

# BeaconStar

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## OUR OPINION

### Pit stop needed

A local resident who owns a recreational vehicle recently brought to one town councillor's attention the fact the only RV dumping station in Parry Sound has permanently closed. The station was dismantled for construction of a new information centre south of town.

Most Parry Sound residents don't own RVs. For those who do, they probably don't often need a station to dump human waste in Parry Sound, because that's where their trip starts. So, at first glance, this doesn't seem like much of a problem.

It is. For a community where most of the economy is based on money spent by seasonal residents and visitors, this is an example of failing to welcome our tourists. Whether they are heading north or south, RV owners must now plan not to stop in Parry Sound with a full load of waste, but to stop in Sudbury or Barrie, the nearest communities along Highway 400 with a place to empty the tanks.

Along with a lack of waterfront fueling for boats and a less-than-welcoming town entrance, this is another reason for tourists not to stop. The town and business people need to pay attention to details, because vacationers demand it.

A waste station for RVs, while not cheap, would not be a multi-million-dollar project. It would encourage families and retirees to buy a coffee, maybe lunch. While their tanks empty, visitors might pick up a brochure about the community and decide to take a cruise or pull into a bed and breakfast.

Right now, RV owners might drive around town in frustration, searching for a place to empty waste, and then head to Sudbury. At worst, they will simply wish this were a welcoming place to stop, and head on by. With recent and ongoing improvements along Highway 400, more tourists will inevitably drive through the West Parry Sound District looking for our lakes and forests – the envy of city dwellers. The only question is where they choose to stop.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Thank you firefighters

To the editor:

On Sunday past, at 1 p.m., an explosion rocked my house. I was alone and a tree came down in the wind taking out our telephone and hydro lines and landing on my car and garage roof. Fire was erupting from the hydro stack and I was afraid that fire would enter the roof and underlying insulation. Our woodstove was also on at the time. Seguin (Humphrey) firefighters responded to my 911 call on my cell phone within a very short few minutes. A fantastic gal arrived first, helped to settle me down, and I thank her for the hug. Needless to say, we were very lucky – a crushed windshield, small dents and a blackened outside house wall. While the firefighters were here, they

inspected our smoke detectors. One was working, the other old with a dead battery. Our gas and carbon monoxide detectors could not be tested because they run on hydro. My husband was at the Foley Agricultural Hall helping run a Halloween party for the youngsters. Before he left in the morning, I had reminded him that today was the day to check the fire and smoke detectors.

I cannot stress how important this is. My gratitude to the Parry Sound Ambulance crew who helped to quell my severe anxiety and the kind firefighters. We were very lucky. A reminder to all, check your detector.

Carol Ann Bott  
Parry Sound

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THE ONE BOOK THAT NOBEL SCHOOL'S LIBRARY SHOULD HAVE HAD - BUT DIDN'T...



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### War in Iraq just a game of propoganda

To the editor:

This letter isn't in regard to a news article printed by the *North Star*, but rather one that I happen to have come across while reading an article found on www.canoe.ca

It astonishes me that a headline such as *100th U.S. death in Iraq in Oct.* would appear anywhere in Canadian news media, let alone on Canadian news media websites. I must say that it disgusts me to read such an article.

As a first year student of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, I find myself drawing parallels between what I read in newspapers today, and what my grandparents saw on a day-to-day basis during World War II. That's right folks, I'm drawing parallels to WWII because guess what? We're living in WWII. The particular piece of propoganda from WWII that I'm referring to (although there is an endless supply) would be a poster of a boy and a girl, looking up into the sky at the fighter planes used for battle overseas. By the looks of the poster, the boy is telling his sister that "Daddy helps build them" as he points at the planes overhead. At the bottom of

this poster, it reads "To Protect OUR FREEDOM". Sound familiar? I can remember countless times that U.S. President George W. Bush has spoken about how this was a "War of Democracy, a War of Freedom."

But wait a minute Mr. Bush, wasn't WWII the "War to end all wars?" Now I'm a bit confused.

In the article regarding the *100th U.S. death in Oct.* it amazes me how much the Western society is being flooded with propoganda. Like the pride depicted in the poster of little Johnny and his sister Suzie, we seem to take pride that the soldier deaths in this war, while tragic, are for the "greater good" of getting the "bad guys" in Iraq. The question at hand is, how do we not see this propoganda? In my Grade 10 history class at Parry Sound High School, I distinctly remember doing a project on war propoganda. Why is it that this propoganda, which we all can recognize, is such an acceptable form of communication today? I was very fortunate to have a very good history teacher at PSHS. Mr. Lund is a man of passion and integrity, especially when it comes to politics and war. Two years ago

while I was taking his American History course, he informed the class that we never hear reports on how many people have died in Iraq, except when it happens to be one of the "good guys". He then informed us that over 100,000 Iraqi's have lost their lives because of this war.

Now let me ask everyone this, how many Iraqis have died since the beginning of Iraq war? 200,000? 250,000? 400,000?...over 600,000 people have died! We talk about how many U.S. soldiers have died in the month of October, and how it's reached 100 - but think about how many Iraqis die per day.

Without us realizing it, we've entered into a new world, a world of war and greed. It's time to wake up folks, and smell the coffee that has exploited millions of people just so that it can reach our greedy little hands. Sure, we'll win this "war of democracy, or war of freedom" eventually, but only because there will not be a single Iraqi left. Well, let's just flood it with people who aren't Iraqis and call it "the U.S. republic of Iraq!"

Mathew Brown, student  
Wilfrid Laurier University

### Heaps of praise for success of local play

To the editor:

A standing ovation for Maia Vimboile and the Dido and Aeneas Opera that took place at the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, October 22nd.

It was delightful to see the Festival Hall hosting such a performance. It was quite clear from the magnitude of the project that a tremendous amount of time and effort had gone into the success of the performance.

The staff and board of the Festival of the Sound wish to congratulate Ms. Vimboile and all those in the cast and crew for their success.

Margaret Ibey  
Festival of the Sound president