

Letters to the editor...letters to the editor...letters to the editor...

Resident frustrated with GreenCart collection

(This letter was originally sent to Mayor Rick Bonnette. A copy was made available for publication as was the mayor's response.)

Dear Mr. Bonnette,
I have to say I was extremely excited about the implementation of the new GreenCart program. I am more than willing to do my part to protect the environment and reduce the amount of waste going into landfills.

Needless to say I was frustrated and angry over the fact that as of Friday at 5:10 p.m., the garbage that was to have been collected on Wednesday sat on my front lawn.

I think we witnessed a real lack of planning and expectation on the Region's part. In the paper you refer to it as an "overwhelming response" to the GreenCart program but in fact it's just people following the rules that you have laid out for us and in doing so we're being left out with the trash (so to speak).

I know with all change comes an adjustment period but perhaps if you had researched or asked your contractor what they were capable of you may have eased the program into effect (starting one zone at a time) or had alternate garbage/recycling days for different zones.

This shows a real lack of forethought on your part and I have to say I'm going to do some major research before I vote in the next mayoral election.

This is a major blunder, Mr. Mayor. I hope it's rectified before the next garbage collection day and/or before the maggots infest my GreenCart.

Jackie Brown, Georgetown

...and mayor responds

Dear Jackie,
Thank you for your e-mail expressing your displeasure with the GreenCart a week ago.

I have just returned from vacation and I am going through my e-mails. You are quite correct this was not a good start to the GreenCart program. It was a perfect storm, new program, new contractors, bulk pick up and high winds. The GreenCart program is under the Region of Halton as they are responsible for waste management. Having said that, I will pass your comments directly to Chair Gary Carr.

I understand that this past week (while I was away) there was improvement. Like you, I was very disappointed with this start to a very important program.

I want to personally thank you for using the GreenCart as this will extend the life of the landfill site by close to 10 years to the year 2031.

Please let me know about if the service has improved. I will copy your note to your regional councillors as well.

Mayor Rick Bonnette

Local Amnesty group doesn't support boycott

Dear editor,
There is much talk in the news right now about boycotting the Beijing Olympics.

The members of Amnesty International here in Georgetown and around the world do not support this. Instead, we see an opportunity to press China to keep its promises.

When the International Olympic Committee awarded the games to China in 2001, they did so in light of China's promise to improve human rights. Now, in the glare of global publicity, we ask China to do that. Using sport to strengthen support for human dignity is a core principle of the Olympic charter. It is hardly in the Olympic spirit that 80 per cent of executions in the world today happen in China, or that journalists, lawyers, and religious groups are harassed and jailed.

In particular, Amnesty asks China to respect human rights activists, including those in Tibet, to ensure fair trials for everyone, to allow a free press and internet, and to stop using the death penalty.

We encourage all who support these goals to learn more and to sign simple on-line petitions at amnesty.ca.

Janet Duval and six others
Amnesty International
Halton Hills group

Government's pesticide bill offers group H.O.P.E.

Dear editor,
Healthy Options for People and the Environment (H.O.P.E.) of Halton Hills has been working for over five years now in the area of reduction and elimination of cosmetic pesticide use.

Most of H.O.P.E.'s community work has focused on education about the health risks associated with these chemicals and the natural alternatives that can be practised as a healthy option. Never before has there been more public support and pressure for governments to protect our health and the environment and our Halton Hill's Green Plan, is a great example of what can be done locally.

Provincially, the government of Ontario's commitment to reduction of environmental toxins is giving H.O.P.E.'s members and supporter's... well HOPE!

Last fall, Premier Dalton McGuinty made an election promise to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides across the province of Ontario. Fast forward to spring 2008, and we see that the Ministry of the Environment has already sought public input around this issue and is now busy creating draft legislation for an Ontario-wide cosmetic pesticide ban (agricultural use of pesticides are not included).

H.O.P.E is looking for strong legislation that will; ban the use and sale of cosmetic pesticides (including pesticide/fer-

tilizer mixtures), only allow exemptions to protect public health (where the use of pesticides is less harmful than not using them), protect all Ontarians (whether they live in urban or rural areas), be applicable to both licensed applicators and homeowners, and strengthen existing Ontario municipal bylaws, not weaken them.

This spring we encourage Halton Hills residents to think 'naturally green' by purchasing organic lawn care programs offered by our local service providers. Do-it-yourselfers can find excellent information about natural lawn care on the internet such as Halton Region's Naturally Green website at: http://www.halton.ca/health/services/health_y_lawns_gardens/

Christine Upton, H.O.P.E.

HARP offers thanks

Dear editor,
April 19, was a perfect sunny day for the Hornby Association of Rate Payers' (HARP) annual Clean-Up Day. Nearly 100 volunteers turned out to clean the garbage from the creeks and roadside ditches of Hornby.

Our volunteers, including extras provided by Bahr Saddlery and Recovery House, collected almost 300 bags of garbage plus 22 tires, car parts of every description, 12 gallons of used oil, a freezer and many other items.

At the barbecue after the clean-up Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis took over his usual position as "chef" cooking sausages, hamburgers and hotdogs for the volunteers.

We would like to thank Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and the Town staff for their assistance in planning this event and for permission to use Hornby Park as a staging area.

We would also like to thank publicly our sponsors Agram Meats, A&P Georgetown, Hornby Glen Golf Course, Maple Lodge Farms, Pepsi, Superior Glove, and Tim Hortons for their continued support which helped to make Hornby Clean-Up Day a tremendous success.

Peter Vaughan, Event Co-ordinator



Congratulations on your 25th Wedding Anniversary May 7, 1983.

With Love & Best Wishes from Chris, Bryan, Ryan & Mom

Your 40-year 2 million km warranty is up

Time to get your eyes serviced

After 40, it gets harder to see up close. It's a natural condition called presbyopia. Regular visits to the eye doctor can keep things in focus.



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Location: Knox Presbyterian Church
Times: 7 am - 6 pm
Fees: \$35.00/day (Children to provide own lunch)



Activities:
* Fun Theme Days
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For more info please call Carol
905-877-9314