

OPINION

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Ambitious plan in hands of public

Only one thing stands in the way of the Ontario government's recently released Places to Grow Plan from being a success— us.

In preparing for a future that sees four million people moving into the Golden Horseshoe over the next 25 years, the Province has determined we can no longer afford to gobble up the region's outlying farmlands and greenfields in the name of suburban sprawl.

Their solution is to channel much of this growth into the existing urban boundaries of several communities in the Golden Horseshoe.

Theoretically, no one would argue against the goals of this ambitious and visionary plan to curb urban sprawl.

Everyone agrees that something must be done to protect our farmland, woodlots, and greenfields from being developed and our air polluted by gas guzzling cars stuck in gridlock.

But while everyone agrees something must be done, the reality is that most people don't want it to occur in their own backyard.

Therein lies the biggest challenge facing the Places to Grow Act— public acceptance.

Historically, infill developments that increase the population densities of existing neighbourhoods have always run into stiff opposition from existing residents and expensive Ontario Municipal Board appeals usually followed.

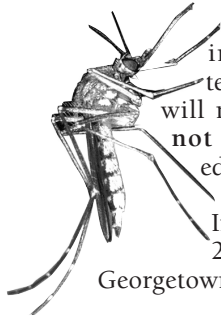
In the wake of the Places to Grow plan, however, municipal councils have been handed the responsibility of winning over the hearts and minds of their residents.

It remains to be seen, however, whether councillors will be willing to stand up to this neighbourhood opposition.

Most people concerned about our environment agree that the province has taken a step in the right direction with its Places to Grow plan. The question is whether individual residents will be willing to follow in the province's footsteps when the plan hits close to home.

Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!



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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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 for content and/or length.

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Steve Nease



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School project not funny, says resident

Dear editor,
What kind of entertainment do high school kids regard as fun?

My family witnessed something horrific on Father's Day. Three high school students were on the Mountainview Rd. bridge and as we drove by we witnessed them in the act

of throwing what seemed to be a young child over the edge.

I immediately told my wife to call 911 to report a youngster who had been thrown over the bridge into the ravine below. We stopped and I got out frightened to what I would see in the ravine below.

As I approached, the three teens appeared with a life-sized doll, all dressed up with hair, shirt, blue jeans. I told them that they scared us half to death and they said they were filming for a school project, as they laughed and shrugged if off. I told them to explain it to the police who were on their way.

What kind of school project is even portraying such an evil act? School project? I don't think so, students were finished and writing exams.

What are kids thinking of today? Halton Hills has lots to offer everyone, but this kind of entertainment is totally unacceptable for anyone.

Alan D. Cole,
Georgetown

Garden friends thanked for support

Dear editor,
Re: The "Friends of the Friends" photo in your edition of June 7.

Thank you once again for demonstrating your community spirit by covering events such as the plaque unveiling and donor recognition event at The Old Seed House Garden.

To everyone who couldn't make it, but who has contributed in any way to the building of The Old Seed House Garden, the committee wants to express huge thanks and gratitude.

As the fundraising chair, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous effort that has gone into the successful completion of this new jewel in our town. While there is still some signage and "fine-tuning" to be done, the dream has become reality. If you bought a tree, a bench, or contributed \$500 or more in time, labour, product or dollars, you will see recognition of your generosity on the individual or large wall plaques.

But it's the "unsung" hundreds who have volunteered or donated, without personal recognition, who also deserve loud applause.

I hope that all of you will make a

point of visiting the garden to stroll the paths, and sit peacefully by the pond or bridge, enjoying a great sense of satisfaction, knowing that you have literally put roots down in this community that will grow and increase in beauty for generations to come.

It's important for your readers to know that keeping up the appearance of the garden is an ongoing huge responsibility and will be accomplished by volunteer gardeners. We hope many will show up on any Tuesday morning, spring through fall and join the happy few tending the beds.

Also, the success of the tree planting program has been so great that it has been extended, and there are now more trees that can be purchased for donation by contacting any member of the Friends executive. As well, the packaged note cards featuring the beautiful artwork donated by Gretchen Day and Bob Law are still available at Foodstuffs in Georgetown or from a member. Funds raised in future will be used for maintenance or improvement in the garden as needs arise.

Barb Baron, Georgetown

Hospital care 'excellent'

Dear editor,
On June 5 we took our daughter, Hannah, to the emergency department of Georgetown Hospital.

We are very pleased with the excellent service we received there. Our daughter was processed through emergency in a timely manner, had an appendectomy that evening and was well taken care of the entire time.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Iscander and his surgical team, the on-call doctor and the nursing staffs in the emergency department and in the ward. Special thanks to nurses Kristina and Sarah.

Georgetown Hospital is a hospital where people care about people.

Aviva and Frank Wielinga and family,
Georgetown