

## EDITORIAL &amp; OPINION

## Choking on conservatism

**S**now flurries the last day of April – what is this the west?

A mix of sun and cloud today, followed by rain all weekend.

Had enough of winter? Who hasn't.

A few years ago a Republican speech writer penned a speech that irreparably set back all the Earth Days a millennium – or more.

In that speech, delivered by a senior GOP member, it questioned the science of global warming enough to cause the tiniest doubt.

That granular seed was enough for billions worldwide to grasp onto – from politicians to polluters. Today we reap what he sowed.

Paraphrasing what Mark Twain popularized: there are three kinds of lies – lies, damned lies and U.S. rhetoric. Thus it's been the same for 50 years, back to when Lyndon Johnson (Democrat) lied about a ship sinking to send more troops to Vietnam. Sound familiar?

The truth is conservatism, for all its power over politicians, isn't right for these times.

Justifying jobs over the environment is an unsustainable and unfulfilling prophecy. Even today's unemployed are embracing 'green' like the rest of us – some of them more so.

China and India today and tomorrow are the benefactors of our past eco sins. The west set the table, and this summer we'll feel the heat literally and economically. It is time for change, as Barack Obama is busy preaching.

Composting and recycling are a good start, but a change in global mindset is imperative.

## Letters to Editor:

## Yearly flooding on Wellington Street ignored by Town

*"We did not believe this would solve the problem... Today, Disaster Cleanup was at four different homes on our street."*

*Dear Editor:*

**Re: Flooding at 305 Wellington Street, Gravenhurst**

**I am writing this letter to inform you of a situation at the above address. In the past four years, our basement has flooded three times.**

Our home is situated on the corner of Wellington and Blanchard Streets. During the spring melt, the water pools at this corner and, generally, covers the street. When the water disappears, it seeps into the ground and flows through our basement.

The first year it flooded was a month after we had completely renovated our basement. We paid for the repairs and cleaned it up

after calling the Town of Gravenhurst. We were subsequently told that it was not their problem.

We flooded again the following year, and the water caused even more damage. Again, we called the town. This time, they put four manholes in the road to drain the water to a large hole across and back from the road.

We did not believe this would solve the problem because the hole was not large enough to accommodate a significant snow runoff.

Due to the lack of much snowfall in 2007, we did not flood.

However, this year is an entirely different matter. There has been so much water in our base-

ment that our hot water tank had to be replaced as the water damaged the electronics. The water also damaged the washer and dryer and we were forced to purchase a new set.

Disaster Cleanup has been called and they have sealed off our basement due to the air quality. The mould and mildew are now four feet up the wall, and the cleanup crew has been forced to wear gas masks and contamination suits.

Today, Disaster Cleanup was at four different homes on our street.

The drywall, doors, baseboard and flooring will have to be replaced. As well, we have lost many of our possessions includ-

ing most of the furniture and all of the electronic equipment.

We have contacted Cindy Maher at the town office each year and have been continuously brushed aside. This year, the excuse was that they hadn't appropriated funds for this project. However, they have been aware of this for at least the last four years. Why didn't they try to find a solution when they first became aware of our situation?

We cannot continue to live like this. This is a situation that has been ignored for far too long, and it needs to be corrected this year, not next.

*Brian and Donna Stevenson  
Gravenhurst*

## Lake Wellington unwelcomed by neighbours

*Dear Editor:*

**O**n the corner of Blanchard St East and Wellington St. sits Lake Wellington. Every spring this corner floods the two streets.

I am lucky enough to live halfway up the block and only have to change the way I get to my home. No big deal. However, the two houses that sit on that corner get flooded each year. We all know that it was an extreme winter with a lot more snow than usual.

All that snow melting created a huge Lake Wellington this year, causing severe flooding. The two families that are at that corner got so much water in their basements that they had to have disaster cleanup done. At one point there was a set of Mallard ducks that made the lake their home. The town has been approached about this problem many times.

Nothing has been done. This year I saw two town trucks at that corner with two men talking but nothing was done. The fact that the drain at that corner was

blocked up and the huge amount of snow remaining at that corner was not removed were two factors that made the flooding worse.

The amount of taxes paid by all of us should allow for snow removal and drain repairs.

I wish there was more I could do for the two families but I hope my support in getting this problem fixed will help them. I'd hate to see them have to go through this again next year.

*Karen Jewiss Campbell  
Gravenhurst*

## Thank you!

*Dear Editor:*

**The Gravenhurst Curling Club thanks everyone who purchased TV raffle tickets in support of junior curling in Gravenhurst.**

The winning ticket was drawn April 5. Congratulations to the winner Robert Kinsman of Bracebridge.

We were able to donate just over \$1000 in support of junior curling.

*Micky Iutzi and Bill Kennedy  
TV raffle committee*

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Letters to the editor are always welcome. They must be signed, (initials not acceptable) include phone number and address for verification. MuskokaTODAY reserves the right to edit letters for length and grammar. See email and letter mail addresses to the left.



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