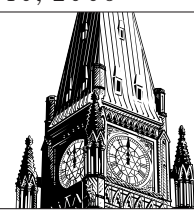


LETTERS



I'm a convert

It's too bad the City of Ottawa decided not to extend the green bin program to rural areas. The pilot was a success.
Joe Banks, A10



Mona Lisa in the buff

Lizzie Miller is a sort of 21st century Mona Lisa. Her smiling image in Glamour magazine has a message for all women.
Elizabeth Payne, A13



WAYNE CUDDINGTON, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN.

Wendy O'Keefe writes that building an Ottawa cancer support centre in our city is important and definitely past due.

Cancer patients, caregivers need a wellspring of good advice, counselling

Re: Ottawa cancer centre fundraising under way, Sept. 5.

I was so pleased to see this *Citizen* article, which included part of the letter of support I wrote for infrastructure funding. Building the Well-spring Ottawa — Cancer Survivorship Centre is so important, and definitely past due.

As a caregiver, fear of doing things wrong and of not being aware of everything you need to know is a constant companion.

On top of the sadness and shock you deal with following a devastating diagnosis, the many things that must be done are overwhelming and exhausting — treatments, doctors appointments, medical tests, all of the regular day-to-day family obligations, caring for your children, working for a living — and leave very lit-

tle headspace to be able to think clearly. But clear thought and a lot of energy are required to be on top of the many new things you have to learn and keep track of (managing the side-effects of treatments, pain management, nutrition, exercise, finding emotional and mental health support, financial advice, how to deal with the realities of palliative care at home and so on) and to research where you might find this knowledge.

And all of this is happening when all you really want to do is spend the best quality of time you can with the person you love. My husband David and I worked hard to really live each day with each other and our family and friends.

I am grateful for the care my husband was given during his six-and-

a-half-year cancer journey, and the extra time I know we had together because of the expertise and advocacy of his wonderful doctors. A support centre such as the one being proposed would have made the road easier to navigate.

The term "quality of life" is often overused, and some people's eyes sort of glaze over when they hear it — until they are in a serious health situation. Then, quality of life is everything.

I strongly urge all levels of government to get involved in this great project and lend their support as it is going to have an impact on so many local residents. It's something my family, and thousands of others like us in this community, could benefit from when dealing with cancer.
WENDY E. O'KEEFE, Carp

Overserving at bars is very scary news

Re: Overserved investigative series, Sept. 5-8.

I thank *Citizen* reporter Glen McGregor for this enlightening investigation of the serious situation of infractions taking place at our Ottawa bars. I was truly disgusted to read the list of the bars with the most infractions, and shocked to read that more than one in every three bars or restaurants in the ByWard Market has been cited for a serious liquor licensing violation during the past five years. This is very scary news.

I was surprised that a bar isn't allowed to have intoxicated persons on the premises. Seldom have I been in a bar where that was not the norm. Staff who work in establishments that serve alcohol are required to have taken the "smart-serve program," which is very definitive in its rules and regulations, but how many of these servers actually adhere to these?

My 21-year-old daughter Heather was killed in an alcohol-related hit-and-run accident 10 years ago by a Carleton Place bar patron who had spent several hours drinking and then got into his

vehicle to drive home impaired.

After reading the *Citizen* articles, I can see why there is an average of four persons killed daily across Canada by impaired drivers. I believe bars are responsible for a lot of this carnage.

If your bar is on the list, you should be ashamed. I hope the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario cracks down even more.
KATHY SADLER, Ottawa

Silent running mowers

Why, oh why, do people with postage-stamp suburban lawns insist on having loud, smelly, polluting two-stroke gasoline-powered lawn mowers?

My little property, identical in size to those of neighbours, takes less than half an hour to mow with my near-silent "manual" reel-style mower. If laziness or inconvenience lets the grass get too long and dense for the reel, then I bring out the (relatively quiet) 20-year-old electric.

What could possibly justify a gas mower being used on a small property?

Huge properties of which there are none around my place require use of riding mowers or a law-cutting ser-

vice. Landscape services need gas push-mowers, but they work quickly and efficiently and know how to set the choke — unlike my cross-the-yard neighbour who has restarted his two dozen times in two hours and still can't figure it out. Everybody else, how in the world can you possibly justify the noise and pollution of a gasoline mower?
KEVIN MCLAUCHLAN, Ottawa

Stop this homophobia

Re: Lesbian war deserter pleads for asylum, Sept. 9.

If President Barack Obama wishes the U.S. army to be seen as a moral force that promotes justice and human rights, he must crack down severely on incidents of homophobia within its ranks. NATO cannot pretend to fight the obscurantism of the Taliban and other extremist groups when the NATO's leading army does not respect its own minorities.
FRED MAROUN, Ottawa

Evocative details

Re: Pregnant teenager haunted by fatal fire, Sept. 2.

In times of tragedy, especially one involving a child, a community needs to unre-

servedly provide support to those directly impacted by misfortune.

As a *Citizen* reader, I am disappointed by what I see as a sensationalist bent in the coverage of the death of three-year-old Damien Desjardins-Seguin. For more than a week, reports on the house fire which killed Damien have repeatedly mentioned that Seguin's girlfriend is a pregnant teen.

I think that the *Citizen's* over-emphasis on these evocative details has added a very cheap slant to a genuine and heart-breaking family tragedy. Thankfully, the good people of Ottawa have not been influenced by the *Citizen* coverage as support efforts continue to grow for the Desjardins and Seguin families.

A father and mother have lost their baby. A five-year-old brother has lost his sibling. A three-year-old twin has lost his counterpart. And a young woman has lost a beautiful portion of her blended family. This is the Desjardins-Seguin tragedy.

I urge the *Citizen* to stick to these facts while covering this story, and abandon the subtle commentary on the state of the family unit.
SHANNON MILLS, Kanata

I can't support Lansdowne Live for traffic chaos

Re: Time for a clean sweep at City Hall, Sept. 6.

Columnist Randall Denley may be upset with council's treatment of Lansdowne Park but, despite the charming pictures, the Lansdowne Park partnership fails the first principles of planning — how to get large numbers of people to and from this major destination.

No modern city would permit a shopping complex with more than 25,000 square meters of retail space, 2,700-square-metre food store, 1,100-seat cinema, two office towers, etc., without access to rapid transit. There is none at this site, and the road infrastructure surrounding Lansdowne Park is not built to accommodate the traffic that would result.

No modern city would permit a 26,000-seat stadium and 8,000-seat arena on the same site without access to rapid transit. Indeed, the City of Ottawa's official plan, the legal document that guides the city's growth, requires retail complexes and major public facilities each to access rapid transit. It's not here.

The proposal provides only 1,385 parking spaces for a sports and shopping complex which would, under current policies, require more than 10,700 spaces.

This is another failure in planning.

The proponents expect the local neighbourhoods to absorb 5,000 cars, but that leaves the rest searching for

non-existent parking on nearby streets.

The proponents propose adding 180 buses on Bank Street for events of up to 45,000 people at Lansdowne but such transit will be slow to clear the area and will face about 15,000 cars leaving as well — a recipe for gridlock. For events of more than 45,000 people, the proponents plan to have more buses on Queen Elizabeth Drive leaving every 30 to 60 seconds for the Transitway five kilometres away. The proponents' expectation that public transit can clear 15,000 people from Lansdowne while 30,000 others leave by car at the same time is unrealistic. The infrastructure is not there.

While some point to the glory days when thousands thronged to Lansdowne to watch football in its heyday, it is not the same city any more.

Ottawa today has 800,000 people and will reach a million in three decades. We are building a rapid transit network, which includes a downtown tunnel, precisely because we cannot handle loading people into buses every 30 to 60 seconds.

Why commit to 30 to 50 years of traffic chaos in the name of nostalgia? Let's do this right. If we want a sports stadium, then put it where rapid transit is. That would be good planning.

ALEX CULLEN, Ottawa Bay Ward Councillor

Law must acknowledge collaborative parenting

Re: Children come first in divorce: minister, Aug. 18.

Regarding the Family Court's treatment of mothers and fathers, certainly the idea of collaborative family law seems an excellent one in theory. But the current legal system has allowed the pendulum to swing too far in the other direction for it to be a viable alternative.

Women know that the family court system is skewed greatly in their favour. Granted, the system of 25 years ago was just as unfair, but with the warranted evolution of women as breadwinners and of men as caregivers, it's time for the pendulum to veer back toward the centre.

It's a question of equality — if women are justifiably regarded in all aspects of legislation as equal in skill recog-

inition, pay and advancement, how can we support a system that discriminates against men as parental caregivers?

It is telling in that when I compare an Internet search for "divorced dads" versus "divorced moms," the top sites for males are resources, legal advice and support groups. In the case of divorced moms, the top results are dating sites.

It's high time that all parents begin acting upon the premise that they love their children more than they hate their ex-spouse. The legislative system must begin rewarding parents who demonstrate this credo, regardless of gender. There will never truly be equality of the sexes until this comes to pass.
ROB HENDERSON, Ottawa

Pedal pushers program teaches young cyclists

It has been a difficult summer for cyclists in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario.

There has been much discussion about who bears the brunt of responsibility. Certainly, car drivers have a higher duty to care for the control of their vehicles, I think that much can be agreed upon.

I remember as a child in Edmonton taking the "pedal pushers" program that was held at a shopping mall parking lot in the early evenings.

There were lessons on control and balance of the bike and the hand signals for turning or stopping, etc. There

still is a summer "pedal pushers" program operated by the Alberta Safety Council for elementary school children in Edmonton.

As we try to encourage our children to develop healthy living habits as well as treating our environment with respect, perhaps it is time to establish a children's bike safety program in our communities.

I'm willing to bet that parents would want this formal training early in their child's life. It would start our kids off right.
SIOBHAN MULDOWNY, Perth

DIANA NELSON

Professional Real Estate Sales Representative,
Motivator, Music Lover... Striking
Shops at Shepherd's



"I like looking unique, and Shepherd's has exactly what I need to achieve the look."

When life handed her a lemon and Diana Nelson had to start over, looking great was part of the healing process. At five-foot-eight, she easily achieves the dramatic look she loves and carries it off with flair. "I'm lucky that I can wear many unique styles," she says. "But I usually wear fairly simple things then add a big, gorgeous piece of jewellery or even two, or three ... and a wrap ... to complete the look." Heads turn when Diana enters a room.

Shepherd's

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