

Editorial

Safety messages

Fire safety specialist Dave Ford went "above" and beyond the call of duty of this year to get out his message: Change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries this weekend. See his photo on page 9.

When area residents set their clocks back an hour this weekend Halton Hills Fire Protection and Fire Prevention Services wants them to also remember to change the batteries in their smoke alarms also.

Ford said the number of fire deaths in Ontario can continue to decline if everybody equips their home with smoke alarms.

"What could be easier than this, to serve as a reminder to change the batteries in your smoke alarms," said Ford's colleague, Fire Safety Technician Tom Robertson.

"With the minimal cost of smoke alarms today, there is absolutely no reason why everybody in the community does not have at least one working smoke alarm in their home," said Robertson.

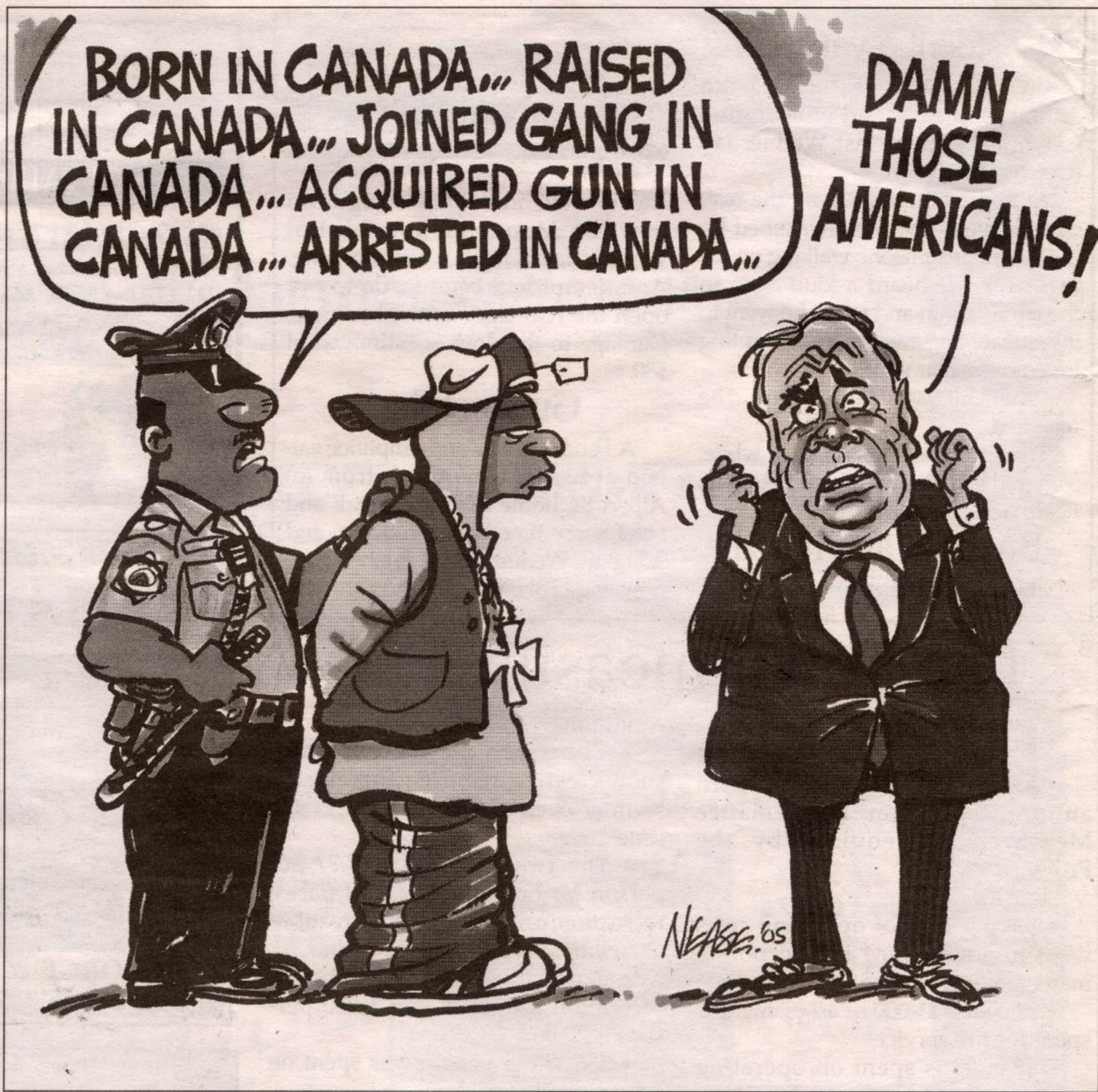
While every residence in Ontario is required to have at least one working smoke alarm, the fire department encourages people to have one smoke alarm per floor and outside all sleeping areas.

Safety should also be practised this Monday night, when all the trick-or-treaters will be out knocking on doors. We remind all drivers to drive carefully as dusk approaches when the excited youngsters begin their candy patrol.

Other Halloween safety tips for parents and kids include:

- Only visit the front door of well lit homes and never go inside. Younger children should go with an adult. Older children should trick-or-treat in groups.
- Plan a route and a time to be home, and stay close to home.
- Adults should check all treats— at home— before you eat them. Don't eat your treats while still collecting.

Following these tips should ensure no tricks are played.



Letters to the editor...

Trustee invites parents to special meetings

Dear editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to invite parents of special needs children to attend two meetings of the

board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Through legislation school boards in Ontario must establish this committee to serve in an advisory capacity to the board. Parent representatives of 11 associations such as the Autism Society and Down Syndrome Association serve on the committee. As well, two trustees and three community members are voting members.

Our SEAC is bringing their November meeting to the north. At 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1 at George Kennedy Public School, parents will have an opportunity to meet committee members, and hear about the work of SEAC.

Parents will also have an opportunity to meet Wayne Joudrie, our new Director of Education. Genese War-Leeper PhD, a speech and language pathologist will be speaking on "Helping Kids Learn Words."

The second meeting is a presentation evening to be held at Percy Merry School, on Britannia Rd. (just

west of Trafalgar Rd.) on Nov. 15. At 6:30 p.m. parent representatives of associations will present in a storefront format, information about their work and advocacy on behalf of special needs children.

At 7 p.m. Barry Finlay, our Associate Director, will speak on "Boys and Literacy."

Barry heads up a provincial committee looking at strategies and resources to support boys and their learning. As well, Annie Kidder, founder of People for Education, will address the audience on provincial education issues.

Many parents in Halton Hills are not familiar with the Special Education Advisory Committee. The meetings on Nov. 1 and 15 will provide a great deal of information about the work of SEAC as they support special learners in Halton.

I do hope you will be able to attend these meetings.

Ethel Gardiner
Halton District School Board
Halton Hills trustee

Reader questions why he pays for carelessness of other drivers

Dear editor,

As an owner of a nice car, I tend to park my car carefully in parking lots.

I never park beside someone who is parked over the yellow line. I always have plenty of room beside the next vehicle, never touching the car beside me as I enter or exit my own vehicle.

Yet, in the last month, my car has been dented and scraped on both sides of the vehicle (once on the Saturday before Thanksgiving in the Georgetown Market Place parking lot).

I already had an estimate on the repair of the first side and now I can see that to repair both sides will cost me in the neighbourhood of \$1,000. Why am I made the victim of other people's negligence? How can we, as a society, expect young people to accept responsibility for their own actions when adults are not willing to?

Be careful or leave a note. Shame.

C. Hunter, Acton

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must 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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