

Letters

Kelowna trail network applauded

To the editor:

I can't say how impressed I am with the network of trails in this beautiful city. I have lived in Vernon for 14 years and now find myself working

in Kelowna and my girlfriend also lives here.

So I decided that when I'm walking in Kelowna, I would pedal from Rutland to Prospera Place area.

OMG, what a dream! First, I thank the people involved to plan, pay for and construct this bike path.

It is very well used by all walks of life and very safe, being it does not

encroach vehicle traffic.

Second, I'm back in Rutland quicker by bike than when I drive.

Mike Bell
Kelowna

Keeping a tighter control on immigration

To the editor:

If being politically correct had to be condensed into one word, it would have to be stupidity.

Promoting anything for the sake of being politically correct is prone to producing unanticipated and undesirable consequences.

Promoting cultural diversity by adopting people from all corners of the world may give some of us that warm and fuzzy feeling associated with helping somebody in need, but what is it we are trying to do? At the end of the day, are we really accomplishing anything?

Yes we need immigration, but attempting to assimilate all cultures into our already complex Canadian mosaic indiscriminately will not necessarily appeal to people who have no respect for our human rights and freedoms,

and are not ready to embrace our inclusive and caring society.

Opening the floodgates to mass immigration does not allow many of these new people enough time and opportunity to assimilate into our socio-economic structure.

Insisting on high levels of immigration against the will of the majority of the people also promotes anti-immigrant sentiments and creates racial barriers, promoting segregation instead of assimilation.

The cities of Toronto, Ontario and London, England, are both very culturally diverse, and both are experiencing huge cultural challenges.

It begs the question: Is there a link between our blind pre-occupation with diversity and those seven shootings in Toronto last week?

Early European immigrants, and especially

those with military backgrounds, are naturally more aware of issues like public safety and national security, and don't subscribe to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's high levels of immigration or his pre-occupation with the concept of insinuating Canada into a borderless society with the United Nations as a global government.

U.S. President Donald Trump is right about the importance of keeping national borders secure from unwanted, uninvited, and undesirable people.

As a country we should be equally vigilant and not accept anybody from anywhere, just to improve our prime minister's chances of getting re-elected and to get that coveted seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Andy Thomsen
Kelowna

Eurasian milfoil harvesting shouldn't be halted

To the editor:

Will the milfoil beast return?

I remember the 1980s when the shallow areas of Okanagan Lake were infested with Eurasian milfoil seaweed growing to the surface, our swimming beaches covered with thick, fly-infested, rotting milfoil.

This weed had only entered the lake about 15 years earlier but was so aggressive that it rapidly took over.

Children and many adults were afraid to swim in the weeds and

the smell and flies made sitting on the beaches unpleasant at times.

It was not good for anyone that enjoys our lake and definitely not good for tourism.

However, for the last 25 or so years our local experts at the Okanagan Basin Water Board have managed to tame the beast through a program of rototilling and cutting during the cold weather months.

They have spent a lot of time and taxpayer money with very good results.

Now a small mussel, native to our lake, has been found in some of the shallows of the lake and someone in the provincial environmental bureaucracy thinks that rototilling might impact them negatively — even though these mussels have obviously survived the last 25 years of rototilling.

So he or she has decreed that rototilling cannot be performed if a mussel has been found in that area and over-ruled our local experts.

Eurasian milfoil is extremely

aggressive and will rapidly spread again if this treatment program is stopped.

The lake is Kelowna's greatest asset and I do not think many of our residents, business owners or tourists will be happy with the outcome if this control program is stopped.

If you agree with me contact the various government levels and give them your opinion.

Let's not let the beast return.

Bob Whitehead
Kelowna

Joining voting forces to oppose Conservatives suggested

To the editor:

Last week, I pointed out troubling questions about Conservative voters.

According to the Abacus Data poll of July 21, 2019, 46 per cent of Conservatives—but only 15 per cent of Liberals and eight per cent of NDPers—are positive or neutral about Trump.

Here's more data. A recent Angus Reid poll (July 30, 2019) revealed that right now 42 per cent of Conservative supporters in the 2015 election are positive about Trump while just 35 per cent are negative about him.

By contrast 84 per cent of Liberals and 93 per cent of NDP supporters are negative about Trump.

In other words, more than 40 per cent of Conservatives surveyed in these polls lean towards Trump while over 80 per cent of Liberals and NDP supporters don't like what they see south of the border.

Why does this matter? Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer has to keep his Conservative base to win—and a big chunk of his base likes Trump.

He is already taking on the tactics that define

Trump, particularly attack ads, innuendo and outright lies — and don't forget the yawning void where policy initiatives should be.

Scheer's recent claims about the new NAFTA are a case in point. The title of CBC's political fact checking post on Aug 2, 2019 tells it all: "How the Conservatives are torquing the facts on the new NAFTA."

Scheer deliberately twisted the findings of a recent C. D. Howe Institute report so that he could proclaim that Canada "got nothing" from the trade deal. Not true.

We can expect a lot more of these lies and distortions—and a total absence of substantive policy—as we move toward federal election day.

How can we keep Trumpian politics out of Canada? By making sure that we don't split the vote and let the Conservatives squeak in.

Regardless of our party affiliation—Liberal, NPD or Green—we need to decide which candidate has the best chance of defeating the Conservative candidate in our own ridings, and then vote for that candidate.

We're lucky in Kelowna-Lake Country because the frontrunner is Liberal MP Stephen Fuhr.

He's helped bring safe drinking water to local communities in the Okanagan. He's worked to get grants for both UBCO and Okanagan College. He's secured support for the rail trail and Lake Country's new multi-generational activity centre.

So he's not a "hold-your-nose-and-vote" candidate. He's getting the job done, and we're all better off because of it.

Diane Eaton
Kelowna

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FRIDAY

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