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LETTERS

The problem is bad drivers

It seems to me that whenever there is a pedestrian death caused by a vehicle, the city politicians over-

Pedestrians must be cautious

Apparently, in 42 per cent of accidents resulting in pedestrian injuries, automobiles failed to yield the right of way. I can only assume in 58 per cent of these accidents pedestrians failed to obey the traffic signals.

With regards to "Grey Cup lacks Can-con" (Oct. 4), if one were to close their eyes and listen carefully, Billie Joe Armstrong (of Green Day) sounds very much like a Canadian as he emulates the "punk singing style" of the late Frankie (Venom) Kerr (of Hamilton's beloved 1970s punk band, Teenage Head). Nuff said!

Sounds Canadian to me

Bill Mosson, Hamilton

Bulldogs unlikely to return

Everyone seems to be skating around the issue here, including Michael Andlauer. Clearly, the Bulldogs have generated a big yawn from Hamilton over the years (attendance has been sparse most nights in spite of the championship pedigree of this team) and the council seems content to go in a different direction with the new arena. As I have written before, it is likely that the Bulldogs and Henry Badger will not be back primarily because of likely rent increases. The scheduling challenges outlined will seal their fate. A terrible shame. Is there a future for the Bulldogs in Hamilton? The answer is clearly no.

Andrew Baker, Burlington

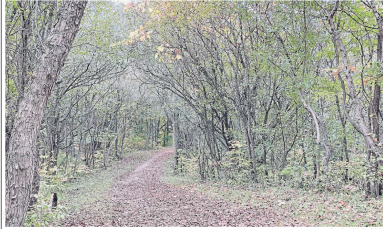
The root of the housing crisis

The basic fundamentals of the law of supply and demand states that if an X number of widgets is demanded, X number of widgets are supplied or manufactured, and an equilibrium is maintained between supply and demand, including the price point. But if the supply of widgets is greater than what is demanded, it's simple Economics 101 - the variables change, the price of the good decreases and vice versa.

Get tough on young offenders

For far too many years now, we see in the news almost every day about so-called "young offenders" committing violent crimes. Shootings, stabbings, assaults and carjacking by teenagers have been on the rise with seemingly no end to the problem. When our police manage to make arrests of these violent criminals, any information about the culprits are classified to protect the identities of these "poor, young people". No reasonably intelligent thinking person can tell me that any teenager does not know the difference between what is right and what is wrong.

Pat Wignall, Burlington



Writing about Thanksgiving gratitude, columnist Thomas Froese shares his view from a recent walk in the woods. Just one person's notes from one walk in the woods on one day in the fall - that time of year when everything is letting go, he writes.

Trying to pay attention to what's so easy to miss

THOMAS FROESE OPINION

It was a no house and I was having funny enough, coffee, and the woman waiting on me was pleasant. She brought extra cream and looked at the book I was reading. It was my birthday, a summer day. The book was, "Count Your Blessings." Then she said something differently, "My father would probably like a book like this," I said, "Oh," and wondered quietly, "Why wouldn't you?"

respond Frank called this, "the last of human freedoms." It's something to think about on that walk in the woods.

It's a different. Thanksgiving memory. I still wonder if that money might have been some wild answer to some secret prayer of that waitress. You never know. In either case, don't be afraid to do such things. You may not get the chance later.

The other day I learned of the death of an extended family member, a Froese, a cousin not much older than me. I know Linda to be beautiful in many ways, even though she lived on the West Coast and we didn't see each other often.

I thought about this too while recently on my own walk in the woods. Just saying, life is short. Today's ordinary, of nothing else, remind us. So I'm thankful for two good legs to cart around a body with a few cracks, sure, even a thorn in the flesh. I've had arthritis for 35 years.

But it does what good thorns do, keeps me aware of my weakness.

I'm thankful for my community and country. Not that things are perfectly run. It's often a curse. Then again, crises are of interest to news gatherers. And look at the more disturbing chaos elsewhere on the planet.

Speaking of, I'm thankful for this newspaper and this space. God knows - no, really - where print journalism will go in Canada. So thank you advertisers, subscribers and supporters.

Of course, I'm thankful for my home, my family, friends. They're not perfect. By now they all know that, surprise, neither am I. Then there's thankfulness for my understanding of thankfulness. Studies show what we already know in our bones, that gratefulness is healthy and especially helpful when rejecting the victim mentality the zeitgeist can promote. Being grateful helps ward off certain stresses and anxieties - that is our "disease."

THOMAS FROESE WRITES ABOUT NEWS, TRAVEL AND LIFE. FIND HIM AT THOMASFROESE.COM.

Learning a lesson about clapping before thinking

MICHAEL BYTHELIVE

Regarding the former Speaker Anthony Rota/Yaroslav Hunka debacle, a source letter writer to the Hamilton Spectator noted, referring to the Second World War: "Not one politician questioned the fact Russia was an ally during that time!" Indeed.

The remark references the two standing ovations Hunka received during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's time in the House, from what appears to be all assembled, both of which were after the Speaker loudly and gleefully indicated he was a veteran "from the Second World War, who fought for Ukrainian independence against the Russians."

Our MPs and senators are supposed to be intelligent people who can listen carefully, analyze facts and think on their feet. So, what to make of all of Canada's federal politicians and Senate appointees who were present, sending their brains on vacation in this crucial moment and leaping to their feet to applaud a man who fought for Nazi Germany against our ally of the time, the USSR?

ist West. After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, these sentiments subsided, but have grown steadily again regarding Russia. Nowhere in public discourse, or in our school history courses, do we talk about the Soviet contribution to the defeat of Germany in 1945 and what that contribution meant for the West.

Here is a little of that history. While numbers on exact military casualties are difficult to come by in such a sweeping and horrific category, the National WW2 Museum in New Orleans estimates the USSR's military dead at between 8.8 million and 10.7 million and the German at 5.5 million. In contrast, the military dead of the US, UK, Canada and France combined were about one million. It also notes that approximately 80 per cent of German war dead perished on the Eastern Front fighting the Red Army. As the museum's article on Operation Barbarossa states: "Let's be blunt: the German army lost World War Two on the Eastern Front."

While numbers vary, the general scale is not questioned by respectable historians. It is also not in question that Germany and Russia were the two combatants in the Second World War that attacked each other's capitals by land and that the Red Army captured Berlin, the seat of Nazi power.

The West knew that every Wehrmacht soldier killed by the Red Army was one less they would have to face on the Western Front. This caused them to purposefully delay their assault from the Atlantic side while providing material to Russia to keep them fighting. Every Red Army death made the West's eventual assault easier and less costly.

Note that this is not to lessen the sacrifice of our soldiers in that conflict, nor is it to justify Russia's current actions. It is just to be honest about numbers and the USSR's sacrifices in the war and how it lessened ours.

Perhaps, had the MPs and senators not been so full of anti-Russian propaganda or were more aware of the basic circumstances in the Second World War, we would not have had the image, spread worldwide, of them all leaping to their feet to give a standing ovation to this individual.

This was not a falling of political party. Nor was it just a falling of Rota and his staff. It is a falling of our elected and appointed leaders to either understand history or to make quick decisions based on that history.

I hope lessons will be learned about how we propagandize and teach history and don't teach critical thinking skills (especially at a time when they are so desperately needed, given the crises we face). I hope lessons will be learned about clapping before thinking. How hopeful are we watching all present leap to their feet on cue, not very.

MICHAEL BYTHELIVE IS IN SCOTLAND, BRANT COUNTY.