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to increase and that means if you're an

opthamologist,

chances are you could

be a millionaire.

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OPINION

Editorials

Exclusive club

Who wants to be a millionaire?

Well it seems if you're an eye specialist in Ontario, you're a good candidate to make it into this exclusive club.

A published report last week revealed that As our population ages, 10 Ontario doctors, six of them opthamolo- eye problems continue gists, had billed the system more than \$1 mil-

Given the fact that the massive bulge of baby boomers is entering into their degenerating eye time of life, opthamologists are booked solid for procedures. According to health experts, the reason for the windfall is technology. With eye specialists able to push more patients through operations because of

new techniques and equipment, their billings escalate accordingly. And the simple, if unacceptable, answer given for the continuing escalation in billing is that it can take years for fee structures to change in accordance with time needed for procedures.

Even more disturbing for taxpayers who are bombarded daily with stories on how our health system needs more money, is the fact that the names of topbilling Ontario doctors are only available through the Freedom of Information Act. We'd like the Province to follow the lead of British Columbia and Manitoba who annually publish doctors' names and their billings

And for those who are interested, Ontario's highest billing physician was a cardiologist who billed \$1.6 million in fiscal 1999-2000 followed by an anesthetist with \$1.5 million in charges.

One wonders how nurses working in hospital emergency departments and in operating rooms feel about this kind of remuneration. Surgeons and specialists take a long time to be trained but given the rewards, it's little wonder our health care system is under stress.

The Oakville Beaver welcomes your comments. All letters must be typed, signed and include the writer's address and phone number. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Oakville Beaver 467 Speers Rd., Oakville, Ont. L6K 3S4

'PRIDE WEEK' IS OVER, ED... -YOU CAN COME OUT OF THE OSET NOW!

Education suffering at hands of technology

We have received our sons' report cards and although we find the standardized reporting format to be arbitrary, derivative, formulaic and abstruse, we are encouraged.

The results shown on this report card indicate clearly that the teaching staff at Munn's Public School has continued, despite a sustained assault, to demonstrate profession-

In spite of the rain, the event was very success-

ful, raising over \$10,000 in its first year as a public

event. Over 100 walkers of all ages came to walk

through the parks and waterfront of old Oakville, in

memory of someone who had died. Pledges and

donations are still coming in from those who had

intended to come but were discouraged by the rain.

nate up to 40% of their pledges to any other charity.

Because of this, the Canadian Mental Health

Association, Canadian Cancer Society, Chris

Lockwood Foundation, Georgetown Hospital, Heart

and Stroke Foundation, Princess Margaret Hospital

and Victorian Order of Nurses all benefited, as well

as Bereaved Families of Ontario - Halton/Peel.

As you know, walkers who were able to desig-

took place May 27th.

to come into contact with this dedication, acumen, nurturing and guidance. This fact displays itself with the academic results our sons have achieved

We. as parents, have great concerns about the government's attitude toward public education, to say nothing of the curriculum pregovernment-initiated ideological vailing in Ontario, We lament the and creative insight to develop loss of respect for a liberal arts fully participating members of a alism and care for their students. education with a concurrent over- democratic and equitable society. Our children have been fortunate reliance on technological instruc-

tion. We desire that our children have a well balanced, rounded and complete education rather than mere training. The Ministry of Education seems to want to produce very knowledgeable taxpayers. It also seems to ignore, indeed write off, the equally important need for the impartation of wisdom More frequent, rigorous standard-

Many people made Walk to Remember a success I am writing to thank you for your support of our Thanks to many generous sponsors, wonderful fundraising event, the Walk to Remember, which volunteers, dedicated walkers and the many giving people who pledged them, Bereaved Families of

> Ontario - Halton/Peel's Walk to Remember was a big success for the whole community. Your contribution was an important and valued part of this

We acknowledged the generosity of our sponsors and donors through many public venues which included recognition in quarter page ads in the Oakville Beaver, posters, brochures and hand-outs. We will also be printing a full list of sponsors in our next newsletter, which will go out to 650 mem-

Again, thank you very much for your support. It is truly appreciated.

Wendy Dean Executive Director

ized testing may create automatons with higher marks, but does it realistically contribute to the full experience of citizenship while being attentive to the very urgent needs accompanying each stage of growth into adulthood?

With this outlook, we will continue to vigorously pursue our own involvement with our children's education. We are determined that they will experience childhood and adolescence to their fullest capacities while taking every advantage provided by the public system.

Our concerns have been understood and effectively responded to by the staff at Munn's. We fervently hope that this attitude will thrive in what we perceive to be, generally, a parlous atmosphere infiltrating the province. We are concerned that the teaching profession will become a somewhat less-thandesirable career choice for the future. That, in our opinion, would be a disaster, not only for Ontario, but for Canada as well.

Thank you to all staff and volunteers at Munn's Public School. A job well done, applauded and much appreciated.

Corey & Donald Johnston

Thankful that Ian Anderson House is there to help

My mother Grace Bell, a Milton resident, moved to Ian Anderson House in Oakville this month. When we, her adult children, could no longer care for her in her home, we were so fortunate to find out about this incredible place. Mom now spends her days in beautiful surroundings, with people who care deeply about her welfare. It truly is the next best thing to being in your own home when circumstances dictate that you can no longer live

During the recent IAH annual Walkathon to raise funds for its upkeep, I was inspired to write this poem on behalf of all families who benefit from its being there. If anyone feels inspired to help the hospice in any way, I will

Pud

be so glad. Mom is a wonderful, sweet lady who loves people and we are so blessed to have quality time with her in this beautiful place. My poem says it all.

Patricia Keachie

A hospice is an answer to a prayer. Love and compassion are found there. To spend one's days in peace until one's sweet release from these bonds of earth is surely a time of blessing.

Gardens mindful of Paradise Sun, sweet air, birds in their flight The comforts of Home Room to roam

Though by imagination or wheelchair Still, they are there.

And what of the people who give their

looking for those large and small ways to make their guests that bit more content In God's truth, they are Heaven-sent. As are all who care

As are all who share And all who are aware of the need

For a home away from home from which we shall not roam.

When we ARE our brother's keeper We succeed.

by Steve Nease

DADDY





Private school funding would kill public system Your timely editorial (Wed. June 20, 2001) on

Letter of the Week

the proposed private school funding by the Harris government, reveals the usual jockeying for position to gather 'free' money from the tax-paying pub-

This certainly reveals a grasping unconscionable minority who would, for whatever selfish reasons, break down, and long term, destroy, much of what is valuable in our society - a common educational system that educates and imbues students with sound Canadian values.

This is not to say that our present system of education is perfect. The Davis government started the fragmentation with full funding for Roman Catholic schools. The teachers in both Catholic and Public schools, jumped on an opportunity to transfer more money to their pockets from the general tax-paying public. The Harris government has tried to correct this but the efforts lack understanding of the fundamentals of education with pressure groups now trying to drive the common educational system into the ground for their own selfish interest.

It doesn't take much imagination to see the end of the fragmented road. Each religious belief system will hire only those who fit their religious profile, from janitor right through to top senior levels. School buses, as we now see in the Roman Catholic system, will carry only students of that faith. Within this scenario, the ultimate unfairness, when those teachers who do not fit the 'correct' religious profile, are restricted, for employment purposes, to the remnants of our Public school system. While those who have the benefit of the 'correct' belief system, can find employment either way.

O tempora, O mores!

Ivor Davies

Special name for Bronte bridge

I would like to add my name to that of Alex Klein and the countless others who silently support the idea of naming the new (Rebecca St.-Bronte Creek) bridge after 'Mr. Bronte' (Bill Hill).

Apart from his inherent kindness, generosity and humility, Bill's lack of avarice has accounted for the small town atmosphere Bronte Pier has retained.

Thank you, Bill, for the serenity and sense of history you have provided by not succumbing to the current trend to pull down and construct on every inch of land

Betty L. Reade

All creatures big and small

My congratulations to the individual who authorized the mass removal of Canada Geese from Oakville's waterfront parks. I would like to see he/she continue the good work by removing all other creatures from our parks and in particular, those annoying songbirds.

Thereafter, if all trees were cut down and all grassed areas paved over, it would ensure no living thing returns to

Most urgently, in the intrest of promoting our Water Festival, it is important to expedite the removal of whichever species is responsible for the foul stench which wafts into Coronation Park from the sewage treatment plan nearby.

Brian Cable