

?Dismayed and appalled?

Dear editor:

I am dismayed and appalled to see that you printed the letter "Are you new to Shelburne?" (July 9, 2015) full as it was of racist innuendoes and xenophobic overtones. Racist, because one can only conclude that the writer (not brave enough to give a name, so let us call him/her M. Verified) identifies someone as "new" based on their visibly different appearance. Or perhaps M. Verified is actually personally acquainted with all Shelburne residents, but I suspect not. So let us say that it was a racist and/or xenophobic letter.

Offensive as the letter is, (there are always people out there who will only see the things that reinforce their prejudices), I am most offended by your decision to publish it without comment. In so doing you use the opinion of an individual to paint an ugly picture of all of Shelburne. I hope that all manner of Shelburnians, through their actions, will prove more welcoming to newcomers than you or M. Verified.

There will always be bad apples in any group; accordingly, I promise not to judge all Shelburnians as reflective of M. Verified's (and your) stance.

I will sign my letter.

Alia Smyth,

Mulmur