

OPINION

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Put hold on the politicians

Today, Halton regional councillors will vote on whether to review the number of politicians sitting around their table.

It seems Burlington councillors, who do double-duty as both regional and local councillors, claim their workload is overwhelming.

But Halton Hills Wards 1&2 regional councillor Clark Somerville voiced opposition to the review when it was first proposed at the Administration and Finance committee last week.

"I don't think there are people out there saying, 'we want more politicians,'" said Somerville.

Ain't that the truth.

Halton Hills Wards 3&4 regional councillor Jane Fogal rightly pointed out this seems to be a Burlington-only issue. And to be fair if Burlington gets more representatives, then so should Halton Hills.

If Burlington councillors need more political colleagues to ease their workload, they should be looking at their own local council makeup before involving the whole of the region.

Why should all Halton taxpayers pay for a decision made by the City of Burlington to downsize its council several years ago?

As well, perhaps a review is premature in light of the current Sustainable Halton planning process that is currently under way.

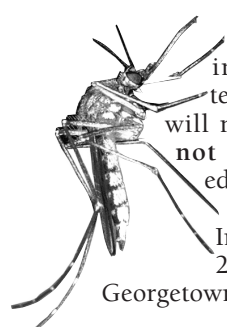
As pointed out in our lead story today, Sustainable Halton could mean an explosion of growth for both Halton Hills and Milton—and subsequently a possible "overwhelming" workload for the north Halton councillors.

Future Sustainable Halton decisions could dramatically impact the current proportional representation around the regional table.

If regional councillors do go ahead with this review, the committee should keep this in mind before adding more politicians that taxpayers may not need...or want.

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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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

Pet owner confused by dog ban letter

Dear editor,
This letter is in response to the letter entitled "Dogs should be banned from Farmer's Market" printed August 29. As a proud local dog owner who regularly frequents the market with my four-legged friend in tow, I was very surprised by this letter.

We have never received anything but pats and hellos when we bring our dog to the market. He is kept on a short lead, is never allowed very close to the food, and we would always pick up after him at the market or anywhere else.

The Farmers' Market is an outdoor space where dogs are permitted. Dogs are not inherently dangerous to children, and there is no need to muzzle a dog unless they are

unfortunate enough to be a pit bull. As for "near dog fights" I have never witnessed anything close to that, and the Market is an excellent place for dogs to socialize with each other.

Of course there are certain dogs that may be the exception to the rule and do not behave well in public, but those owners should be aware of that and leave them at home. I have never seen an antisocial dog at the

Market.

I would recommend if you are afraid of dogs that you stick to your local grocery store. I can assure you that I will continue to bring my dog with me when I frequent the downtown Farmers' Market, and if you don't like that, simply don't stop to say hello.

Kristian Rogers,
Georgetown

Library should have been paid for already

Dear editor,
Since the limits on town expansion due to water-taking have been known for some time, and since the library is presently only half the size that it should be for the population that it serves, why was library expansion

not a milestone to achieve in proportion to growth of the town's population? It seems to me that development charges should already have paid for this library expansion, given the tremendous development growth of late and the associated, proportional deficit of library service to this town's population.

Matt Buckley-Golder
Georgetown

Follow Stroud, and ban cats outside

Dear editor,
Here's a solution to our roaming cat problem. In Stroud, Ontario, they have a bylaw banning cats from being outside, on the loose, during daylight hours.

This would protect our birds at feeders, birds in nests, and all the small animals that are abroad in daylight. How disgusting to see a limp little creature hanging from the mouth of your neighbour's cat as it hurries home to display its catch!

When a cat is allowed to roam freely, day and night, it can no

longer be considered a pet, for when do the owner's pet it?

We are bothered by cats hanging around our yard, at all hours. They hide under the shrubbery and then jump out at the birds and chipmunks. They make messes in the flower beds and lounge around on the patio as if they owned it. I have always liked cats, but not when they are allowed to go wild and no longer live at home. Let's call or write our Councillors and ask for this bylaw. Then we have a right to enforce it.

Marion Vito, Georgetown.

Dad disgusted by cane theft

Dear editor,
To the person who stole my son's cane from a store in Acton I hope you are very proud of yourself. Dave had a stroke and has enough difficulties without losing his cane. I can only hope you trip over it and break something.

Bill McEachern
Acton