

mailbox... your letters

Is the cheque really in the mail?

I would like to comment on the new tax credit for home renovations for the 2009 tax year. I welcome the idea and hope to utilize the tax credit myself, but after reviewing the tax credit article in The Citizen, I finally found the catch. This may be very surprising to some, but may work out well for others.

“The 15 per cent comes off taxes owing, but isn’t refundable, so if it exceeds the total tax bill, there’s no refund.”

If you are to receive a refund from the government in the 2009 tax year, as most of us do, you will unfortunately not be receiving that much-anticipated tax credit. What a shame.

The real winners are people who owe the government money and need a tax credit to help alleviate their financial burden.

I really hope Prince George and surrounding area citizens look into this before jumping into a project that will not have any kickbacks as you may have hoped.

— Jeff Lyle, Prince George

Poured out their hearts

On Nov. 30, Glenview elementary school students, along with their families and Glenview staff, participated in a “Cheer Off” at a Spruce Kings game.

While the Spruce Kings challenged the Trail Smoke Eaters to an entertaining game of hockey, our students, families and staff poured their hearts into making as much noise as they could.

Much to the delight and hard work of our students, parents and staff, Glenview won the Cheer Off and earned “An Afternoon with the Spruce Kings.”

Although we did not know what to expect, we all waited anxiously - and the Spruce Kings did not disappoint.

The Spruce Kings arrived at Glenview and the afternoon began with a floor hockey game in the gym where every student had a chance to participate.

The Spruce Kings spent time with each class, reading to the students, talking to them about their favourite books and authors, answering endless questions and signing mini-sticks, jerseys, hats and anything else our students could sneak past the teachers.

The Spruce Kings were enthusiastic, interested and completely engaged with our students. It was a great experience for all involved and one that our students and staff will be buzzing about for sometime to come.

Glenview students, families, staff and PAC wish to send a huge thank-you to Jim Young and the players of the Prince George Spruce Kings for an amazing afternoon. We are, without a doubt, the Spruce Kings’ biggest fans.

— Tanya Gaal  
Prince George

More rights for druggies

We live in a society that really doesn’t care about somebody’s problems as long as it doesn’t affect him or her.

The laws don’t fit the society of the day.

Drug users and drug dealers have more rights than the citizen that is a law-abiding individual.

You have tenants living in apartments with no onsite managers.

You have the cops telling you that the problems you are facing are of the civil nature.

For example, the drug smoking going on in the apartments and the landlords and tenants will justify it going on by replying,

“It’s only pot. It’s only crack.”

Meanwhile, the other tenants have to breathe in the noxious, addicting fumes.

The cops’ hands are tied by the same laws that just don’t work anymore.

Can you please tell me, what good is it to lodge a complaint if the complaint is either ignored or you are just told there is nothing I can do?

Once again, the laws need to be changed to fit the times. More rights for the law-abiding citizen and fewer rights for the dealers and users.

— Neal Miller  
Prince George

Wanna cut? Try Whistler

Re: Deficit budgets on the way (story, Feb. 3).

The premier announced Monday that B.C. will have a deficit budget for at least the next two years because he wants to protect health care and education.

That would mean that the first place the Liberals would consider cutting costs is in those two areas.

No mention is made of cutting some of the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on the highway for the rich and famous to Whistler. No mention is made of axing the new roof on GM Place. No consideration given to the gargantuan Olympic and convention centre cost overruns.

No, the first place the Liberals look to cut costs is the health and education of families.

Gordon Campbell and his cabinet cronies have their priorities seriously wrong.

— Ron Williams,  
Prince George

Bring it on

NDP, Liberals set for May 12 brouhaha

I look forward to a strongly contested election on May 12. The NDP brought in balanced budget legislation, had four consecutive surplus budgets and reduced class sizes for primary students.

Liberals closed schools, turfed seniors out of their homes and raised class sizes to unteachable levels.

Care beds for seniors? Promised and not delivered.

Raw log exports and the Vancouver Olympics are just two of many ways the Liberals put rural interests behind urban B.C.

Let’s fight it out on the real record, not the Liberal spin.

— H. Holloway  
Prince George

Does Campbell think we’re all dumb?

Re: Deficit budgets on the way (story, Feb. 3).

Nice of the premier to try to scare everyone into thinking he would have to cut education and health care to balance the budget. Does he really think the people are that dumb? Cut the bailout of the private Vancouver projects, maybe take back some of the millions in raises they gave themselves, and cut the ridiculous high living allowances the politicians get.

— Jerry Meise,  
Prince George

Three-day wait

I walk up Davis Road every day and when we get a large snowfall the sidewalk is plowed the next night.

But when I go to walk down (or up) the Ospika Boulevard hill (between Davis and Range roads) it takes at least three days for the city to plow the sidewalk.

I walk this route every day and so do many other people.

A lot of us don’t have enough time to trudge through the deep snow on the sidewalk, so we walk on the road, which is very dangerous.

— Courtney Dunaway  
Prince George

Is Nature really credible?

Re: Scientists are, by their nature, curious (Todd Whitcombe ‘Science’ column, Jan. 24).

Todd Whitcombe assures us of his strong belief that everything around us has come about by random chance, by an evolutionary process. He insists that the “evidence is conclusive” and he quotes a statement from Nature “asking why don’t we just declare evolution a fact, and get on with things.”

But is this magazine really such a good source to quote from?

We are told in the National Post on Jan. 31, their newly released study showing that Antarctica is actually warming up, along with the rest of the world, runs contrary to all temperature measurements taken on that continent since 1957, which shows that Antarctica has been cooling.

This scientific journal also came out with the alarmist statement on global warming with the hockey-stick graph showing the 1990s as the hottest decade of the hottest century in the past 1,000 years.

In that case their statistics were found to be wrong, and they were discredited.

In the book called “The Seal of God” there are several quotes from Darwin.

In “My Life and Letters” he wrote, “Not one change of species into another is on record” and “we cannot prove that a single species has changed.”

In the “Origin of Species” he is quoted as saying, regarding the unexplainable sudden appearance of flowering plants together with pollinating insects, wasps and bees, that this is an “abominable mystery.”

And in another quote in this book Darwin says he believes the first life on Earth “was called into being by the Creator.”

In the movie called “Expelled - No Intelligence Allowed” the celebrated writer and confessed atheist Dr. Richard Dawkins, author of the book, “The God Delusion” was asked how did life begin on Earth. He said, “I don’t know.”

Then he said perhaps it might have been brought here from outside our solar system.

While I believe that Dawkins is a fool to say there is no God, he realizes that all life, including the human cell with its incredible complexity, could not accidentally spring into being.

Whitcombe seems to be at odds with both Darwin and Dawkins.

Perhaps he needs to look for better research material before he takes so firm a stand on how life began.

— Julia Serup  
Prince George

Heavy workload

Over the past two months I have been confined to hospital, both here and in Vancouver, suffering from a heart ailment and cancer. To my great relief the cancer was successfully removed and I await my heart surgery.

My concern is the workload of hospital staff, particularly the nursing staff. Last Saturday I was advised that the nurses will be responsible for 10 patients, up from eight.

When I ring the call bell I expect a nurse in a reasonable length of time. It’s not happening and if Gordon Campbell thinks he is going to be re-elected with this mess in the health-care system, he better wake up. People are noticing.

— Lenart Nelson  
Prince George

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