

# OPINION

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## It's YOUR Halton

If only we could gaze into a crystal ball to see what Halton Region would be like in 2031. We are sure it would make life much easier for the regional planners who are doing their own form of crystal-ball gazing as they prepare for Halton's expected massive growth.

According to the provincial Places to Grow document, Halton must plan for up to 780,000 people and 390,000 jobs by the year 2031, while the current Official Plan looks at growth to 2021 and for a population of 628,900 people and 340,000 jobs.

"When we plan for what Halton will look like in the future, we need to hear from the community on what they want to protect and preserve as we plan for that growth," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

That's the reason why Halton Region's planners are turning to the community now to find out what local groups and businesses believe are the most important issues and challenges that will face this area in the coming years.

Sustainable Halton is a planning process designed to consider all aspects of growth including, among other things, the environment, transportation needs, infrastructure, social and emergency services and adequate housing.

While the Region intends to host open houses this winter, it also wants to ensure that everyone has a chance to participate. Halton staffers say they are available to any community group or business that would like to hear a presentation and discuss the Sustainable Halton planning process.

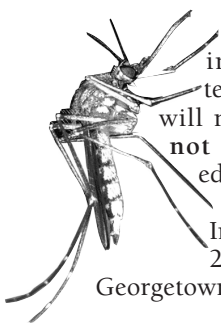
It is important for all of our voices to be heard as the Region prepares to meet the critical challenges in the years to come.

If you would like more information and to have Halton make a presentation to your group either send an e-mail to sustainable@halton.ca or phone 905-825-6000, ext. 7455. Additional details are also available online at www.halton.ca/sustainable-halton.

Halton is a great place in which to work, play and live. We need to keep it that way.

## 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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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

### Lack of advance light angers commuter

Dear editor,

I am writing in regards to the supposed "advance left light" at Winston Churchill Blvd. and Steeles Ave.

The "new" sign has been on that light standard for a few years now. It does have the four circles where there could possibly be an advance left turn when turning east onto Steeles from Winston Churchill, but, I have yet to see that little green arrow I so anxiously await every morning.

What is the problem? Turn it on already!

That light can drive you crazy at rush hour in the morning when

### 'Intolerant' letters should not be published

Dear editor,

We are concerned that *The Independent & Free Press* continues to publish covertly racist, homophobic, and intolerant letters to the editor.

Please realize that by publishing such letters, *The Independent & Free Press* is promoting the myth that Georgetown is a town full of racist and intolerant people.

For example, consider the Sept. 28 letter from Ms. Ezeard regarding her objections to the pride flag. She asks us to spend more time discussing "the real issues (crime, poverty and discrimination) and less time trying to promote division". The pride flag is only a divisive symbol to those who are homophobic and intolerant.

And to Ms. Ezeard who must now

myself and oh, about 2,000 other commuters, are trying to get out of Georgetown. It's really frustrating to sit at that light three or four times—or more (depending in the traffic and the time).

It creates road rage as it can sometimes take 10-15 minutes just to get through that light. Only two cars go through in the morning because of the flow of traffic. It is ridiculous that, considering the rate that Georgetown is growing, no one has proposed new two-lane highways or the widening of any of the major roads leading in and out of Georgetown.

face her daughter, the seeming victim of Georgetown's courage to support diversity: children do not learn intolerance from seeing a rainbow flag, they learn it from their parents and community who continue to support prejudice.

*The Independent & Free Press* should take more responsibility in what it publishes. Letters that attempt to justify intolerance are not constructive to the community at large.

We all have the right to free speech, no matter how hateful or ignorant. *The Independent & Free Press*, however, has a civic duty to reflect the positive initiatives in our community, rather than dwelling so often on the negative.

Lyne and Richard Marsella,  
Georgetown

I love the small town feel of Georgetown but let's get with the program and let commuters get to and from work in a reasonable amount of time.

At least, turn on the advance left light at that intersection.

Maybe our council members should discuss this brilliant idea? Oh yes, and way to go on canceling the plans for the Barber Mill—it looks much better the way it is now.

Another issue for another day...

Lisa Zide, Georgetown

### Town ignoring problem

Dear editor,

I agree with recent letters from Barb Alderton (too much administration in government at all levels), K. Leslie (when will Halton Hills enforce the same bylaws for people who own annoying outdoor cats) and Konstantin Fedotchev (too many accidents on Ninth Line).

My own area on Stewart MacLaren Road in Georgetown has three-hour limit parking signs at each end of this short road yet vehicles park all night and on weekends there are sometimes as many as 40-50 vehicles on both sides of the road. Parking bylaw officers do ticket some of the vehicles every few weeks but at \$25 a pop that's really cheap parking.

The Town has known about this problem for a year but nothing was ever done. If ever there was an accident, fire or emergency God help us.

J. Allen, Georgetown