

# A TRIAL RUN FOR MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

INDEPENDENT

Feb. 21/07



A pair of handsome draft pintos named Hank and Jenny haul George Potter and a sleigh full of kids through the sugar bush farm near Warkworth. It's all a warm-up for the village's 21st annual Maple Syrup Festival on March 10 and 11.

## Tory ad campaign

Bravo! Your editorial about the recent Conservative party's ad campaign put words to my opinion. Those ads are broadcast day and night on multiple channels. The Conservatives must believe that yet another taxpayer-paid election is necessary, and imminent. They must also believe that after a year plus in minority power, they have done nothing worth bragging about. That must be why the Conservatives are discrediting the Liberals like a bullying child on the playground. And who is paying for all those expensive ads? This is a smear campaign that does not endear me to the Conservative Party. In fact, it turns me off, big time!

Janet Twigg  
Campbellford

## A plea for Castleton P.S.

INDEPENDENT Feb 14/07

Copy of Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board response form for community consultation ...

Consultation area I am responding to: Northumberland

I would like to propose to you that you rethink your plan to close the Castleton Public School and transfer our students to Brighton, Spring Valley and Percy Centennial in Warkworth.

I am the parent of two teenaged children who were the fourth generation of my husband's family to attend Castleton Public School. We live on a dairy farm that recently celebrated 100 years of the farm being in the family. We hope that our family continues to live here and future generations are able to attend the school in Castleton. I realize that sentimentality is not a reason to continue to keep a school open. However, I feel that the alternatives that you have proposed to us are not acceptable.

I recently watched the news on television with reports of Toronto school boards having concerns about their decreasing numbers of children being registered for classes due to the number of children moving to the 905 area. I would think that the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board would be one of the areas that would be receiving the influx of these students.

One of my concerns is that the children will be travelling on school buses for longer distances and times. This creates a safety concern for the children because of the road conditions as well as the length of time that the children will spend on the buses. There is also the concern of the impact of the older children's behaviour on the

younger children. Will the younger children be travelling on buses with high school age children? Another concern is the emotional impact on the young children who will be away from their family for longer periods of times. There is also the problem of the parent being so far away from their child (ren) and having to travel a greater distance to pick up their child if they are ill. It may result in the parents not being able to attend school meetings or functions because they cannot get to the event on time or it is too far to travel and they cannot afford the fuel. This also reduces the amount of time that the children have to spend on activities within their own community. Children may not be able to participate in the extracurricular activities at their school due to the fact that they do not have a ride home or are unable to get to the school in time to participate in the activities. There is a concern about the increase in obesity of the children. The fact that the children will be less mobile because of the longer bus ride and the inability to participate in the extracurricular activities is definitely a concern of the parents and should also be a concern of the school board. The longer bus rides and more buses on the roads create a greater negative effect on our environment.

Castleton Public School has never had a gymnasium but the children continue to enjoy outdoor activities such as basketball, soccer or whatever outdoor fun activities that they can participate in. Former principals have commented on the fact that the children at Castleton Public School are very active and do not stand around doing nothing. They will walk or run around the school yard. The children have access to the Castleton sports fields located behind the school, and with teacher supervision, they have spent some fun times playing soccer, baseball or tobogganing at the facilities located there. This year, there is an ice rink with lights for the evening. The children could enjoy skating on the ice rink.

Castleton Public School is part of the Castleton community, and in that respect, it has access to other facilities in cases of emergency. Does South Cramahe or Spring Valley have easily accessible emergency shelters? Castleton has the Castleton United Church and the Castleton town hall as their designated emergency shelters.

The building of a new school in Castleton makes sense as it is centrally located in a community. The community is growing with the building of homes within the hamlet and in the surrounding community.

The Castleton community has great spirit! It takes a whole village to raise a child and Castleton wants to continue to do that. We would welcome a new school to be built on the spacious school grounds.

Marion McComb  
Castleton, ON.