

It's your duty

With the federal election campaign now heading into the final turn, we hope voters in Wellington-Halton Hills have made the effort to find out about the five candidates vying for a seat in Parliament before casting their ballot.

While the local turnout in the last federal election was a respectable 71 per cent (nationally the number was 64.7 per cent and provincially 66.6 per cent), we hope even more residents take the opportunity this time to have their say in how this country is run.

Policies and politics aside, all five local candidates— Michael Chong (Conservative), Bruce Bowser (Liberal), Noel Duignan (New Democratic Party), Brent Bouteiller (Green) and Jeffery Streutker (Christian Heritage Party)— deserve our thanks for putting their names forward as candidates.

Voters have had no shortage of chances to put the candidates under the microscope as several (including five in Halton Hills) all-candidates meetings have been scheduled throughout this campaign. The candidates were scheduled to put their views forward to the business community early this morning at the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce breakfast and later to students at Acton High School.

In today's *Independent & Free Press* we posed our own questions to the candidates and offer profiles on each of them.

We hope that young voters— and especially those able to cast a ballot for the first time— take advantage of this special gift available to them and become engaged in the electoral process.

Our soldiers have fought for this very right that far too many choose to ignore.

We firmly believe that if you choose not to vote you forfeit your right to complain about the government you get.

Get informed and cast a ballot. It's the right thing to do.

What do you think?

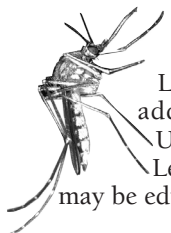
Below are the results of our most recent online poll. For the current poll go to www.independentfreepress.com

Do you think opinion polls should be published during election campaigns?

- Yes (67%)
- No (33%)

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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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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Steve Nease



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vandals won't deter school's gardeners

Dear vandals,
You know (of course you do), that we, at l'École Sacré-Coeur in Georgetown, planted a vegetable garden and new flower beds this year.

We did so because we are trying, as a school, to provide alternative means of learning for all our students, including the ones who have special needs. We also wanted to increase the environmental awareness of all. Your efforts to do harm have thwarted our efforts to do good.

We knew that you would be watching. We even calculated your fair share. One of the teachers said that if someone should take the vegetables, they must need them more than we did. However, did you NEED to sit in our garden and break off two-thirds of the 50 tomato plants and stack them in neat little piles? Did you NEED to take every single squash and smash it in our school yard? You were obviously not hungry. Did you NEED to take a shovel and dig up five newly-planted flowers?

Here are the facts. We had to raise the money in order to build this garden. Several students, parents, teachers spent many hours planning, digging, cutting, watering and planting for this project to happen. Every student who wanted to, planted the seeds that they wanted to watch grow over the summer. So, you see, this garden is the labour of the entire community and by doing your sad work, you are destroying ours.

Maybe you are bored, jealous or

simply do not like us. Should you want to make amends, we would gladly give you your own section of the garden to plant next spring. You can tend it yourself and share with us the fruits of your own labour.

You may be a team of one or of many; you may be older or younger

New parents laud benefits of midwife care

Dear editor,
The birth of our daughter required that we decide between an OB and a midwife. After a great deal of consideration, it came down to one simple, yet overwhelmingly large difference; personal attention.

The good doctors in our current health care system are severely overburdened with patients and simply cannot devote the same amount of time and one-on-one attention that our midwives can. The midwives were absolutely amazing and we would recommend them to anyone having a baby.

What we do not understand though is why we had to deliver our baby in a foreign city.

To date, Georgetown Hospital does not allow hospital privileges to the midwife profession. For some unknown reason, those who choose midwifery care must have their child in either Brampton or Mississauga. Why are the hospitals in these cities more accepting of alternative health care?

As a resident of Georgetown, why

but whoever you are, I am letting you know that we will be planting trees this fall. They will be there to provide shade to all and a habitat for animals. Please leave us our trees.

Maryse Mallet-Sinnis,
on behalf of the environmental committee of l'École Sacré-Coeur

does my child's birth certificate state Mississauga?

We all want what is best for our children and as such, the ability to choose what method of delivery we desire in the warmth and security of this lovely community seems best to me.

I hope in the not-too-distant future that when my second child is born, he/she will be delivered by midwives in Georgetown Hospital.

Paul and Erin Bryan, Georgetown

Businesses thanked

Dear editor,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those local businesses who contributed to the Bruce Trail Conservancy's AGM September 19-21.

Special thanks to Susan Lougheed for the donation of the cruise for two that was won by Molly Monahan. I can recommend the Gellert Centre to anyone considering hosting an event.

Frances Walker, chair,
Silent Auction Committee

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