

## They are heroes every day

Twitter was a feeding frenzy as news outlets rushed to be first to report the shooting at the A. Grenville and William Davis Courthouse in Brampton last Friday.

Reporters onsite and anyone else with a cell-phone were posting raw footage as fast as their fingers would allow.

It was instant news, a chance to be first with the headline of an officer down and a suspect shot dead.

It was an unfolding story that had people glued to all media outlets.

News crews captured police cars flanking a speeding ambulance carrying the wounded officer on its emergency run to a Toronto trauma centre.

The wail of the sirens and the unknown shooter at the courthouse made for real-life drama at every corner.

Our website — [insidehalton.com](http://insidehalton.com) — was also updating the tragedy as it unfolded.

However, one wonders how the headlines would have read had the officer not been shot.

What if the suspect had pulled a gun but not fired?

What if the officer managed to shoot the culprit first without being struck by a bullet?

What if the officer believed he had seen a weapon but there was none?

What if the weapon was actually a replica or merely a child's toy?

How would the story have played then? How would the media have interpreted the incident?

Would we be describing the officer as a hero? Probably not.

Many in the media would be swift to condemn, judging a situation from the sidelines.

The scenarios of what ifs are plentiful.

There are many reasons why police draw their weapons — to handle a threat to public and personal safety or to euthanize an injured animal.

There are also alternatives available to police drawing their firearm — Tasers, batons, physical restraint tactics.

We are very well aware not all police officers are perfect.

Policing is dubbed the thin blue line because officers walk that precarious line every day in the line of duty.

They face scenarios most people don't even fathom.

Often a decision must be made in a split second.

Officers place themselves into harm's way, all in the line of duty.

If the Brampton incident had played out differently, how many armchair critics would have jumped in to say this is another example of the police acting too fast in taking down a suspect?

They might second-guess the officer as if they were there themselves.

Peel Const. Mike Klarenbeek is already a hero; he didn't have to take a bullet to prove it.

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



The Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association presented a cheque for \$15,567.38 to Acclaim Health — proceeds from the annual Chinese New Year Banquet. Presenting the funds, from left, are Mary Lui, founding executive of the association and Louis Tsai, association president, to Angela Brewer, CEO Acclaim Health, and Dr. Peter Garrod, chair of the Acclaim Health board. | photo by Graham Paine - Oakville Beaver (Follow on Twitter @halton\_photog or facebook.com/HaltonPhotog)

## Letter to the Editor

### Local education watchdog watches FDK debate

We are closely following the situation at the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), where parents are fighting the board's decision not to implement full-day Kindergarten (FDK) at their local neighbourhood school because it has become single-track French Immersion, even though Ministry of Education policy documents — and even the education ministry website — say “full-day Kindergarten will be available in all publicly-funded elementary schools” by September 2014.

The York families have started a petition to the Ontario Ministry of Education trying to right this wrong and realized their board was not unique. “There are a lot of schools in the province that offer single-track French Immersion programs without offering full-day Kindergarten. This has become a provincial issue.” They have hired a lawyer to fight for what their children are entitled to.

In the meantime, the YCDSB has asked the ministry if it must offer FDK in all schools — all parties involved are waiting for a response from Liz Sandals. With Halton District School Board having single-track

French Immersion schools (only in Oakville), this decision will greatly affect things here.

It is shocking to us more Oakville families aren't up in arms over HDSB's decision to not offer FDK in all schools because the Education Act clearly states: “every board shall, in every elementary school of the board in which instruction is given in some or all of the primary division, operate a full-day junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten ...”.

There was a segment on CTV news a few weeks ago that said teachers are not finding many FDK classes are bursting at the seams. It certainly doesn't help there are five of Oakville's schools (Pinegrove, Forest Trail, Sunningdale, Munn's and EJ James) that do not and will not be offering FDK. Wouldn't it help to alleviate the crowding if all schools were obliged to offer FDK as per the Ministry's policy?

We anxiously await the Minister's decision.

Jennifer Wilson

**Halton Families for Inclusive Neighbourhood Schools (HFFINS)**

The **Oakville Beaver** welcomes letters from its readers. Letters will be edited for clarity, length, legal considerations and grammar. In order to be published all letters must contain the name, address and phone number of the author. Letters should be addressed to: **The Editor, Oakville Beaver**, 5040 Mainway, Burlington ON L7L 7G5 or via e-mail to: [ablackburn@oakvillebeaver.com](mailto:ablackburn@oakvillebeaver.com). The *Beaver* reserves the right to refuse to publish a letter.

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