

# OPINION

## Documentary too convenient?

It's encouraging that Halton students are being taught to carefully consider the environment in which they live and what they can do to minimize the size of their 'footprint' they leave behind.

While global warming, recycling issues, energy conservation and a rapid decline in various species of wildlife have been topics of discussion in classrooms for years, it is the hype over the film *An Inconvenient Truth* that has educators, students and parents really talking about the condition of our great planet.

Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore has been on a whirlwind public relations tour pitching his Oscar-winning flick. The politician-turned-environmental activist was in Toronto Saturday where he pounced on Ottawa's climate change strategy describing it as a "total fraud."

It is always easy to sit in the critic's seat (where Gore now finds himself) so while his remarks make for good debate, one wonders why this former second-most-powerful man in the U.S. was not as vocal when in office.

Obviously impressed with the message in Gore's documentary, Halton's two school boards are giving teachers of Grades 7 to 12 students the opportunity to utilize DVDs of *An Inconvenient Truth*, and the accompanying book written by Gore, in their classrooms.

Environmental company SunOpta, located on the Halton Hills/Brampton border, donated 60 special edition discs to the boards.

Last week 900 students from eight public and one Catholic school attended a screening of portions of this much-talked-about documentary courtesy of SunOpta.

"As a company that is strongly committed to healthy and sustainable living, we believe that educating our youth in this all-important area is integral to our future," says SunOpta Chair Jeremy Kendall on the company's website.

SunOpta considers itself a large player in the natural, organic and specialty foods business as well as alternate fuels. The film's website has direct links to ethanol-based fuel cars. Is it any wonder that this burgeoning green business is a proponent of *An Inconvenient Truth*?

Yes, it is critical to debate climate change. Yes, it is critical to change our wasteful habits. However, it is just as critical to ensure Halton students receive a 'global' perspective on this issue and not just use Gore's documentary as a convenient education tool.



## ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com).

### Offloading delays quite concerning

DEAR EDITOR:

The Champion's April 20 article about offloading delays at our hospital and a lack of available paramedic ambulances should ring alarm bells to every Halton politician and resident.

This problem is a glaring sign of too rapid regional growth. The fact that offloading delays are creeping into Halton hospitals is evidence that resources are being stripped from our emergency medical services and hospi-

tal facilities. It is the tip of a larger healthcare-problem iceberg that will spill over to every Halton hospital.

Offload delays are not unique by nature, only new to Halton. We can no longer ignore or be immune to this problem. It exists in many Canadian urban centres such as Brampton, Mississauga, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and Vancouver.

Patients in these areas can wait from  
• see TRANSFER on page A7

## Editor'sdesk

### You really don't need as much stuff as you might think

Well it's May and the *Champion's* editorial department hasn't yet made it to our new temporary office on Industrial Drive.

But we're with you in spirit.

Very soon, however, we will be back in town following late February's massive fire that sent our journalists to our sister newspaper, the *Oakville Beaver*. The hold-up is receiving and setting up our work stations.

One thing I learned from the fire is that there really are a lot of things we keep that we really don't need. They may come in handy at some point, but in a pinch, you really don't need them.

I thought I had lost almost everything due to the fire, but recently I learned that much of my paperwork and documents had been recovered and stored for possible refurbishing. However, the cost involved in restoring them from the smoke and/or water damage

didn't really make sense considering I could regain most of the documents from the Internet, our head office or other departments and co-workers if I really needed them.

I also had many books that I hadn't looked at in years so when it came down to it, they just weren't worth saving. The papers/files I did decide to keep mostly centred around upcoming special projects for which much of the work had already been done.

Speaking of which, as the *Champion* isn't letting up on any projects planned prior to the fire, I'd like to inform you about some upcoming features.

Leading up to the Town's 150th anniversary in June, we will be running a series featuring many of the people who have helped

shape this town and are still here to tell us about it. I'm not going to give away the identities of the chosen ones but I'm sure some names and faces have already come to mind.

In conjunction with the anniversary we will also be running a special section, created in partnership with the Milton Historical Society, celebrating Milton's accomplishments.

And while we're on the topic of our town's past, many residents will be happy to know the

bound book copies of the *Champion*, dating back to the late 1800s, were recovered from the fire.

Thanks for asking, and reading.

Karen Miceli can be reached at [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com).



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