

*Editorial*

# Toronto the Hood

Just when did Toronto the Good become Toronto the Hood? In hindsight, the warning signs have been evident for years. Swarmings, robberies, shootings and even executions have all eroded Toronto's image over the past years.

But the Boxing Day shooting spree on Toronto's Yonge Street has now turned the city's famous slogan into a cruel joke.

Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Jane Creba, the 15-year-old girl who was killed by a bullet in the head during the fire-fight. Her death should shock us from our false sense of security.

Although gun-related crimes have escalated over the past few years, most residents in Toronto and the GTA have probably felt those incidents occurred in isolated areas and involved unsavoury elements who brought trouble to themselves. But that's not the case.

If young punks can stage a gun battle in the heart of downtown Toronto's shopping district in broad daylight, it can happen anywhere and at anytime.

Her assailants must be found and dealt with severely, however, the harsh reality is that there is no easy solution to this problem. Yes, we need to get tougher on criminals, especially those who commit violent gun-related offences. In passing sentence, we need to place more weight on the rights of the victims and law-abiding citizens, and less on the rights of those who so brazenly flaunt our laws.

But tough-on-crime measures do nothing to prevent tragedies such as the death of Jane Creba from occurring in the first place. Anyone who would participate in a gunfight while surrounded by innocent bystanders cares little about the consequences of their actions. Locking them up and throwing away the key, while a good start, will not prevent this tragedy from repeating itself.

We need a long-term, multi-faceted approach involving the police, the courts, politicians, educators, immigration officials, and social agencies to find out why so many young people are abandoning their futures for a violent lifestyle that can only lead to death or imprisonment.



## Letters to the editor...

### Moving to Georgetown a 'good decision'

Dear editor,  
Two years ago my wife and I made the decision to move south from the Thunder Bay area. We were

nervous about leaving our close-knit community and hoped to be able to find something similar in the Toronto area. We did some research and decided we liked the size and location of Georgetown.

This past summer we moved here and set up our shop in South Georgetown plaza. Moving to a new area and setting up our business was a lot of work and effort, but we were warmly welcomed to the town and we felt good about being here.

Disaster struck recently just as we were getting ready to close shop for the day. An overhead water pipe froze and burst, flooding our shop and soaking all our stock. Fortunately, it didn't take the wonderful guys at the fire department long to arrive and get the situation under control. Then we were left with the clean-up and disposal of stock, but it wasn't so bad, we were not alone. In only four short months, our customers have become our friends and many of them arrived to help us clean up the mess. By

Saturday morning we had cleaned up but we were without any stock to sell. Customers kept dropping by wanting to help, offering to provide free paint, drywall and ceiling tiles.

Now, business is back to normal and we are fully restocked. A very disappointing and unfortunate situation was made easier by the considerable support we received from this community.

I am writing on behalf of my family and business to thank the kind and caring people of Georgetown who have so warmly welcomed us. In particular, I would like to thank John Vito and family, Dale Green, Chelsea and Chris Allen and the Halton Hills fire department.

I am so glad we chose Georgetown. This experience has shown us the character of the people living here and we know that moving here was a good decision.

Pat and Ivana Commisso  
and family,  
Pat's Prime Cuts and Deli

### Artisans' annual sale was a rousing success

Dear editor,  
I am writing to show my appreciation and to thank all those who braved the rough entrance to the Cedarvale Park and the snow up the hill to the Cottage.

They made this year's Christmas sale a success in spite of our apprehension. Thanks too to *The Independent Free Press* for your support in publicizing our event and helping to make it the success it was.

Congratulations to Bob Coupland, Heather Brownridge, Janice Sukhiani and Margaret Seifried. These were the four prize winners of the fund-raising raffle which was drawn on Sunday, Nov. 27.

Our thanks to all those who bought tickets but were unlucky this time. Your ticket purchases help fund the activities of the four Guilds of the Credit Valley Artisans.

Frank Anthony  
Sales Committee,  
Credit Valley Artisans,  
Georgetown

### 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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