

## Showdown

It appears that Halton Region and the provincial government are headed for a High Noon-style showdown.

At one end of the street is the Region, headed by chair Gary Carr who, while heading up the Fairness for Halton campaign, says the Province is being unfair in asking Halton to accommodate thousands of new residents in coming years through its Places to Grow plan without offering enough funding for infrastructure.

The Province, through Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman, has said the Region's infrastructure deficit—pegged at \$300 million—is the fault of the Region and precedes the Province's Growth Plan. Smitherman has called Carr's plea for fairness "grandstanding".

It's hard to believe this is the same George Smitherman who, four years ago as health minister, helped Georgetown hospital win its fight against the William Osler Health Centre to keep the hospital's obstetrics ward open.

That situation is not unlike than the one between the Region and the Province today. In both cases, a more powerful body (in this case the Province) is trying to impose its will on the weaker one (the Region) without proper justification.

While the Province has provided some infrastructure funding, it clearly falls short of what the Region requires if it is forced to follow the Province's plan to add 300,000 more people Halton in the next 25 years. On top of that, the Region is now being told to pony up money to pay for badly needed new and renovated hospitals in south Halton.

The Region, rightly so, is not inclined to place that huge financial burden on the backs of local taxpayers.

That's why this week regional politicians indicated they will use a loophole in the Region's Official Plan which allows them to refuse sewer and water pipe connections to new developments until a more equitable funding arrangement with the Province is worked out.

That move will not please developers but its the only hammer the Region has to wield in this battle.

Time will tell who blinks first.

## What do you think?

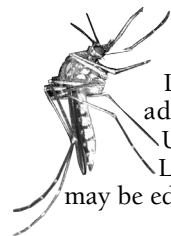
Below are the results of our most recent online poll. For the current poll go to [www.independentfreepress.com](http://www.independentfreepress.com)

Do you think Canada has aided or contributed to the torture of individuals abroad?

- Yes (27%)
- No (73%)

## 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

### Lawn care pesticides can be used safely

Dear editor,  
Re: Ms. Boleychuk's Oct. 10 letter, Resident appalled by Town's spraying of parks.

#### Mother of hit and run victim seeks witnesses to accident

Dear editor,  
On the morning of Thursday, October 23, a car carrying my daughter and two small grandchildren was hit by a silver four-door Cavalier/Sunbird-type vehicle.

Due to the driver's total lack of conscience and moral responsibility, he immediately left the scene of the accident without caring about their welfare. The incident took place at the intersection of College and Ontario Streets in Georgetown at 7 a.m. The silver vehicle will have front-end damage on the driver's side, and the paint transfer will be midnight grey to black in colour.

Anyone with information about a vehicle that fits this description, or the incident itself, is asked to contact the Halton Regional Police, 11 Division in Georgetown at 905-873-0377.

Please people... this is the type of irresponsible behaviour that puts all our insurance rates up and makes it unsafe to be on the road. Let's make responsible choices and help protect our children.

S. Pilkey, Kitchener

It is amazing that the misinformed and fear-mongering activists are still spreading misinformation.

Weed control products (pesticides eg. 24,D) do not cause cancer. This FACT is supported by in-depth studies from Health Canada, the European Health Organization, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization.

Unfortunately it seems that politicians, activists, and medical people, think they know better than peer-review science. With their reasoning and theory for banning lawn care pesticides, you would think they work for George Bush. He also used words like "linked to", "suspected of", and "potential threat" to declare war.

#### Local business praised for good service

Dear editor,  
I moved to Georgetown two years ago with my husband and we love it here, everyone is friendly and cares about their community.

We purchased a hot tub last year from Emerald Isle on Guelph Street due to the glowing reviews we received about their customer service. I have to tell you that Bert's service is amazing,

I have been in the retail business for 15 years and you don't see customer service and "after" customer

service like this anymore.

Bert helped us understand the chemicals, helped us set it up and all questions or issues that we have had in the last year, he has returned phone calls and come to our house right away.

I can't say enough great things about him and his store and I highly recommend anyone who is purchasing a hot tub to shop there.

Bill Van Ryn,  
Georgetown

Lawn care pesticides can be used safely. Most, if not all, alternatives are less effective, more costly and require more energy. There is no factual proof lawn care pesticides are killing children or animals by casual contact.

The Town of Halton Hills used responsible (IPM) methods at the least active time of year. I personally have 40 years of hands-on experience with these products and have healthy children.

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Roisin Bennett,  
Georgetown