

Caledon Citizen

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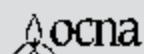
DISPLAY ADS and

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Editorial

Don't forget to give something at the Holidays, no matter how hard it might be

No one needs to be told that these have been tough economic times.

True, there has been some optimistic news being heard of late, but there is still some way to go before we are out of this recession.

As if recessions don't cause enough troubles, they result in increased demands being placed on the social safety nets that we all hope we will never have to use. The truth is a lot more people are having to avail themselves of these services.

And charitable organizations are hurting too. Demands for the help from these groups are high, and many of them fear that their usual donors and supporters might not be able to be as generous as they have been in the past.

We are hearing many appeals this time of year. We are asked to help those who are hungry, who are cold, who may be in danger of losing the roof over their heads. And they are coming at a time when a lot of us are strapped ourselves.

Not very appealing conditions, are they?

But the reality is this is a time when those who are in a position to give, even if it's just a little, need to step up.

Some of you may not be able to give very much. Well, a little bit is a lot better than nothing, and in times such as this, they won't go unnoticed, or unappreciated.

Caledon Community Services are working on their annual Santa Fund this year, and they have already expressed concerns over the increased demand for the program this year. With increased demand comes the need for the rest of us to meet it with supply.

There are other charitable efforts in the community too. There are the drives to drum up more donations for the food banks. And there are toy drives, aimed at putting some smiles on the faces of some children who might otherwise have to accept that Santa Claus somehow forgot them.

There are plenty of worthy causes to choose from this time of year, and no one needs to be reminded that the need is very real. At least pick one of these causes, and give what you can. If you can somehow help out more than one, then go for it.

In times of need, no contribution is too small.

Our Readers Write

Allan Drive School appreciates support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rotary Club of Bolton for their generosity and support of Allan Drive Middle School.

The Rotary Club of Bolton, under the leadership of Rotarian Tom Kitamura, hosted a fund-raising gala Nov. 5 that raised \$9,000 in support of student success at Allan Drive. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Caledon community that attended the gala. From the keynote speaker Linda Kitamura, to chef Henry – so many people donated their time and talents to create one very special evening.

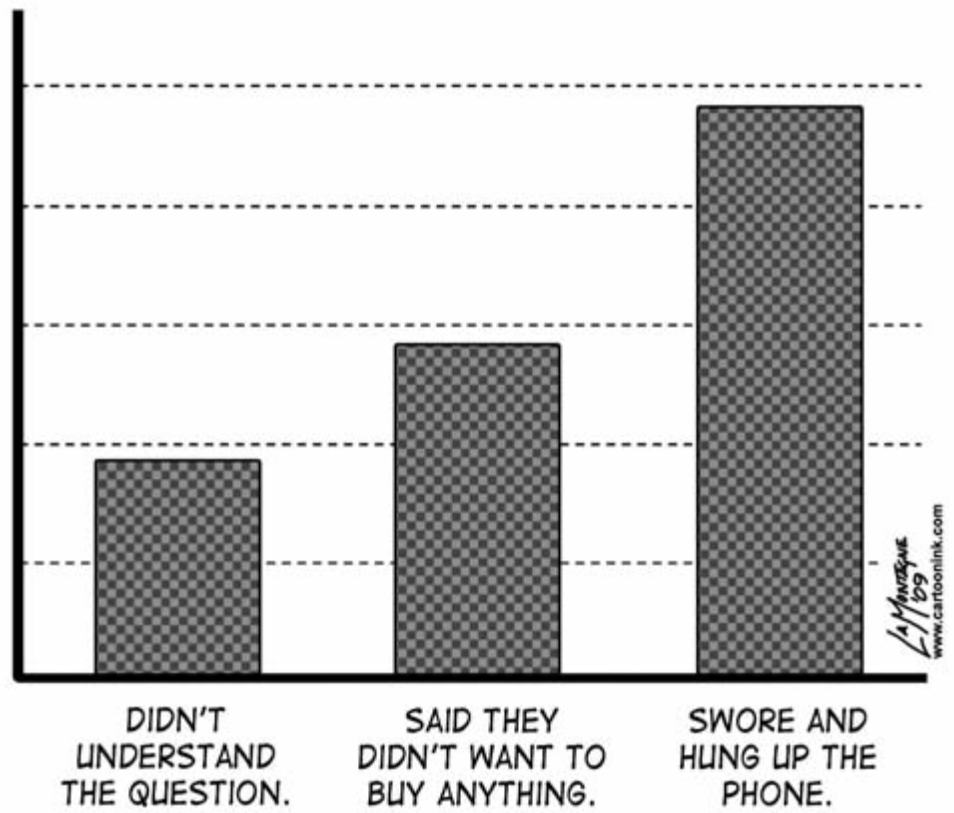
Student musicians and artists were thrilled to perform and display artwork at their first gala. It is not every day that our students are showcased at such a prestigious event.

If you walk into Allan Drive, you can read our mission statement on the walls: best students, best staff, best school, best community. Certainly on this particular evening, students, staff and community worked together to shine and to put children first.

R. Ward,
Principal,

Allan Drive Middle School

POLLING RESULTS WE NEVER SEE.



Street cars are not fun, but better than driving downtown

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) has been in the news a lot lately.

At first, people were concerned with the announced fare hikes; and there were the efforts of some to hoard tokens in anticipation of that rather bothersome, but understandable, event. And then the Commission tries to halt this practice by limiting the number of tokens one can purchase at any one time; a pointless and counterproductive exercise, if you asked me. Buying many tokens in bulk puts money immediately into the TTC coffers, which I have always understood is a good thing. And the people who would do it are likely fairly regular users of the line, so the hoarded supply is only going to last so long. So, apart from matters pertaining to the supply of tokens, which is finite, I still have to wonder what exactly is the problem?

The TTC does not operate in these parts, but we are all close to Toronto, and most of us occasionally have to venture into the big city. A lot of us, myself included, even carry a supply of tokens in the event that we have to make use of the Rocket. My supply is in the small container in which I carry my change, and there have been a couple of times when, in haste, I have included a token in the pile of coins I have been using to make a purchase, thinking it was a dime. I always catch the error in time (I hope).

Twice in the last couple of weeks, personal business has required me to make trips into the heart of the



Bill Rea

financial district of Toronto. Both occasions saw me finding places to park for free and taking the transit system to my destination (you have to guess where these free parking facilities are).

The first time was along the Queen street car line, a mode of transportation that I have never particularly enjoyed. As a little kid, the motion, combined with the smell of the leather seats, produced more than its share of problems, of a nauseous variety.

The memories of Feb. 6, 1965 are still strong in me. That was my seventh birthday, and my Dad had somehow snagged tickets for a pair of Green seats to the Leafs' game that night. Leaf tickets were about as hard to come by then as they are now, although there was a good reason for that in those days (the Buds were winning their fair share of Stanley Cups). This was a couple of months before the Bloor-Danforth subway line opened, and since only an idiot would have tried to park an automobile in the vicinity of Maple Leaf Gardens on a hockey night,

the street car was the best way to travel. But I was having trouble on the trip home. My young stomach was issuing messages of distress, and things we not helped by all the popcorn, peanuts and other munchies I had gobbled down during the game, not to mention birthday cake, etc., prior to that. The fact the Leafs lost 6-3 to Chicago wasn't much of a stomach-settler either. I eventually explained my problems to my old man, and he suggested we get off and find a cab to get home. That was an easy sell. A couple of days later, he confided in me that he had always had similar problems on street cars, so he wasn't too upset, even if it meant picking up cab fare.

So while the smell of leather seats isn't as strong as it once was on street cars, it's still not my favourite way of getting around. On the other hand, when one considers the way traffic moves in downtown Toronto, combined with the complications of trying to find reasonably priced parking on Bay Street, for me on that occasion, the "better way" was definitely better. At least it was getting into downtown, if one can possibly set aside the fact that I stood there for about 20 minutes waiting for a street car (as if I had nothing better to do).

The trip getting out of downtown was a lot worse. For one thing, evening rush hour was about to start. That meant, among other things, not getting a seat. That was-

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