

# Canada kinder, gentler before Charter of Rights, Freedoms

To the editor,

The same question has been asked by many for years.

The answer, say the powers that be, is that the Constitution guarantees rights to all, regardless of what they do. That includes those who commit criminal acts and there is nothing can be done about it. Period.

What rubbish! Prime Minister Harper was right when, during his first campaign, he stated that the Constitution is flawed. Of course it is flawed. The Constitution was not brought down from some holy mountain emblazoned on a tablet of stone by the hand of God. It is a document put together by humans and is so subject to error. It could be amended if more rational minds were in charge of law making.

One would wonder why we needed a Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the first place. We always had rights and freedoms as long as we lived within the confines of the law. That is why so many settlers came to Canada and what so many military men and women sacrificed so much to ensure.

What was needed, if attention had been paid to the growing trend at the time, was a Charter of Responsibilities.

We were a kinder and gentler society when we weren't so kind and gentle to criminals. If a civilized,

safe society is to be maintained, ought there not be a point at which persons who are not responsible toward their fellow man can have their rights revoked? Failure to revoke the rights of dangerous criminals has restricted the rights of society as a whole for much too long.

It has been said that it is better to let a guilty person go free than to condemn one innocent person. That, too, seems like rubbish. When the lives of innocent people may be at risk, it is only common sense to err on the side of caution.

What can be done about tightening the laws to

protect society? Probably nothing. Politicians can dictate the most private aspects of our lives. They can control what kinds of pets we have and how many, whether we can cut a tree, how we raise our children, whether we can be fat or not and where we can drink and smoke but they cannot control batterers, molesters, rapists and murderers?

Politicians who refuse to address this issue and continue to support laws that protect criminals' rights should hang their heads in shame.

Eileen Hutcheson,  
Acton.

## An ill-gotten gaggle

To the editor,

I was shocked and dismayed to discover my neighbour's gaggle of decorative geese had been removed by stealth over the Labour Day weekend. For months, many of us who commute along highway 7 between Acton and Rockwood, have enjoyed the antics of this frivolous bunch. Their soccer match rivalled the World Cup, their game of musical chairs delighted us all as we watched them fall one by one to the victor, their playful swimming party during our heat wave in July.

The recent golf tournament had me driving by with baited breath to see who would take the cup. Their last folly, a square dance, was a clever goodbye to the summer.

When they weren't there to greet me on the Tuesday

after the long weekend I thought perhaps the dance had been the last hurrah and they had all "flown" south for the season. On my way home that evening I was saddened to note a hand drawn sign expressing apologies for their absence and noting the theft of these fine fellows.

This is no out-of-the-way hidden place. This is a well travelled highway, at an intersection. Who would be so bold, so cruel, to perform such an act?

I will miss these "feathered" friends who brightened my day, and sorrow for those who felt the need to do such an unkind thing to folks who only brought us all a lighter side of life, a smile to start and end our day.

Dawn Hunter and  
Bob Handley  
RR2, Rockwood.

## HEY GEEK!



Think Tank Computers Wants You!

Come to Acton's Geek Headquarters  
14 Main Street South  
at Highways 7 and 25

- Computers • Repairs • Programming
- Virus Removal • Upgrades • Internet
- Satellite TV • Software • Websites

(519) 853-1528  
[www.thetank.biz](http://www.thetank.biz)

Come the Great Geek Revolution, all will bow to our power. While we all wait for V3R, here's a free bookmark with Think Tank's compliments. Don't Worry. Our secret's safe. Only geeks read the fine print.

### A TASTE OF ITALY

129 Mill St. E. Acton  
519.853.2188

**Lunch Specials Tuesday-Friday**  
Buy one pasta and get the second of equal or lesser value at half price

also...

Panzerottis now available  
with two toppings \$7.95

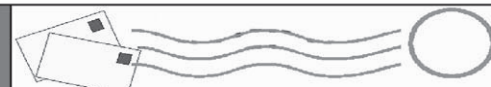
---

Buy one pizza and get the second of equal or lesser value at half price

**Dine In or Take-Out**  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
- all day value

Authentic Italian food

## Letters



# Greenbelt legislation benefits Acton, growth unnecessary

To the editor,

I have to take objection to your editorial published on September 14. The overriding philosophy of the Greenbelt legislation is to control urban sprawl and protect green spaces. Undeveloped land is necessary for farmland, water purification, air cleansing and wildlife corridors. The idea behind this legislation is to better utilize the lands that are not part of the Greenbelt. It was bound to inconvenience developers and speculators. Higher density housing and industry is being dictated by building UP and not OUT. European cities understand this concept and have been employing this strategy for decades. Given the population densities of Southern Ontario, our time is long past due.

The Greenbelt legislation was introduced only after much consultation. The residents of Ontario understand and appreciate the broad benefits of this legislation and support it. Unfortunately, greedy speculators and developers consider only their personal wealth and not the welfare of all Ontarians. Consider what is transpiring in Durham.

I don't think the town councillors "washed their hands" of anything. I believe that those members of council recognized the greater good. Hopefully, all the members of council, when voting on the Official Plan, will consider the dire need to protect our water and land resources as well.

I find some comments quite disingenuous, written only to further an argument that hasn't a valid basis.

Bannockburn may exist in the books, but is not a "community," just a little more sprawl.

You mention that with growth toward the East, the "benefits would be incalculable." How so? What benefits would adding more residents in Acton provide? We already have access to multiple large grocery stores, arenas, a hospital, parks and sports venues and more churches than you can shake a stick at. In fact, we have far more services than anyone choosing to live in a small town should expect. We do not need higher crime, less water and more traffic. The addition to gridlock, that you suggest, will not come from people travelling to services, but rather from commuters of a larger bedroom community.

People must stop think-

## Two Acton churches present Alpha course

Have you seen a billboard, a poster or a theatre ad with "ALPHA" across the top and the question "Is there more to Life?"

"We think it's a really good question to ask and as local churches we are excited to be available to people in our community who are interested in exploring that question and many more!" says Diane Leferink of Bethel Christian Reformed Church.

Two local churches: Bethel Christian Reformed, and the new Alliance Church in Acton, will be offering the 10 week Alpha course which covers a wide range of topics concerning the Christian faith.

Is Christianity true? Is it relevant to my life? Who is Jesus? These are only a few of the subjects for discussion which are initiated by a video presentation, followed by an opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss the topic

ing that growth is always positive. Growth consumes more resources and resources are finite. It is everyone's responsibility to live, act and legislate so that we maintain a sustainable lifestyle.

A common concern to most, I'm sure, is that, despite the recent growth and vast increase in tax revenues in Halton Hills, our town has difficulty meeting these increased demands without exacting yearly tax increases. As I remember it, prior to our recent growth, tax increases were very rare.

In conclusion, let's not seek your perceived "window of opportunity."

Dan Poirier,  
4th Line, Acton.

of the evening. Food and refreshments are also an important part of the evening.

The goal, according to organizers of the two churches, is to offer two locations and two separate evenings each week so Alpha is available to as many people as possible. "We want to get the same message out there so why not work together?"

Bethel is offering the Alpha course at their church on Queen St. E. while the new Alliance in Acton is offering their course at the Leathertown Tavern. Call Diane Leferink for more information at 519-853-4493.

## Compost 'give away' Friday

Halton Region's fall compost give away returns this Friday, September 22 and continues on Saturday, September 23 and Monday, September 25 at the Halton Waste Management Site, 5400 Regional Road 25 in Milton from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

As part of Halton's strategy to divert waste away from Halton's landfill site, residential yard waste picked up from curbsides is recycled into rich, garden-friendly compost. Twice a year, Halton residents are invited to collect the finished product for use in their gardens.

Residents must bring their own bags or containers (maximum seven per household) and a shovel in order to bag their own compost.

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH  
ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Quarter Chicken Dinner \$9.00  
Half Chicken Dinner \$11.00

Dinner includes chicken, dinner roll, cole slaw, potato and dessert. Refreshments will be served. Take-outs are available.

Churchill Community Church  
Town Line & Churchill Rd. N., Acton  
Tickets at the door.

