

EDITORIAL

Staying Open

I'm sure most of us would prefer the economy and our society stay open. No more yo-yo effect from closing of public spaces, or the redirecting or special procedures to function under Covid changes. When will this all be done and past, finally? This desire flows through the minds of most of us daily. Certainly, we are all in this together, but what it feels like for many is, this effect doesn't matter.

But there is an opportunity being missed in all this melancholy colic. When we are watching so many around us going through similar personal stresses, they can seem magnified. There is a small solace in knowing this is not of our making, yet that doesn't eliminate outer stresses or inner concerns. With a problem on mass, there seems little encouragement from the together thing, at least for addressing our personal insecurities. This can seem to justify poor behaviour.

Does this togetherness prevent job loss, due to business slowdowns and closures? Does it change the minds of greedy residential landlords, so the many who are homeless can gain a warm safe place to live? Mostly not. Does it allow those who are unvaccinated (which, incidentally, needs no defending) to feel accepted by others' when they are reacting negatively? No.

So what good is it to be connected with others during a collective, unpleasant, prolonged experience? Let's examine this.

Firstly, shouldn't being in it together teach over-reactionary people to accept the pro-choice of others and prevent the labelling of them as paranoid or anti-vacs. Meaning, my body, my choice to not be vaccinated. These people have a principle belief; a preconceived established value, so it is the way they live when circumstances confront. It's always been the mark of a stable segment of society, reinforcing stability at large. This can put the thinking mind at ease, regarding people who choose and maintain a choice. Yet, this is becoming an excuse for a new type of prejudice, in a province where we assert we are working hard against that. By the simple order of things, reacting is not original thought but a knee-jerk response to stimuli, so, it is secondary. This implies the stimulus is compelling their activity.

So, I would recommend we keep on track, stay open to difference and allow the choice of others.

With so many taking vaccinations and

recommended booster shots, this should have bred a sense of security and protection for those who have taken them. So why are so many carrying an emotional uneasiness? I believe there is something more needed to impart a sense of peace in all of this.

Secondly, the media, by and large, have collaboratively propagated this new type of prejudice, tossing around the irresponsible label with disregard for lives becoming targeted by this promotion. I know of one account, locally, where an individual, after pre-ordering a meal, went to pick it up. They were unvaccinated, but were wearing an appropriate mask in the right manner. Yet, without any vaccination passport, they were threatened with physical violence by one of the employees there. This employee, misreading the recommendations, felt empowered to oppose those who didn't show proof of vaccination. It didn't stop there, they proceeded to yell at the customer, threatening them with physical violence, including tossing them bodily out of the establishment.

This may go further than most, but it is symptomatic of the building stress people carry. I don't travel in the extreme population like I used to, yet I have still been present when this attitude has been shared in smaller circles.

Have you ever experienced someone being upset about something who took it out on you, when you had nothing to do with it? I'm sure, everyone is recalling the sense of injustice, right now. What about times you may have done the same? It can even seem unconnected to what one is struggling with? This is known as an emotional trigger. It's a psychological term for anxious emotion building below the surface for a long time. Unidentified, it comes out when something is perceived as similar to what caused the emotional harm in the first place.

As Shakespeare wrote, "The truth will always out." Merchant of Venice, Act 2, Scene 2. This says we can never permanently bury feelings, they will always express themselves one way or another. It's the idea we need honesty, especially within ourselves. So, if we don't deal with our stuff, it will dump on others around and cause us to behave ugly, socially.

The Bible teaches, in Romans 12:18, "As far as it possible for you, be at peace with all men (people)." BBE

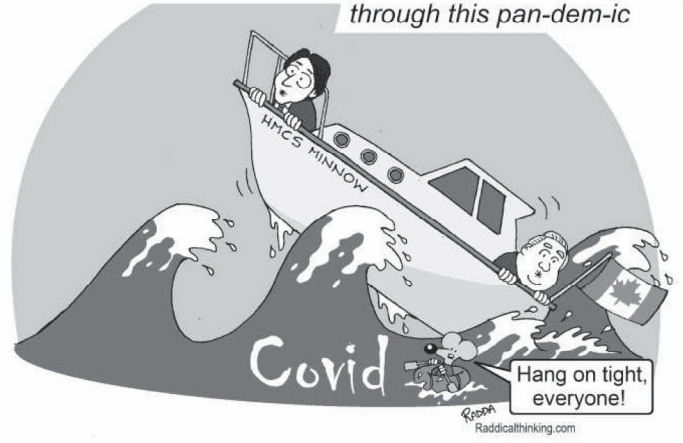
It's important we reflect on what's bouncin' around in there, so we learn about ourselves. Then, it's important to find a trusted, levelheaded friend for a

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a country's plight That started two long years ago with no end in sight



The mate was a mighty heavy man the skipper trim and slick Neither seems sure how to steer the ship through this pan-dem-ic



Letters to the Editor

Thank you for your generosity

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank our community for a very successful 2021 Christmas campaign, allowing us to serve over 160 clients in need.

The community food drive, on December 4th, got the ball rolling for food donations. The food kept coming in from individuals, schools, churches, and businesses. Thank you, to our volunteers, who worked so hard to keep on top of sorting it all at the Food Bank, while respecting Covid-19 protocols.

Gift cards and monetary donations were steady as well, allowing us to purchase locally other necessary food

and non-food items, to support our clients' needs at this difficult time of year. Even dogs and cats were looked after with food and toys. Our clients were very appreciative of their food hampers, gift cards and treat bags.

Thank you, to everyone who contributed to ensuring our holiday campaign was a great success. We couldn't do what we do without your generous and continued support.

Stay safe

Karen Teed, Operation Scugog.

confidant, to bounce things off. If you can't, remember that's what family is for. If that's a no, there are professionals you can search out. Better a moment and manner we choose, then in an unexpected confrontation, wounding others.

If you are a Christian, you have the added advantage of being honest with God, who has removed judgment for those who put their trust in Christ's sacrifice.

The main thing is to admit what's bothering you, yield to change, and stay open to the truth on an ongoing basis.

Staying open, when life seems to be conspiring against peace and security, leads to the building of both inwardly. If "the truth will always out," then growing in personal inner peace, by facing truth, will work its way through you to touch lives around.

This, in general, is the purpose of every life, in all our various flavours. So, being in this together can be a good thing. Let's stay open and let it flow.

THE STANDARD



The Standard publishes 8,000 + newspapers weekly in North Durham and the Kawarthas.

Publisher.....Colleen Green Editor.....Todd Green Reporter/Photographer.....Dan Cairns Columnists.....Jonathan van Bilsen.....Lauren Walker, Tina Y Gerber, Geoff Carpenter Sales Manager.....James Craig

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MPP Park introduces Bill to reduce loneliness and social isolation



OFFICE OF LINDSAY PARK,
MPP for Durham

DURHAM: On Tuesday, March 22nd, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Durham, Lindsey Park, introduced a bill in the Ontario Legislature requiring the Ontario Government to develop a strategy to reduce loneliness and social isolation and support Ontarians who may be struggling with loneliness or social isolation.

"Before the pandemic, there were signs that many people in Ontario, young and old, were

feeling less connected than they did in past generations," said Lindsey Park,

Member of Provincial Parliament, Durham. "Seeing friends less, volunteering less time in the community and the effect of new technologies all have an impact on our productivity, health and well-being."

"The pandemic only exacerbated this serious public health problem," stated Ms. Park. "When it comes to our most vulnerable Ontarians, loneliness and social isolation are major risk factors for abuse and neglect. The time for a comprehensive, province-wide strategy is now."

If passed, the Connected Communities Act, 2022 will provide one year for developing an initial strategy and



require the Government of Ontario to review the strategy at least once every five years. The Act would require consultations when developing or reviewing the strategy and that the strategy be published.

According to oft-cited research, being disconnected is just as dangerous to good health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. The young are also more lonely than the elderly; surveys have repeatedly discovered.

Ontario launches five new ONroute electric vehicle charging stations

Palmer Lockridge, Office of the Minister of Energy

Ontario is delivering on its commitment to bring electric vehicle (EV) fast chargers to the province's busiest highways with the launch of the five new fast-charging stations at Ingleside, Tilbury North, Tilbury South, Woodstock and Innisfil ONroute stations. This launch brings the total number of ONroute stations with EV fast chargers to eleven.

"Ontario is putting shovels in the ground to build critical infrastructure that will boost EV ownership, support Ontario's growing EV manufacturing industry and reduce emissions," said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. "With EV fast chargers now available at eleven ONroute stations along our province's business highways, it's even more convenient than ever for workers and families to grab a coffee or a meal while charging their car."

The new fast-charging stations are part of a historic EV charger roll-out announced in December by the Ontario government, along with Ivy Charging Network, ONroute and Canadian Tire that will see a total of 69 fast chargers built at all 23 ONroute locations.

The deployment of rapid charging infrastructure will see ONroute locations along highways 401 and 400 equipped with at least two EV fast chargers at each site, with busier sites equipped with more. The EV fast chargers will be available to all drivers on a pay-per-use basis and will serve all vehicle types.

"With a total of eleven ONroute stations now equipped with EV fast chargers, our government continues to make life easier for those who drive electric vehicles," said Caroline Mulrone, Minister of Transportation. "With more people switching to electric vehicles each year, our government continues to rapidly build the infrastructure required to support a

greener, more accessible Ontario for drivers."

These chargers will further encourage the electrification of the transportation sector in Ontario by making EV charging more accessible, and as the EV population grows, more chargers may be added at each site. The electrification of the province's vehicles will continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting away from gas-powered vehicles and utilizing Ontario's clean electricity supply, one that is more than 90 percent emissions-free.

This is one more way Ontario supports EV ownership and reduces emissions. In February, Minister Smith asked the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to provide him with options to implement a new ultra-low overnight Time-of-Use electricity price plan to help Ontario families save money and support electric vehicle adoption by reducing overnight EV charging costs when province-wide electricity demand is lower.

This initiative builds on the government's Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector plan to create a domestic EV battery ecosystem in the province and position Ontario as a North American automotive innovation hub, by working to support the continued pivot to electric, low-carbon, connected and autonomous vehicles.

"Our government's Driving Prosperity auto plan positions Ontario as a North American leader in developing and building the car of the future through emerging technologies and advanced manufacturing process," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "By delivering on our commitment to bring EV fast chargers to the Ontario's busiest highways, we're supporting consumers and our auto, manufacturing, and critical mineral sectors as we look to achieve our goal of building at least 400,000 electric and hybrid vehicles by 2030."

THE STANDARD
Canada
The Standard is grateful to the Government of Canada for their financial support through the Local Journalism Initiative Reporter Program.

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EDITORIAL

World News Day

Making a positive difference to someone's life is the greatest gift a journalist can give. Perhaps an individual is heard for the first time, or an injustice is settled.

Those moments, when a news editor picks up a phone to hear a scared voice say, 'you are all I have left, I have nowhere else to turn'. The last stand between hope and defeat.

It is a sacred contract, as old as journalism itself, yet the tenor of our times would try to divide the people from the newsrooms. If those who attempt to turn journalists into the enemy are successful, the people's right to independent access to information will be lost. And as we all know, a world where people are blinded from facts is a dangerous one.

During the global pandemic, record audience numbers, were reported around the world as readers, viewers and listeners, absorbed the news and information which saved lives. Nevertheless, an ever more vociferous minority pedalled a derogatory term, the so-called "mainstream media" - as if being together in a fact-based environment is a bad thing.

That's because the facts can sometimes be uncomfortable, and journalists have a big responsibility to get them right.

We know, since World News Day began in 2018, the challenges facing the industry have only grown. We may better understand the commercial pressures and the ever-changing audience habits, but we still don't do enough to explain ourselves.

That means newsrooms have their work cut out. Explaining methodology and how facts are uncovered has become as important as the facts themselves.

Those who are potential audience members consume most of their information in closed, fast-paced networks. We have seen examples, time and again, where small but active minority groups simply believe what they are told, often by powerful forces with something to hide. The journalist is used as bait in an attack against uncomfortable truths. As a result, the industry has to devote more time to reaching those who have already decided, what they have come to believe are, the facts even without possessing them.

Walled environments exist across the Internet preventing plurality of thought and opinion, fact and reality from being shared. Amid the myriad challenges facing us all, certainty is one of the least attractive traits on display.

World News Day, involving more than 500 newsrooms, is a global initiative, aimed at improving media literacy and audience engagement.

We include examples of how lives are improved when journalists tell a story. We showcase the efforts of small newsrooms as they represent the importance of community. We underpin all our work with the belief, access to information is a human right.

The speed of change, and the dangers and risks in society sometimes seem only to go in one direction leading to a global audience which is both exhausted and saturated with information. We have constructive roles to play amid the extraordinary news developments.

The convening power of independent journalism has never been more important, and sadly because of that hyper-relevance the risks and threats to journalists, your storytellers, only grows. The speed of polarization, an 18th century term used originally to identify the characteristics of light in photography, today makes agreement unfashionable. But as newsrooms around the world often say, we are all entitled to our opinions but we are not entitled to our own facts.

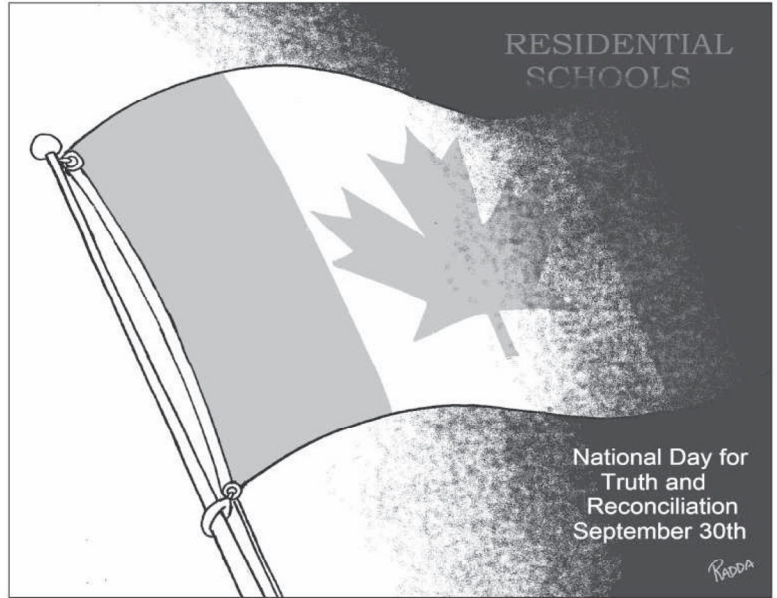
War, economic uncertainty, a determination to run roughshod over generational practices at our institutions are the changes facing the world. Journalism at its best is in the middle of it all, with a role to sew not division but mutual understanding and transparency.

World News Day exists to help the news industry to explain itself better, to involve the global audience in showcasing how accurate information makes life better.

Guest Editor

David Walmsley is the Editor in Chief of the Globe and Mail and is the creator of World News Day.

World News Day is a global newsroom campaign to highlight the value of journalism. It is organized by the World Editors Forum of the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) in partnership with The Canadian Journalism Foundation.



The Caped Cearnasader

DAN CEARNS @dancearnst

Leafs predictions

Another NHL hockey season is approaching quickly, which means it is time for me to make some predictions regarding the Toronto Maple Leafs.

As longtime readers of this column will remember, in the past, I've made predictions about what players will make the team out of training camp, potential player-specific accomplishments, as well as team accomplishments. For full disclosure, last year, one out of my three predictions ended up coming true. I may not always have the most success with them, but making these predictions is always fun.

I'll start off where a lot of fans have found the most controversy, the current goaltending situation. For those who don't know, in the offseason, the team entirely changed their goaltending tandem by trading Petr Mrazek and letting Jack Campbell leave for the Oilers. They brought in Matt Murray and Ilya Samsonov to be their goaltenders for this season. I think Samsonov will end up playing the most games of this tandem by the season's end. Samsonov is three years younger than Murray and doesn't have the recent injury history Murray has. In his draft year, Samsonov was also a first-round pick, showing his potential ceiling as a starting goaltender and how highly he's been viewed by managers and scouts since he entered the league. While I remain optimistic both goalies will play well this season, I think Samsonov, over time, will end up taking over the starting

goalie spot.

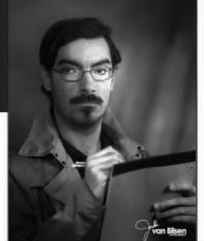
Next, I predict this will be the season forward Nick Robertson will finally make the team full-time

out of training camp. Since being drafted by the Leafs, Robertson's development has faced setbacks such as injury issues and the COVID-19 pandemic cancellations. But, with Ilya Mikheyev leaving for free agency to Vancouver, there is a spot open in the team's first two forward lines which Robertson could take.

I will also bring back my prediction, which turned out to be true last year. I think Auston Matthews will win the Rocket Richard trophy as the league's top goal scorer again. He's done it twice in a row. Plus, he came off a 60-goal performance last year, so I'm pretty confident in this prediction.

Lastly, I think this year the team will finish in first place in the Atlantic Division. After a number of first-round playoff defeats in past years, there is a lot more pressure on this team to succeed this season. The best way for this team to find playoff success is ensuring they get the best first-round matchup they can, which would be facing a wild-card team with a home-ice advantage.

As with every year, feel free to call me on any of these predictions if they don't come true. I'm looking forward to the return of NHL hockey.



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