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Reaching many milestones

The release of 'footprints' in last week's edition of The Scope was one of many milestones the paper has reached within the past year.

The paper's circulation has gone from 800 to 13,000, and it is now available online. The number of pages in the paper generally runs between 16 to 20 pages, and just over a year ago it was struggling at 12.

'footprints' has been well received by the community and the feedback we have been receiving has been phenomenal! Many of our readers have called the office to tell us it is a welcome addition to their home, while others are stopping me in my tracks, whether I am attending an event or shopping at the grocery store, and telling me what a wonderful piece it is, and what a great compliment it is to the newspaper.

I would like to take the time to thank all of

Comment

by Michelle Minnoch

the advertisers, who came on board, supporting our brand new endeavor. 'footprints' was a collaboration between myself, Diann in sales, and the girls in the office - our wonderful production team! Without the artistic expertise of these women, Joanne, Lisa, Kristen, Penny - the magazine would have a very different look. Contributors Bruce Haire and Wendy Soloduik brought a different perspective and insight to 'footprints' as well.

I also have to thank you, our readers! When I came on board in July 2005, The Scope was in a sink or swim situation. Although I graduated with a Journalism diploma, it had been 10 years

since I took notes, photos, and compiled a story.

Our reporters Susan Stein and Richard Blanchard will continue to keep you posted with Simcoe County and Cookstown news; Linda Gerow and Cathie Miller bring you all the information you need in Churchill and Thornton; and our youth columnist, Kaitlyn Blair, is quite popular and she is on the money, bringing Youth Noise and News to our community.

Thank you for supporting The Scope. Thank you for pointing out my hits and misses. Most of all, thanks for the encouragement to keep our paper going.

I will continue to bring all community events and meeting updates to our faithful readers. I have enjoyed meeting the great dynamic of people that make up our community, and will continue to bring you the latest news.

The Scope - Simcoe County Offers People Everything.

Debating road safety in Innisfil

Dear editor,

Why is it the Barrie/Innisfil border and other town borders are defined by how much ice & snow is on Innisfil's roads and none on Barrie's road. It is very dangerous to drive down Big Bay Pt Rd and Mapleview on Barrie's cleared roads only to be surprised by a sudden covering of ice/snow when you enter Innisfil. Why is it that when you see a plow they still leave two to four inches of ice/slush behind. Why are they not scraping down close to the pavement level. I understand the none paved roads but not paved. Do you think we could have the same road clearing policy that Barrie has. Innisfil's

road are all snow or ice covered, they have a sprinkle of sand down the middle of the road. Do you think we all drive down the middle. Innisfil receives a great amount of money from Georgian Downs, money which was taken away from Barrie yet Innisfil still can't or won't clear our roads. WHY? Is the safety of all Innisfil residents or non residents not as important as Barrie's. Maybe Innisfil should be held liable when the roads are treacherous and accidents occur.

Slipping & Sliding on Innisfil Roads

More readers fed up with accidents

Dear editor,

Re: resident fed up with 9th line accidents

These accidents are not just happening on the 9th line. I own a corner lot not at a major intersection and cars coming from the East to the stop sign, end up in my ditch on the west side of the street and once almost through my living room wall where I as sitting. Either the stop

signs needs to be bigger or have flashing lights on them Maybe we need to have stricter criteria on who holds a valid drivers license.

I think you said it when you stated "caused by someone going through the stop signs placed on the east and the west side ". Is the answer to have stop signs placed at every intersection on the 25th sideroad because of bad drivers not obeying

the rules of the road? The 25th sideroad is the only major street giving access to this area. We might just have more people running stop signs going north and south as well. Sorry, I realize that sometimes it is weather and road conditions related and not always avoidable.

Signed
25th Sideroad resident

News from the GICC - Business Education tax system needs reform

It is no secret that the property tax system in Ontario is seemingly illogical and a source of great frustration for the local taxpayer.

This is especially true for businesses across the province, particularly as it relates to the uneven levies they are charged to help fund our public education system.

While education funding in Ontario is doled out uniformly across the province on a per student basis by Queen's park, the rate levied to businesses in some communities is more than double

the rate businesses are charged in other jurisdictions. There is no justification for unequal provincial tax rates for similar business properties in different municipalities for the very same education system.

In fact, the average business tax rate is more than six times the residential tax rate, and can be up to 10 times higher.

Implementing a fair and uniform business education tax rate will have measurable economic benefits for the province, and will simplify and apply fairness to the system as a whole. This could be but one step

towards finally addressing the inconsistent and inequitable nature of Ontario's property tax system. Indeed, a wise tax policy is one that creates minimum distortions to economic growth and development. It is a proven economic fact that taxing consumption, rather than capital (such as business property tax), stimulates investment, jobs and business development. Many jurisdictions around the world have embraced this approach, and have shifted tax burdens away from the local property taxpayer.

The business community

understands that equalizing rates to a lower threshold will initially impact the provincial treasury through lower revenues. However, over a reasonable period of time, such costs would be offset through new economic development and increased investment in new production, equipment or human resources.

In addition, the province could streamline and improve other areas of the property tax system, and move to a more efficient harmonized sales tax.

Lion's Christmas Hamper Draw 2006

No we are not early for next year; just late in reporting 2006 winners. Congratulations to our winner Caroline, shown in the photo with Lions Doreen and Marilyn.

Our thanks go to all the purchasers of draw tickets as the proceeds will now be used to help local youngsters go to a Summer Camp based on beautiful Georgian Bay.

Added to various other

fundraisers this enabled the club to donate \$1,000.00 to the Camp to help fund children who could not otherwise afford the full cost.

My usual plea; We are still at only 6 members and require more assistance to share in the satisfaction of helping others.

Mike Richardson
Killarney Beach Lions -
456-3607

submitted photo

