

Town has no policy on natural disasters

The Town will continue to use tax dollars on an ad hoc basis to help with relief efforts in response to natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and the tsunami.

Councillors rejected a sug-

gestion from Georgetown councillor Mike Davis to review the policies of other municipalities and report back.

Davis said the current method is not consistent, pointing out that Council did not send any money to help with the Pakistan earthquake.

Acton Councillors Clark Somerville, Jon Hurst and Mike O'Leary were among the seven councillors who voted against asking staff to draft a policy.

Somerville said he doesn't want disaster relief to become a budget item and noted any member of Council could make a request for a donation.

Hurst said they can react to severe situations, and rate-payers have told him that they want to donate to disaster relief on their own.

Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson said it would be "wise to have a policy to guide our decision," adding in principle, she doesn't think municipal tax dollars should be used for world relief.

Mayor Rick Bonnette, who noted in the last term of council, the Town donated 2,000 bottles of water to Walkerton during its tainted water crisis, and more recently donated money to tsunami victims, said a policy could become convoluted and suggested they continue to act on a case-by-case basis.

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FIFTY-FIFTY: Two winners of \$50 bills at Acton Rotary Club's elimination draw at Acton Legion Saturday night were Brian Cargill and Joyce Sprowl. Winner of the dream cruise to Alaska was a woman from Bowmanville. Funds from the draw go to Rotary's proposed new band shell. - Ted Tyler photo



TREE VANDALIZED: Erin, 5, and Sam, 3, French were upset when they came home last Monday to find their 12-foot Sugar Maple tree in front of their Kingham Road home had been sawed down. Their dad found the tree, which he had planted on Earth Day four years ago, thrown over a nearby fence. - Frances Niblock photo

Angela worries...

Continued from page 6 with his snowmobile?

"Listen," I told the Butt man. "You need to learn to lie to me. The Dude lies to me when he goes out with you and that is how I deal with it. Tell me you don't go on water." I informed him with a look of anxiety.

He looked at me kind of funny. Somehow he knew I was a worry wart. "Ah, actually, we take the road to the trail...we don't go near the water," he said. He knew how to humour me. I was content. Even if the Dude was going on water, even a little bit, with his snowmobile, the Dude, the Butt man and myself had an understanding...keep the Dude's wife from worrying. Tell her what she wants to hear and believe.

All I cared about was the Dude safe at home on Sunday night...ready for another adventure and another time for me to worry.

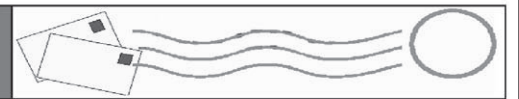
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Letters



Liked New Tanner's coverage

To the editor

Please allow me this opportunity to thank you, Frances Niblock, and all the other staff at your paper for your hard work and great coverage of the federal election. Your commitment to democracy is unparalleled. Also, thanks are in order to the student council at Acton High School. In an age where the youth vote is disgustingly low, it's good to see committed students who want to change that.

Especially student council Prime Ministers as cute as Marissa!

Another thank you goes to MacKenzie Smith Bennett Elementary School for having me as a guest and giving me the chance to educate the students about politics. To all my fellow candidates, thank you for trying to make this country a better place. (Even if we disagree on how this should be done.)

The largest thanks, hands

down, go to the voters. Those who completed their democratic duty will be glad to hear that, in Wellington-Halton Hills, we increased voter turnout from 67% to 71%. For the 29% minority, I don't want to hear a single peep out of you until you vote in the next election.

Again, thank you Mr. Editor for giving me this chance to give credit where credit is due.

Mike Wisniewski,
Independent candidate

Clause guarantees freedoms

To the editor,

At the last English Leaders' debate (during the election), the scary candidate was revealed to be Mr. Martin, as he proposed to get rid of the notwithstanding clause of the Charter, so that "Parliament could never impose their view on the Supreme Court."

After past Liberal governments appointed most of the Supreme Court judges, and after Mr. Martin himself appointed justices Louise Charron and Rosalie Abella, representatives of left-wing radical feminists, the Martin proposal would impose the Liberal view on Canada for the next foreseeable future.

However, it would have much more serious repercussions.

A democratic government is supposed to be by the people, represented by Parliament, not by an oligarchy of appointed rulers.

In Canada we never had independence between the legislative and the judiciary, as justices are hand-picked by the Prime Minister, but the powers of the Supreme Court are limited by Section 33 of the Charter (the Clause that Mr. Martin wanted to abolish). The adjective "supreme" applies to the noun "court," meaning that this is the highest court of the land. Mr. Martin's proposal would make his appointees

"supreme" to all Canadian institutions, including Parliament.

This would be another nail in the coffin of Canadian freedom and democracy. Parliament could fold and our elected representatives could stay home. The Supreme Court would continue to "make new laws," could rewrite our Constitution, would continue to "read-in" or even "write-in" the Charter, could decide to appoint our puppet Prime Minister and could decide to appoint their own successors.

Very scary!
Giuseppe Gori,
Leader Family Coalition,
RR2, Acton.

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Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, February 28 @ 1:00 pm

Please plan to attend this important meeting and hear what your centre has accomplished in 2005.

Refreshments will be served