



# COMMUNITY VOICES

THE HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NEWS WELCOMES YOUR LETTERS. PLEASE SEE GUIDELINES AT BOTTOM OF PAGE OR CALL 905-523-5800 EXT. 335



## MOUNTAIN NEWS

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## Is your contractor licenced? Likely Not!

The City of Hamilton does a fantastic job in attempting to protect its citizens from botched home renovations, illegal and dangerous work from the guy that gets fired from the gas station, picks up a few tools the very next day and then calls himself a handyman or contractor — offering to remodel your entire basement, with no permit and for cash!

Hamilton has a Master Building Repair Trade Licence. Contractors must first obtain a police clearance then pass a two-hour examination on the Ontario Building Code and have contractor's liability insurance. How is that for instilling consumer confidence in knowing exactly who to hire to work on your home?

For the homeowner, it means there is a way of separating the real professionals from the crooks, amateurs and wannabes. Let's face it, the added benefit of the police clearance can't hurt.

Would you want to give a criminal a deposit and a key, and then leave them alone in your home all day long?

You are doing just that if your contractor does not have the Hamilton Master Building Repair Trade Licence!

My studies have shown (real studies with real Hamilton homeowners for the last decade) that in the city of Hamilton, over 85 per cent of contractors are not licenced.

During the summer months, the



BOBBY ASSADOURIAN  
COMMUNITY COLUMNIST

city goes to the extent of hiring part-time students to seek out these unlicenced contractors through newspaper and online advertisements and then threatens them with a fine unless they report to city hall and immediately write the contractor exam.

Why is there such a high number of unlicenced contractors in Hamilton?

It's because Hamilton homeowners continue to hire them!

Unlicenced contractors are very affordable. Permits are not used because the city would not even issue the permit to an unlicenced contractor and taxes are not charged (like I said, very affordable home renovations).

Would you want to give a criminal a deposit and a key, and then leave them alone in your home all day long? You are doing just that if your contractor does not have the Hamilton Master Building Repair Trade Licence.

How much have you truly saved if your deposit is stolen and the work is never started?

Bobby Assadourian is a real licenced Hamilton contractor, specializing in home improvements and repairs. He is also a member of the Hamilton Contractor Trade Licensing Board where he is responsible for administering and grading the new contractor exams. He is also host of the Just Ask Bob Home Improvement Show on Hamilton Cable 14. For more information on this topic, see justaskbob.com or call (289) 649-0196. If you would like to write in this space, call editor Gord Bowes at 905-664-8800 ext. 335 or email editor@hamiltounmountainnews.com to discuss.

## Public consult necessary

re: Lime Ridge owners want to redevelop 'eyesore' property (Oct. 18)

Ward 8 Coun. Terry Whitehead was correct in saying that the public should have more of a say in the redevelopment of the parcels of land near Lime Ridge Mall, on Limeridge Road East, which could potentially involve cutting off nearby residents' access to Upper Wentworth Street.

Public participation and a healthy community environment are important for residents and the redevelopment of this "eyesore" is a prime example for these two aspects. The residents living near the proposed redevelopment will be affected by any changes, short-term or long-term, and undoubtedly, a community atmosphere has been created within their neighbourhoods. It is the right of the residents to have continued access to

Upper Wentworth if they so choose and they should be further informed, consulted and given the opportunity to have their voices heard. It is, after all, their neighbourhood.

The redevelopment of this land is an excellent idea and as a proud Hamiltonian I have always thought that this area should be rehabilitated. It will surely provide new jobs and retail to the area, as currently suggested by Cadillac Fairview Corp, in what was otherwise abandoned lots. However, it is important that emphasis is placed on public participation in the matter, with the goal of enhancing the community atmosphere in the area as well as increasing the reputation and demand for commercial enterprise on the Hamilton Mountain.

Richard Kelly-Ruetz  
Hamilton

## Times change but not Britain's fault

re: History lesson for Dusty Corners (Letters, Oct. 18)

I work in a field with lots of social interaction. My experience is that the few people getting upset over some issue or other are proof that they are the outliers and do not represent the majority view. A few odd opinions hating our British past do not represent the majority, nor do they represent a decent or respectable perspective on our history. My ancestors fled from poverty and persecution to live here under British rule: a stern and tough rule, but for the most part quite fair and safe. There was no other empire in world history that afforded so much protection and rights to its subjects. Yes, we are talking about a bygone age, and yes not everything done 200 years ago would be palatable today. But

today's Canada and Commonwealth is a direct evolution out of the rights granted by King John of England at Runnymede in 1215 A.D. and then expanded in 1688 with the Bill of Rights. These rights come from no other source: not from Muhammad, Rome, Athens, the Bible, China, India, France or Native Canadians. These rights are British and a product of British genius, British internecine strife, and British civilization.

Anyone hating our British inheritance is hating the essence of our nationhood. Being critical and thoughtful about it is always a good thing, but rejecting it outright from some sort of romantic delusion of how history doesn't work, is folly.

Chris Miller  
Hamilton Mountain

## Dusty Corners needs no history lesson

re: History lesson for Dusty Corners (Letters, Oct. 18)

I read with interest Dusty Corners in the last two issues. Persuasive arguments can be made on either side for or against the British traditions we still maintain. We are who we are and have a stable parliamentary system that is the envy of most of the world. No tin pot dictator can change our system to suit his/her desires. What we have works very well. Separatists and Republicans may want to strip this away and justify it with their own

interpretation of our history. For my part, I am a proud Canadian and wouldn't change any procedure that enables our current system. On the recent passing of Lincoln Alexander, I wonder how he might have viewed swearing allegiance to the queen of Canada.

Colwyn, like Linc, donned the uniform and deserves the right to defend his beliefs. He certainly doesn't need a history lesson.

Frank J. Croskerry  
Hamilton Mountain

## School delays not necessarily contractors' fault

re: We're paying extra for school delays (Letters, Oct. 18)

Sandi Horton wrote that she hopes that the board is receiving some kind of monetary compensation from the contractors for every day that the construction is not completed. I'd like to tell Sandi Horton that perhaps she should do some research as to the actual reasons for the delays.

Perhaps the principal of the school doesn't exactly want to get into the

reasons with her personally. My father has been running construction on two schools over the summer and I can tell her that my father has been working seven days a week to ensure completion. So, Sandi Horton, perhaps there were delays that you weren't made privy to. Before you blame the contractors, you should do your research!

Kelly Ann Scott  
Ancaster

We love to hear what you think

Send a letter to the editor

editor@hamiltonmountainnews.com

## Submitting your letter to the NEWS



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