

OPINION

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Phone: 905-873-0301
Fax: 905-873-0398

Reluctant leaders

While it's refreshing to see Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper exhibiting some leadership qualities at the G8 Summit in Japan, we're not entirely sure his soft position on worldwide global warming emissions truly reflects what all Canadians want.

By all accounts, Harper led the way in convincing fellow leaders from the United States, Japan, Russia, Britain, Italy, Germany and France to cut emissions in half by 2050—a gesture that has been sharply criticized by environmental groups.

"At this rate, by 2050 the world will be cooked and the G8 leaders will be long forgotten," said one spokesperson for Oxfam International.

Not only is the target date considered too little, too late, but the agreement reached this week between the eight world powers allows each nation to set its own base year from which the 50 per cent emission reduction will be calculated.

Globally, Canada and the U.S. have long been viewed as among the two most reluctant nations on the planet to adopt real action to combat the effects of global warming emissions.

When one considers that the G8 nations are responsible for more than 60 per cent of the carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere (according to the World Wildlife Federation), we would have hoped they would lead the way to literally clearing our air.

Instead, Harper reportedly told his G8 peers about his government's approach to the problem here at home, including refusing to meet Canada's obligations under the Kyoto Protocol for economic reasons.

Harper trumpeted this week's accord as an "important advance", citing U.S. president George Bush's first-ever acceptance of long-term greenhouse gas cuts and the first time Russia has shared a similar sentiment.

As we said before, it is nice to see Canada's prime minister taking charge on a world stage. We're just not sure that Canadians want to be known as leaders in the field of dragging our feet where global warming is concerned.

What do you think?

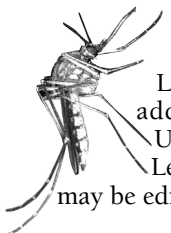
Below are the results of our most recent online poll. For the current poll go to www.independentfreepress.com

The Town of Halton Hills plans to spend \$210,000 in 2008-2009 on "green" initiatives? Is this too much money?

- It's too much (33%)
- It's not enough (20%)
- It's the right amount (47%)

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.

E-mail:

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Mail or drop off:

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, ON., L7G 4B1

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Steve Nease



STAFF DIRECTORY

Publisher

Ken Nugent

Advertising director

Steve Foreman

(sforeman@independentfreepress.com)

Retail advertising manager

Cindi Campbell

(ccampbell@independentfreepress.com)

Managing editor

John McGhie

(jmcghie@independentfreepress.com)

Distribution manager

Nancy Geissler

(distribution@independentfreepress.com)

ADVERTISING

Advertising co-ordinator

Jennifer Christie (jchristie@independentfreepress.com)

Retail Sales:

Jennifer Spencer (jspencer@independentfreepress.com)

Brendan Louth (blouth@independentfreepress.com)

Amy Sykes (features@independentfreepress.com)

Andrea Lefebvre (alefebvre@independentfreepress.com)

Brendon Stevenson (bstevenson@independentfreepress.com)

Real estate:

Sue Spizziri (realestate@independentfreepress.com)

Classifieds:

Kristie Pells (classified@independentfreepress.com)

ACCOUNTING

Rose Marie Gauthier, Michelle McEachern

EDITORIAL

Cynthia Gamble: News editor

(cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

Ted Brown: Photography

(tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

Lisa Tallyn: Staff writer

(ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/sports

(emaher@independentfreepress.com)

PRODUCTION:

Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell,

Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More awareness of parking bylaw needed

Dear editor,

I would like to bring to your attention a situation where the enforcement of the bylaw concerning street parking on all Georgetown municipal roads was ridiculous and hopefully was an isolated incident.

On June 4 we were having some landscaping done and at 9:45 a.m. the contractor parked his vehicle on our driveway which necessitated leaving our two cars on Delrex Blvd.

At 10:07 a.m. the parking enforcement officer stopped, recorded our licence plates and moved on, obviously aware of the reason for our vehicles being parked on the street and that they were likely to be there longer than the three hours allowed under the bylaw.

At 1:32 p.m. the officer returned and ticketed both cars for \$20 each.

Why couldn't the officer have

used some common sense and exercised a small amount of discretion? I understand that had I telephoned the Town and advised them of this situation ahead of time the parking bylaw enforcement would have been waived.

I would wager that not many citizens in this community are aware

Honest person turns in \$40 found at ATM

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the person or persons who returned the \$40 that was left at the Plaza CIBC ATM machine.

On Friday, June 27 I went to the machine to withdraw \$40.

About one hour later when I returned home, I noticed that I had not picked up the \$40 or the receipt. I went back to the bank and checked

that the three-hour limit is enforced and can be avoided by phoning the Town ahead of time. The Town should be prepared for a raft of phone calls connected with pool parties, yard sales, contractor projects, family functions and so on.

Sherrell Sowery,
Georgetown

with one of the tellers. Sure enough, she had the \$40.

Thanks again to all concerned. Deep down, most people are honest.

Ed Hretchka,
Georgetown

Fairy Lake fireworks were fabulous

Dear editor,

Way to go Acton Firefighters! This year's display of fireworks over Fairy Lake was outstanding. Thank you to the volunteers for the many hours it must have taken to organize, prepare and execute this event. It was a brilliant end to a busy, fun-filled Canada Day.

Hopefully the goodwill donations collected in the helmets, reflected the enthusiastic response of the crowds watching.

P & V Jordan, Georgetown
D & P Kyte, Terra Cotta
J Jones, Suffolk, England

Parish thankful for successful Canada Day

Dear editor,

Re: Happy 141st Birthday Canada! July 1st at St. Alban's Glen Williams was a resounding success thanks to ALL the people who helped our congregation recognize Canada's 141st birthday by attending the chicken barbecue. The grounds were overflowing with the young and old as they waited in anticipation of the fireworks display.

A special note of appreciation is sent to Don Ablett and Brent Cooper for providing top notch live enter-

tainment for the musical interlude.

This event was our biggest and best ever July 1st celebration and we look forward to hosting this event for many more years to come.

Thank you very much,
The Parish of St. Alban the Martyr,
Glen Williams

PS. Keep checking the Community Calendar section in *The Independent & Free Press* for future events sponsored by the congregation.