

Editorial Great Games

There were lessons to be learned— of the sporting and life varieties— at the XX Games of the Winter Olympiad just concluded in Turin, Italy.

The recent 16-day sporting spectacle afforded us an emotional display of individual and team athletic achievements, heartbreak and pure magic.

Here are but a few of the many lessons we learned from the just concluded Winter Games:

- Canadian women rule— Without the gutsy showing of such extraordinary Canucks as Cindy Klassen (a gold, two silvers and three bronze medals) and the Canadian women's hockey team our country's fortunes would likely have been sub-par at best. Two-thirds of our nation's medal haul came courtesy of our female athletes— including Klassen's Canadian record five medals on the speed skating oval.

- The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) got it right— for a change— in estimating that our country's athletes would capture close to 25 Olympic medals— blowing away Canada's previous record haul of 17 medals at the 2002 Salt Lake Games. An additional 21 fourth and fifth-place finishes bodes well for Canada in 2010, when the world comes to Vancouver.

As of today, there are 1,444 days, or roughly four years, until the Vancouver Games. If last month's record-setting effort is a sign of things to come, Canada will be both a hospitable and competitive Olympic host nation.

- Our Olympic athletes deserve better. While most of the world's Olympic powers reward top-three finishes with cash, Canada offers its athletes not a penny for their remarkable achievements. It's high time we started providing a more substantial benefit than personal pride to those athletes who achieve such athletic excellence.



Letters to the editor...

Cancellation of new school is good for town

Dear editor,

The cancellation of the proposed high school in Georgetown South should be beneficial to the population of Georgetown. Not only will

this allow for the possibility of more funding to renovate Georgetown District High School, a task which has been needed for years, but it should also eliminate a major boom in Georgetown's population.

Georgetown South has seen an extreme amount of expansion over the past few years, and although Georgetown will, no doubt, continue to grow, a new school would speed up this process immensely.

A large boom in the population would lead to a large increase in the

amount of land development and cause even more stress in areas such as our already diminished water supply and the overcrowding of existing schools.

By choosing to renovate and improve Georgetown District High School, instead of building a new one, the town can accommodate for a smaller increase of students in the future and still attract a manageable amount of people to our thriving community.

Amanda Pettitt, Georgetown

Dental care a serious matter

Dear editor,

The recent article stating that the region's dental program is "demeaning" just proved how uneducated our society is about the importance of dental care and the protection of our children.

Dental decay, if left untreated, produces an infection that can spread to the underlying bone structure and surrounding tissues causing facial cellulites, an infection that causes the cheek to swell. In rare instances, the infection can spread beyond the jaw to the eye, airway or even the brain. Dental decay makes routine eating difficult or impossible, causes chronic pain, will delay or retards a child's growth or development, and makes it difficult or impossible for a child to perform daily activities. Recognizing dental neglect is important because, in many cases it has been associated with general healthcare neglect.

In Ontario, if a child requires dental treatment and a parent does not seek care, the law considers this neglect as child abuse. Under the Child and Family Services Act individuals are required to report this neglect to the local Children's Aid Society.

I feel that by having the parent ask the dentist for his signature and reporting back to the department to verify that treatment has been completed, looks out for the best interest, protection and well being of the child. The mother may feel she is giving up her right to privacy but what about her child's right to guaranteed care and protection.

Krystine Woods,
Registered Dental Hygienist, 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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Someone needs to clean up Georgetown

Dear editor,

I'm writing to congratulate John Tatham on his Feb. 3 letter (Former Seed House property is a disgrace).

I agree 100 per cent with everything he said. Georgetown needs better planners— what a stupid place to put a high school.

I'd like to mention the ignorant people who I see walking their dogs off the leash in the park area at Maple Avenue and Guelph Street. There are so many law-breakers

when it comes to people walking their dogs it makes me sick. There are signs reminding these people of a fine, but they couldn't care less and the Town, as usual, does nothing.

Someone needs to do something about cleaning up Georgetown so that when visitors come through they will go home sharing with others what a clean and pretty town it is to visit.

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Georgetown

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