

OPINION

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The show must go on (or does it?)

The announcement that Georgetown Cinemas—the only movie theatre operation in Halton Hills—will be closing its doors for good next Tuesday has resulted in a mini-revolt from local movie-goers.

A misguided revolt.

Residents have been so outraged by the property manager's—Ahern Real Estate Corp—decision to terminate the cinema's lease and offer a new home for a Dollarama store that a petition garnered more than 500 signatures in only a matter of days. One protest has been held (with another in the works for next week) and several calls and complaints have been made to the mayor's office and this newspaper.

Folks, this boils down to a simple business decision.

The Georgetown cinema has had a rocky past year and a half. It closed in January of 2007 for three months until Premier Theatres took over the operation. Current owner Sorab Irani has been running the show (pardon the pun) for the past seven months.

Ahern allowed Irani to operate the theatre at basically half-price rent (on a month-to-month basis) until a new tenant was found that was willing to pay full rent. That tenant—Dollarama—has now surfaced.

We understand the emotional attachment some residents have to the cinemas and the entertainment void (especially for our youths) it will create with its closing. However, the landlord is perfectly within its right to choose a tenant that can pay the full rental fee.

A cinema operation is a business—it is not a community service and not a Town operation. Granted, it is unique in the service it offers, but it is a private, for-profit business. Since other cinema operators have not been banging down the doors to open multi-plexes here, it's safe to assume, rightly or wrongly, they don't consider Halton Hills a market worth investing in.

We're sorry to see the cinemas close, but if more bodies had been in the seats in recent years or if major upgrades had been made to the cinemas to make them as appealing as ones in nearby communities, perhaps the screen wouldn't be going to black.

What do you think?

Below are the results of our most recent online poll. For the current poll go to www.independentfreepress.com

Do you think Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Signs will reduce speeding on Mountainview Rd. S.?

Yes (27%)

No (73%)

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Demolition of BMX track the right decision

Dear editor,
Sometimes, regardless of our own views or emotional connections, we have to just let things go for the sake

of municipal law and public safety and concern.

Such an example has come up in the debate concerning the demolition

BMX track would offer good fun for local kids

Dear editor,
Re: May 2 article, *Family upset with decision to level track.*

As a father of a young son, I want this track in my community. Sixty-three per cent of the Halton males are obese. For my son's future (he still needs his training wheels) and all of Halton's youth, don't flatten a few piles of dirt and allow the kids a safe place to play.

If anything, the Province should support this initiative. They claim they want the kids to get off the couch, then give them a place to go.

It's non-motorized recreational fun and is perfectly suited for the Niagara Escarpment. Particularly since it's off the trails within the NEC area. It's good for the kids, it's good for the Escarpment and good for the community. Keep the piles of dirt, please sign the petition: <http://www.timdasilvabmx.com>

I'm not sure what's all behind this between Halton Place and the NEC, but don't fight your differences over the backs of our youths!

Chris Klomp,
Halton Hills

Don't take cinemas away from local teens

Dear editor,
It was brought to my attention that Georgetown Cinemas is closing its doors for good.

I am a mother of four children, three of whom are teens and I can tell you that I was disappointed to say the least to hear this news. My children attend the Georgetown theatre on a regular basis. This town has very few places where teens can go for entertainment, at a low cost I might add, and locally. Where else can you go for under \$10 and within walking distance for most?
I am told that the reason for this

closure it simply because the owner wants to build a dollar store. We have a dollar store, why do we need to make it bigger? Other dollar stores in Georgetown have not been successful, why do we need a bigger one? This town needs more things for kids to do as it is and losing the theatre is like putting them on the streets.

Georgetown Cinemas has been a safe and affordable place for teens to go for entertainment, please don't take this away from them.

Shelley Campbell,
Georgetown

of the Norval Carpet Palace and now yet again in regards to the Halton Place BMX track.

The track, which was built in 2006 by BMX racer Tim DaSilva is slated for flattening and rehabilitation because of its construction without a developer's permit. Personally, while it's unfortunate to see the dedicated work of Mr. DaSilva being lost, I don't think fighting the Niagara Escarpment Commission is the way to go. And apparently, neither do nearby residents who have already voiced their concerns against its development.

The DaSilva family has countered this by saying that they go to the track to be near to Tim and that its demolition will have meant he died in vain.

My condolences to the family, but to use Mr. DaSilva's tragic passing to try and fight municipal law and keep the BMX track open is going too far.

As many know, Tim was a caring, selfless man and it does him no justice to tie his legacy and our memories of him to this BMX track. Letting the site be rehabilitated doesn't mean we have lost respect for Tim, it only means we care about the rightful owners of Halton Place, its nearby residents and municipal regulations.

Lucas Kittmer,
Georgetown

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