistance and cooperation provided this year by the Town of Halton Hills, Halton Regional Police, Lions Club, Lorne Scots cadets, and the fairground

neighbours. It is important that you all know how much we value your support.

Hopefully all the exhibitors, competitors, and everyone who attended the 158th Georgetown Fair appreciate the donations and sponsorships provided by local businesses and community members. Without all this support, the fair could not continue.

Craig Cooper, President,  
Georgetown Agricultural Society

### 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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