

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Tattoos and Star Wars

I'VE BEEN THINKING about getting a tattoo. Thinking hard. Getting a tattoo is no lightweight decision. What statement do I want to make? What design? On which body part? These are serious questions, so I decided to do some serious research.

Trolling the Internet I learned that arrows, roses, and birds are among those most favoured designs worldwide. Also Roman numerals and glyphs.

Everything I read about tattoos was interesting, although not necessarily helpful. Then I landed on some totally unexpected, bombshell information: Some tattoo studios in the United States are offering free Donald Trump tattoos.

You can get The Donald's full face, complete with that pompous grey-blond hair wave. And you can get his campaign slogan "Make America Great Again." You can even get his face at the centre of the Stars and Stripes, in full colour. All at no charge.

Trump tattoos are showing up on people's shoulders, necks, arms, ankles and calves.

It is another absurd twist in what has to be the most bizarre presidential election in U.S. history. It is a freak show reminiscent of the bar scenes in *Star Wars*.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

You might recall the Mos Eisley Cantina on the planet Tatooine. The bar was a dark and seedy dive where star pilots landed for drinks, weird music called Jizz and to engage in some violent rough housing. The regular customers are some of the most villainous scumbags you hope never to encounter.

Each time I watch a presidential candidate debate on TV I feel like I have walked into the Mos Eisley Cantina. All the candidates are there. Republican and Democrats.

There's Donald Trump, looking and sounding just like Chewbacca (except Chewbacca has a nicer hair style). Someone asks him if as president he would nuke Mexico to stop the flow of illegal immigrants.

"Whoaa waamaa warrgth," he answers, which I think translates as: "It's unbelievable. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists."

Beside him is Jeb Bush, his eyes darting side to side. He looks terrified at being there. Either that or he has Irritable Bowel Syndrome and is urgently looking for a toilet. Or, maybe he just realized that he is about to be bounced from the campaign.

Ted Cruz is there, looking calm as a jellyfish. He has a smile that gives the impression he has swallowed not just the canary, but an entire aviary.

At the far end of the bar Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are locked in argument. Hillary thinks she is Princess Leia but is more like Leesub Sirln, alias the Weird Girl.

Bernie is doing his Obi-Wan Kenobi routine but still can't figure out how to switch on his laser lance.

Latest word is that some Democrats are getting Bernie or Hillary tattoos. You can get a full face tattoo of Hillary or simply "HRC 2016" which fits nicely on a wrist.

Bernie fans are getting the hair-askew-on-top-of-heavy-rim-glasses tattoo, some with the slogan "Feel the Bern."

Election tattooing is not a new trend, nor solely the product of the U.S. In our federal election last fall a Montreal tattoo studio offered free election-style tattoos with a twist. It challenged the party leaders to have their election promises tattooed on their bodies and offered to do it for free.

"Because, like a tattoo, a promise is for life," the studio said in a video launching its Ink Your Promise campaign.

Those tattoo dudes are not only artists, they are smart business people. Tattoo politicians with their election promises and 100 days later they will be lined up at the door willing to pay whatever to have them erased.

Neither Justin the Good, Stephen the Evil or Tom the Whatever is believed to have taken them up on the offer.

At any rate, I've decided not to get a Donald Trump tattoo. If I did, however, I know where I would put it. It would adorn the very lowest reaches of my back, closest to the body part that best describes him.

Instead of that I will to get one in large letters across my forehead. It will read:

SOMEONE PLEASE MAKE AMERICA SANE AGAIN!

Email: shaman@vianet.ca

Profile: <http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B001K8FY3Y>

letters to the editor

Cupcake Day Feb. 29

To the Editor,

As some people may know, Feb. 29 is the OSPCA National Cupcake day! The staff here at Minden Animal Hospital will be selling cupcakes that day in support of this! All proceeds from the cupcakes will go to the OSPCA. Pre-orders are appreciated!

In addition to cupcake day, the rest of that week (March 1 to 5) we will be having a bake sale in support of the Haliburton Pet Owners'

Assistance Fund. They have been doing some great things for the community and have helped many people so far! All proceeds from the bake sale will go directly to them! Donations are always appreciated and we are hoping to have a good turn-out for the bake sale!

For more information or to place your order, call 705-286-2919.

The doctors and staff at
Minden Animal Hospital

OTF funding application workshops

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is hosting free workshops for potential nonprofit grant applicants during the month of March, with a focus specifically on the Seed and Capital Investment Streams.

"Seed grant projects could include conducting feasibility studies, testing new approaches, developing a new idea, or launching a new event," said Lenka Petric, OTF program manager. "Capital grant activities could include buying and installing equipment, doing renovations or repairs, building structures, or making better use of technological resources."

The workshops will focus on eligibility, the application and assessment, as well as tips on

how to write strong applications.

Sessions close to, or in the Haliburton area include:

Lindsay: Tuesday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Community Care Village Housing, 65 Melbourne Street West.

Haliburton: Tuesday, March 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Haliburton School of Art and Design Great Hall, 297 College Drive.

Apsley: Tuesday, March 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Glen Alda Community Centre, 3723 County Road 620.

OTF is asking that all interested participants register ahead at dhkprpmarch2016.eventbrite.ca.

*The Newcastle now building downtown Minden,
Fall 2016 Occupancy. Choice suites available*



TROPHY PROPERTY
CORP.

BROKERAGE

FOR SALE

TEL 705-457-8899

www.trophypropertycorp.com

Lakelands Association of REALTORS®
& Toronto Real Estate Board



PETER BRADY
Broker of Record

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The death of Billy Skead

BILLY SKEAD WAS BURIED DURING THE WINTER but the question continues to prick the conscience of his troubled aboriginal community: Why did he die?

Medical reports say Billy died of an overdose of tuberculosis pills, which he stole from his brother-in-law. He swallowed pills once before but people managed to get him to hospital where doctors and nurses saved his life. This time they couldn't.

The system counts Billy as just one of countless Indian suicides. People in his community, however, say Billy did not take his own life. They say it was taken by an uncaring system that has sapped the spirit of native people and left them to drift aimlessly like autumn leaves fallen into a stream.

Billy Skead was an intelligent and interesting young man. Too intelligent and too interesting to be dead.

He was born and raised on the reserve, the middle child in an impoverished family of three boys and six girls. When he was nine years old his mother froze to death in a snow bank on the reserve.

He was one of the Indian kids who persevered and got some education. He went to community college and learned the carpentry trade.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

He thought a lot about the plight of his people and became an activist intent on changing the system. He took part in a blockade and occupation to protest the social conditions in which his people lived.

He marched in a native protest in Ottawa and was arrested by the RCMP.

After that he returned to the reserve and worked as an education counsellor, helping reserve children with school problems and trying to persuade them not to drop out. He organized children's sports and tried to

help people bridge the gap between reserve life and the foreign culture of city life.

"He was a happy-go-lucky person," his young widow Rose told me when I talked to her. "He liked all kinds of sports. He liked reading and going to the movies."

"He was a quiet, normal Indian boy," Rev. John Fullmer, the Lutheran minister who married Rose and Billy told me in an interview.

"Billy was one of those kids who always had a smile on his face," said Len Hakenson, director of the Addiction Research Foundation.

Louis Cameron, an Indian leader and Billy's uncle and friend, told me that many people wonder why a happy, strong and well-adjusted young man with many friends could kill himself.

"This generation is very sincere and has a lot of deep and urgent messages," he said. "Sometimes to die in an unnatural way is an omen that something is happening."

Louis Cameron said that perhaps Billy was frustrated by all the change that is needed, but realized that he could not achieve it.

"We Indian people are living in an acute state of emergency," he told me.

Billy was not one of the victims of Attawapiskat, the Northern Ontario aboriginal community where five more young people attempted suicide last Friday night. There were 11 attempted suicides the previous weekend in Attawapiskat, and a total of 28 in March.

Politicians and news media are pouring into Attawapiskat, which has declared a state of emergency.

Billy also was not a victim in Davis Inlet, an East Coast community where Innu youth killed themselves by sniffing gasoline.

Nor in Grassy Narrows, Ont., where people didn't have to gulp pills or sniff gasoline to get sick or to die. A nearby pulp and paper mill did that for them by poisoning their nearby fishing waters with mercury.

And not Fort Chipewyan, Alta., which descended into a social Hell after construction of the W.A.C. Bennett dam dried up the Peace-Athabasca Delta, destroying the hunting and fishing lands of the native people.

Billy Skead was not even of this century. He committed suicide in 1976 on the Whitefish Bay Reserve near Kenora. The column you are reading is pretty much the story I wrote for The Canadian Press news agency on April 21, 1976.

That was 40 years ago today.

Some things never change, especially for Canada's native people.

Email: shaman@vianet.ca

Profile: <http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B001K8FY3Y>

letters to the editor

Thou shalt not steal

To the Editor,

Saints Alive! What "little devil" took our new United Church Crest sign off its post at 1050 Lochlin Road? If you wanted the information on our church service you now have it. So join us Sunday at 10 a.m. for singing, an inspiring mes-

sage, and fellowship after you have "rehung" the sign. Others need this information to attend our services.

Repent and sin no more!

Lois Rigney
Lochlin United Church Member

Help Prevent Forest Fires This Year

Ontario is reminding the public to practice safe fire etiquette when camping or starting a fire outdoors this year.

April through October marks forest fire season in Ontario. On average, more than 1,000 wildfires burn each year across the province, with about half of them caused by people.

Anyone starting outdoor fires must follow strict guidelines under the Forest Fires Prevention Act to ensure their fires are properly managed, including:

- Taking all necessary steps to tend the fire
- Keeping it under control
- Making sure the fire is out before leaving the site.

A person failing to adhere to these standards could be fined and held responsible for the cost of putting out the fire.

Other ways you can help prevent forest fires include:

- Spreading out leaves if raking them into a forested area. Piles of leaves

don't decompose very quickly and if they catch on fire can be quickly carried by the wind.

- Storing all firewood at least 10 metres from all structures, including decks.
- Keeping roofs and rain gutters free of flammable leaves, pine needles, and other debris that can be ignited by wind-blown embers.
- Ensuring firework displays are safe by launching fireworks over an area free of flammable material, such as gravel or a body of water and, when completed, checking the area for any hot residue to ensure it is put out.

"Ontario's Fire Rangers are highly trained professionals, dedicated to protecting people, property and important forest resources. With the start of the 2016 fire season, I'd like to remind everyone to follow ministry and municipal guidelines, and be cautious and properly manage outdoor fires, especially in forested areas," says Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The Newcastle – Minden's Intimate 15 Suite Condominium- Fall 2016 – From \$199,000



TROPHY PROPERTY
CORP.

BROKERAGE

FOR SALE

TEL 705-457-8899

www.trophypropertycorp.com

Lakelands Association of REALTORS®
& Toronto Real Estate Board



PETER BRADY
Broker of Record



IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

A forest fable

It was the beavers, those clever, industrious engineers, who had the idea: Turn house building into an industry that would create jobs and build a strong economy benefitting all forest creatures.

The industry boomed. Prefab modified beaver houses were sold to forest communities around the world. Profits flowed like the creeks in spring.

There were jobs for all. Beaver were employed as tree cutters. Moose and deer hauled sticks and mud. Foxes took charge of administration and the birds flew the marketing initiatives.

Prosperity grew throughout the forest. Every forest critter had his or her own new home and all the conveniences that make for a happy life.

Industrialization brought the financial resources to build a flourishing modern society. A council, called Parliament, was created from animals elected across the forest. There was a justice system, managed by the owls, and police services staffed by the wolves. The rabbits set up health care and other social services.

Banks, operated by the raccoons, offered mortgages for bigger houses and loans for televisions, computer tablets and to pay monthly electricity bills.

Life in the forest, once a miserable paw-to-mouth and claw-to-beak existence, was good. Until the grumbling began.

The bears complained they were working too much to enjoy their usual winter vacations. They demanded more paid hibernation time.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

The nervous squirrels called for shorter work weeks to ease the stress of modern living. Still others said they must have higher wages to offset the taxes jacked up by their new government to pay for a burgeoning bureaucracy.

The forest echoed with howls and squawks about high prices and high taxes.

Wages rose steadily to quell the workers demands. So did the prices of beaver houses and other products because businesses needed more revenue to cover rising costs. The businesses also needed to satisfy the stock market lust for higher returns.

In another land far away beyond the lake, workers toiled in wet fields just to fill their bellies and did what their government ordered them to do. They learned of the industrialization success in the forest and began producing modified beaver houses and other goods at much cheaper prices.

Soon the forest animals were importing cheaper goods, and even some of their services, from the lands beyond the lake.

The forest industries could not compete with the prices from abroad. Their factories slowed production, soon gathering moss and rust. Workers were laid off and those who could not find other work spent their days playing video games and watching streamed reality shows.

Forest jobs continued to shrink as more business shifted to the lands across the lake. The only jobs available were in the fast food industry but many of the animals found they were gaining weight and becoming depressed.

Parliament decided the government should get into the casino business to create jobs. Casinos also would provide entertainment, ease the animals' worries and bring more money into the government coffers.

Depression, suicide and violent crime became common. The rabbits operating the health service began prescribing cannabis leaves, which they said would ease the forest society's pain. Costs soared beyond control, so the Parliament got into the cannabis business to raise more revenue.

It was the skunks, nosing the damp forest floor, who discovered the magic mushrooms. They learned that chewing the mushrooms relaxed the body and sent the mind off into other worlds. They created underground networks for distributing the mushrooms and sold them to stressed out buyers at secret rendezvous points.

The wolves soon ran out of spaces in which to confine loopy animals they found acting crazy or passed out along the forest trails. Their patrolling packs became exhausted trying to keep up with increasing crime.

The rabbits opened more mental health clinics and rehab centres. The costs became overwhelming so they cut back the services provided for traditional illnesses.

The forest society suffered a complete breakdown for which even the loon songs on the lake did not provide comfort or relief.

Eventually the happy loon songs stopped and the only loon call heard from the lake was the 'tremolo', that shrill and insane loon laugh signalling danger and despair.

Email: shaman@vianet.ca

Profile: <http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B001K8FY3Y>

School board welcomes new superintendent

At last week's board meeting, trustees approved the appointment of Dave Golden as a new Superintendent of Education for Trillium Lakelands District School Board. Due to the upcoming retirement of Earl Manners from the senior administration team in August, Dianna Scates will become the Superintendent of Human Resources in the next school year, leaving the vacancy for school superintendent. Golden will be based out of the Muskoka Education Centre in Bracebridge.

"We look forward to welcoming Dave as a superintendent for TLDSB," said Director of Education Larry Hope.

"Dave's professional knowledge and skills, combined with his excellent interpersonal skills and ability to forge strong relationships will make him a wonderful addition to our senior administration team."

Golden attended Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School (BMLSS) and then began his career in Muskoka as a supply teacher. He then spent 12 years working in the Peel region as a special education teacher, guidance counselor, program leader for alternate education, as well as a vice principal for two years. While in Peel, as part of a special education program, he named the support area the "Muskoka Room." Golden returned to Bracebridge as a vice principal at BMLSS from 2002 to 2006, and was principal at the same school until 2014 when he was appointed to District Principal of Alternative Education for the Board.

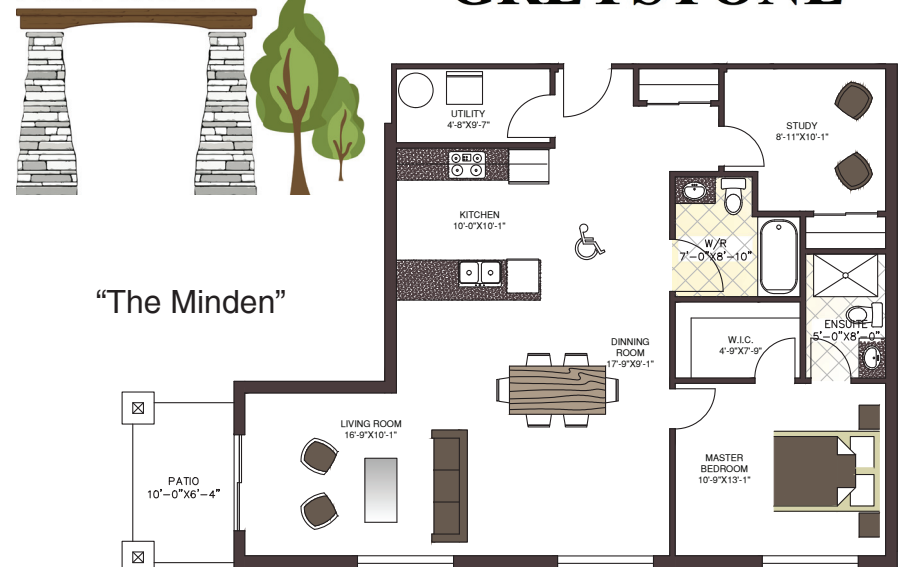
"This is a fantastic opportunity and I'm excited about meeting the needs of staff, students, families, and school communities in this new role," stated Golden. "It will be a privilege to serve in this capacity working with system leaders to ensure that all students have the support they need to be successful."

Golden's superintendent responsibilities are effective Sept. 1, but he will be invited to participate in senior team meetings for the remainder of this school year and to assist in planning for the upcoming school year.

- Submitted

Send your letters to the editor to
jenn@haliburtonpress.com

New Suites Released!

THE
NEWCASTLE**GREYSTONE****TROPHY PROPERTY**
CORP.

BROKERAGE

FOR SALE

TEL 705-457-8899

www.trophypropertycorp.comLakelands Association of REALTORS®
& Toronto Real Estate Board

PETER BRADY
Broker of Record