

OPINION

World watching

Our country has gained the attention of the international press recently for all the wrong reasons.

The world media — represented by such household names as The New York Times, CNN, NBC, ABC, Fox, and Al-Jazeera TV — isn't here to cover a pandemic of Stanley Cup fever in Edmonton or to profile the latest inductees into Canada's Walk of Fame.

Instead, our nation has been bathed in the artificial glow of broadcast media camera lighting for our story of alleged home-grown terrorism.

While the news seems eerily similar to reports we have heard from far-away regions of the world, this time the landscape has an unsettling familiarity to it.

There was something surreal about hearing of alleged terrorist plots to blow up media outlets — including the Toronto headquarters of the CBC — to storm our national Legislature, taking federal politicians hostage, and the most extreme allegation — a plan to behead Canada's prime minister.

Generations of Canadians have toiled to boost our country's standing in the international community. It's ironic an alleged homegrown terrorist cell would give our nation the kind of international notice many of us have long sought.

Not since the SARS outbreak of a couple of years ago has Canada received so much unwanted attention from the rest of the world.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

We can't judge an entire culture by actions of a few

DEAR EDITOR:

The Halton Multicultural Council wishes to express its concern for the families associated with the Rexdale Mosque, who have experienced apparent backlash from the recent arrest of 17 men suspected of terrorism.

As an agency helping immigrants and refugees settle in Canada — and a strong promoter of peace and understanding of our fellow human beings — we implore the people of Halton to thoughtfully and respectfully allow the judicial system to take its course and not act out of fear.

One can't define a faith or a cultural community on the actions of a very few.

Canada is comprised of a rich diversity that has acted as a strong foundation for our great country. Our multiculturalism should be protected and embraced.

The Halton Multicultural Council continues to promote and support unity in diversity in our community through many initiatives such as diversity training and community events like the Multiculturalism Day picnic and anti-discrimination/cross-cultural awareness workshops in all Halton schools.

HALTON MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Comments on traffic lights quite selfish

DEAR EDITOR:

With reference to the letter to the editor in the May 30 Champion, I read with disappointment the selfish attitude of reader Chris Bennett, who refers to 'selfish drivers and the brainiacs at Town Hall'.

For the past 15 years I've driven through pristine agricultural country and made comfortable left turns at Fifth Line and Derry Road. Unfortunately, due to development — which can't be avoided — I've had to reroute and add 15 minutes onto my daily trip because it became perilous to drive down Derry Road.

When I saw the traffic lights go up at

Fifth Line and Derry Road I thanked the 'Lord of the Brainiacs at Town Hall' for their foresight.

Can you imagine the problems that would arise without lights there when the widening of Derry Road to four lanes is completed?

In closing, I wonder if Bennett would suggest to the 'brainiacs' in Toronto to remove the traffic lights on Younge Street to allow traffic to have a clear path, and in doing so ignore the problems of traffic entering from St. Clair and Eglinton.

ALAN CROST
CAMPBELLVILLE

Flamborough quarry would affect Milton too

DEAR EDITOR:

Just across our Milton boundary line in Flamborough, there's a huge and I believe potentially environmentally destructive 68-hectare quarry that's being proposed.

Though this humongous quarry is slated for Flamborough, the impacts — most of them, I think, being negative — will be dramatically felt in Milton, too. I believe if allowed to proceed, there's absolutely no doubt that the citizens and wildlife of Milton will pay a heavy and completely non-recoverable price — all for the sake of someone else's bottom-line profits.

What about our bottom line? According to real estate folks, just with the quarry proposal being on the table in Flamborough, surrounding property values in Milton have decreased by well over 25 per cent. Who pays for our losses? Or is it assumed that citizens just accept property value reductions as a way of life in Milton? What about our tax assessments? Should they not reflect this actuality?

Should we not have government representatives who stand up for what is right for the citizens of Milton?

I'd suggest that our town council and our regional council act accordingly and stand up for citizens' rights in Milton by unanimously and aggressively opposing this quarry proposal, even if it is in Flamborough.

It goes without saying that our environment — air, water and noise — and our wildlife need the full protection that our local councils can and should supply. Please, no excuses.

If this quarry nightmare ever does become a reality, the additional 1,000 trucks per 10-hour day will make rural Milton just another heavily used highway.

In simple terms and with no excuses, I think Milton and Halton councils need to help put the brakes on this quarry proposal.

BOB BEYETTE
CAMPBELLVILLE

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