

HAMILTON **THE** SPECTATOR

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPINION

Sept. 9: Cathedral High needs heritage designation, questioning Aberdeen stats and other letters to the editor

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🕒 4 min. read

I'm questioning Aberdeen statistics

I'm calling out our Ward 1 councillor on statistics she is using to prove her argument that Aberdeen Ave. is dangerous. Ms. Wilson is using a 10 year-span of statistics produced by Public Works. Most of those years were before the numerous pedestrian-activated traffic lights were installed, before crossing guards were stationed at every corner in the neighbourhood, before advanced greens allowed for safer left hand turns, before bike lanes were installed on Herkimer Street and Charleton Avenue, before speed limits were lowered to 40 km. I'm sure we would be more impressed if she would publish those statistics by year to show the trend of incidents either upward or downward.

There is an elementary school at each end of Stanley Avenue. Every school day Stanley Avenue and Herkimer Street are filled with buses and cars dropping off children. We don't need an increase in vehicles on our side streets where the children actually are. Ms. Wilson's solution is to "monitor the effects" and to "respond as needed."

Why don't we wait to see the impact of the Queen Street makeover on Aberdeen traffic? We may be able to save millions. COVID already has the City swimming in red ink and we can't afford to make costly mistakes.

Nancy Elliott, Hamilton

Attila and Genghis couldn't do worse

This is an America where police shoot and kill black citizens with apparent impunity, where federal troops patrol burning city streets and armed white vigilantes shoot and kill peaceful protesters. An America beset by a pandemic during which government inaction and blundering has caused 190,000 deaths, where 4 per cent of the world's population has almost 25 per cent of the COVID cases, where it is not safe for children to return to schools and unemployment soars in a recession made deeper by government folly; I watched Donald Trump and Mike Pence, tell Americans that things would be worse should Joe Biden and Kamala Harris be elected.

A presidency of Attila the Hun and Genghis Khan could not make things worse than the chaos that is America today.

*Jim Young,
Burlington*

China's appeal all about money

A reader asks why face masks are made in China.

The answer is simple ... money. Big companies decided long ago they could open in countries with lower wages and no unions manufacture their goods at a much lower cost, then bring them back and sell at original cost, thereby making more profit. The more profit the more they moved out of their country, shutting down production and decimating industries.

Case in point. U.S. Steel "saved" Stelco. They acquired all the priority information such as recipes for steelmaking and the technology only Stelco. Contracts were removed and sent to U.S. The technology was sold world wide. Then they forced Canadian operations into bankruptcy.

Bob Reed, Simcoe

Put a tax on financial transactions

Aaron Wudrick missed an important area where the government could raise funds to pay for pandemic expenses: that is, taxing financial transactions. This would be like a 'sales tax' on investment transactions, stock trading and the like. This recommendation was made by French economist author, Thomas Piketty. This strategy has the potential to raise significant funds without major impact on the transactions themselves. This idea needs to be seriously explored.

*Renate Manthei,
Hamilton*

Street racers should face harsher penalties

I agree that penalty for street racing, killing that poor innocent woman on Queenston Road, should be very harsh. Some time ago, I was driving on Fennell Ave, in between Garth and West 5th, when two cars went flying by, probably going way over 120 km/h. There are numerous traffic lights on that street, which obviously didn't stop them. There are two schools on the south part of Fennell, Mohawk and Hillfield. North of Fennell is residential and a hospital. These guys didn't show any respect for that. Street racing penalties should be very harsh to prevent anyone from getting killed or injured.

Jack Terrana, Ancaster

Old Cathedral High should be designated

As a Ward 3 resident who lives not far from the former Cathedral High School, I was glad to hear that the building can serve so well as Good Shepherd's temporary men's shelter.

Ward Coun. Nann has said that Hamilton deserves beautiful buildings. Old Cathedral is a perfect example of a beautiful, historic building in Ward 3.

The local community has wanted heritage designation for Old Cathedral since 1989. The Stinson Community Association requested designation for Cathedral seven years ago.

The Good Shepherd project is a great opportunity to complete the community's efforts to preserve this beautiful building for future Hamiltonians. It's an ideal chance for a both/and situation: we can support the shelter project – and the renovations and abatement it may require – and also protect the unique character of this important and beautiful building that hosted generations of local schoolchildren.

Hamiltonians might believe that Old Cathedral is already designated, since media reported on an initial decision by the City to designate it, back in 2018. But the designation was actually deferred.

To see the stunning original plans for the school, check out the designation report online. About 50 pages in, you'll find the wonderful 1928 architectural drawings from the Archives of Ontario.

All of the supporting work for designation has been done; it's just that last step that's needed. It's time to complete this 30-year community effort and get designation for Old Cathedral across the finish line.

Dr. Sarah Sheehan, Hamilton

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