

Nip it in the bud

It's been said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but there is nothing beautiful about the graffiti that has—yet again—popped up around Halton Hills.

Over the past several years we've reported numerous times about incidents of graffiti which seem to crop up like a pesky weed for which there is not pesticide.

Town officials—not to mention the private homeowners, business operators and general public—have been fed up for years in trying to control this problem which, quite frankly, is more than just a nuisance.

While the graffiti "artists" who like to ply their craft on the property of others may consider their efforts aesthetically pleasing, we prefer to call it what it is—vandalism.

Unfortunately, it is a crime that is easy to get away with, but to that end the Town has given its approval to an Acton man who has developed a graffiti eradication program through his company, CAMA International.

Michael Jander, who has 17 years experience in the law enforcement business, refers to the recent outbreak of graffiti as "gang activity" and tagging property "is showing a turf war".

However, he admits, there is no proof of gang activity in Halton Hills and the graffiti could be the work of local kids—a sentiment echoed by Halton Police.

But, Jander is right in saying that it is important to remove the graffiti quickly (within 72 hours) to discourage the perpetrators.

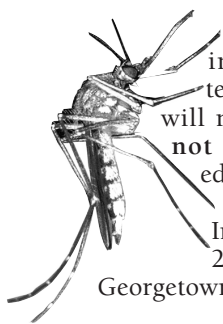
Jander will spend \$24,000 towards organizing and establishing the program in the first three months, followed by \$3,000 a month for ongoing "maintenance". He plans to enlist the services of high school students who need to complete their 40 hours of community service to help paint over the graffiti. Jander's team of volunteers will be responsible for taking care of property owned by private firms and individuals; the Town will continue to be responsible to remove graffiti from Town facilities.

However, unless the \$51,000 one-year cost is covered by corporate donations the program can't go forward.

We hope Halton Hills' business community considers this a worthy investment in fighting a problem which eventually affects us all.

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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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.

Mail or drop off:

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

E-mail:

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Friday at 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown Ont., L7G 4B1. It is one of several newspapers published by Metroland Media Group Ltd.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.



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)

Andrew Key (akey@independentfreepress.com)

Amy Sykes (features@independentfreepress.com)

Real estate:

Sue Spizziri (realestate@independentfreepress.com)

Classifieds:

Kristie Pells (classified@independentfreepress.com)

ACCOUNTING

Rose Marie Gauthier, Michelle Wimmer

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

MMP voting system deserved to fail

Dear editor,

RE: Article "Panel member not surprised at MMP's failure", Oct. 12.

I am writing in response to Mr. John Daley's opinion that "lack of information" led to the general public through Elections Ontario defeat the MMP proposal.

First, thank you Mr. Daley for your unselfish act of volunteering to be a part of trying to improve our electoral process. I sincerely believe the Citizen's Coalition had noble

intent. However, I respectfully suggest that MMP is not the right solution, nor is your rationale for why MMP did not receive higher favour with Ontario voters correct.

Although "lack of information" may be true for some Ontario residents, my belief that, for the 50ish percent that exercised our right to vote (a whole other issue), a majority of us knew what was being proposed. It was not a lack of information that defeated the proposal. Ontario resi-

dents rejected the idea simply because we don't need more politicians (let alone unelected ones).

At \$110,000 each I can think of a few better places to spend my tax dollars.

I believe most of the voting public agreed and showed it.

Chris Hamilton, Georgetown

Summer Reading Club support appreciated

Dear editor,

The staff at Halton Hills Public Library would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who helped make our summer reading programs such a huge success.

With the enthusiastic assistance of our summer students and volunteers we kept almost 1,000 children reading over the summer in our Lost Worlds Summer Reading Club.

We would like to acknowledge those parents who encouraged their children to participate, thereby fostering a love of literacy.

We are grateful for the efforts of our community newspapers for promoting our programs.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the generosity of the branch managers at TD Canada Trust in both Georgetown and Acton for providing prizes. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Halton Hills Public Library
Children's and Youth Services Staff

Norval cemetery requires Town care

Dear editor,

A valuable part of our heritage is being stifled and ignored by the non-interest of the Town to provide care, recognition and accessibility to the Norval Pioneer Cemetery on Pinecrest Road in the village of Norval.

Two years ago a plea was made to council to have this site restored and recognized as a valuable part of our history. Much was promised, nothing has been done.

The citizens' right to access the site has been compromised by the town's inaction to reclaim, mark and certify the 12 ft. public right of way into this important part of our heritage. As a result, few are aware of its existence, and the pathway is overgrown and partially blocked.

This site bears the remains of the first settlers in Norval and deserves as much care and respect as the

other cemeteries in our community.

Headstones need to be restored and a simple fence to enclose the area along with a sign out at the roadway designating it as a heritage site.

This site is as important to us as the kilns in Limehouse or the Remembrance Park in Georgetown.

Acton seems to be flourishing while Norval has become a shell of its former beauty that Lucy Maud Montgomery once wrote about.

Weeds line the sidewalks where flowers once grew and traffic, noise and congestion have since made a mockery of our peaceful heritage.

Surely we can reestablish a tiny corner of peace and tranquillity that reminds us of a time worth remembering, where citizens can visit and reflect.

Wm. Pomeroy,
Norval