

Editorial

Give more than thanks

Reviewing recent world events, it's not difficult to find many things for which we should be thankful this Thanksgiving weekend.

We should be thankful we have not been thrust into the path of one of this season's string of killer hurricanes and tropical storms.

We should also be thankful we enjoy a relatively stable governing system in which horrors like the ones being played out in the Darfur region of Sudan cannot take place; we are not at war and our economy is strong.

Viewed globally, Canadians, have plenty to be thankful for and we are in the fortunate position to be a nation that can show its charitable side.

Living in a region that is rarely battered by such devastating weather, it is difficult for most Halton Hills residents to appreciate the widespread devastation experienced by many areas of the Caribbean and southeastern portions of the United States.

In addition to homes being flattened, more than 1,600 inhabitants of Haiti were killed while several other island nations—including Grenada and Jamaica—also reported weather-related fatalities and heavy damage.

For the smallest and poorest of these countries it will take literally years of relief from foreign sources before life will resemble anything even close to normal.

Canadians will play an important role in helping these impoverished nations rebuild their lives from the ground up.

Locally Georgetown Christian Fellowship is accepting donations of blankets, tarps, non-perishable food, pressure-treated wood, etc. to send to Haiti. A trailer has been set up in the church parking lot (13619 Hwy. 7 West) and donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

This Thanksgiving, give more than just thanks.



Letters to the editor...

CMHA thanks camping event supporters

Dear editor,

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Halton Region Branch, is a non-profit chari-

table organization that serves individuals with mental illness and mental health issues.

Its programs include public education, social recreation, one to one leisure support, and information and referral. With a focus on recovery, we seek to improve the quality of life for users of the mental health system by providing them with opportunities to engage in activities of their choice, as inexpensively as possible.

Many of our participants are on a limited income, relying on the Ontario Disability Support Program or the Canada Pension Plan; this leaves little money, if any, for a person to participate in recreation activities. We often look to the community for donations and gifts to help us provide our services.

The CMHA would like to publicly thank the following organizations for their contributions to our recent camping event:

The Altruists of Oakville; The Knights of Columbus, Oakville;

Brian's Food Basics, Georgetown; A&P, Georgetown; Giant Tiger, Acton; Fortinos, 511 New Street and 2025 Guelph Line in Burlington; Comisso's, 3505 Upper Middle Road, Burlington; Sobeys, 125 Brant Street in Burlington.

One of our participants recently expressed how grateful he was to "get away from city life" and attend this event. He described the camping trip as a place "to be with people who understand" mental illness and mental health issues. "It was nice to be around survivors!" he stated. "Many people are too ill to take part in a trip like this so it was really great to be around people who are fighters and coping with their illness."

Thank you to our donors for supporting the Halton community and for making our annual camping event an excellent one!

CMHA Halton Staff: Dana Bessette, Trish Purhouse, Megan Wright, Minerva Sanchez Rudman, Erin Sherriff

Theft of flag hurts

Dear editor,

You ran a cover story about my stepdaughter, Megan Leonard, who had cut her hair for a donation to Angel Hair for Kids, a program for kids who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy, (Girl, 6, donates hair to children's cause, March 10, 2004).

Shortly afterward, Mr. Julian Reed (then MP), was welcomed into my home where he presented Megan with a letter from Ottawa and a gorgeous Canadian silk flag.

We purchased a small flagpole and on July 1, we placed her flag on our front lawn near our mailbox. It was the only flag on the street.

But when I came home from work on Sept. 27, to my disbelief, the flag had been stolen—pole and all—ripped away. In its place was left a single beer bottle.

I thought this must be a mistake and searched up and down the road to try and locate it, but it was gone.

I will go to Canadian Tire and purchase a new flag and pole. I will replace it quickly so that Megan doesn't need to understand how somebody—anybody—could possibly take something so benign yet so important to us.

I still believe that we live in the greatest country on this planet, but today I have lost a little faith in its people.

David Betts, Norval

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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The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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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,

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