

Boarders, police, local citizens meet in Sept.

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idents are coming from but adds: "We'll just move."

Lou Pinto, a photographer and musician who has three children of his own, wants to actively support the search for a viable facility within Georgetown: "They feel like criminals and so they are starting to act like criminals."

"It's affecting their psyche and when they give up boarding, they will have radical views about society."

"When you go against society, you start hurting yourself when you could do positive things (and go against the norm)."

Pinto wants to take an active role because he says frustrated youths have a greater need to believe that there is hope. "They just want to be themselves and they can't."

Debbie Fiddler, of Normandy Boulevard, agrees that these teens see limited possibilities and they are rebelling. "By no means do I want to discourage. Swimmers get swimming pools and tennis players get tennis courts. These young people need support because they will be adults soon."

Fiddler sees a growing interest in skateboarding and believes that adults could participate. "I don't want to blame parents but I would go out and advocate."

Fiddler wants to nurture community mindedness: "If it's not affecting people directly, they don't pay attention to it. I saw our mayor on blades last week and the activities are the same. If she had a child involved in this activity maybe she'd get involved and do something."

Fiddler agrees with neighbour Robert Hart that the Normandy community does not want to host skateboarders on their street. "I don't want to discourage them but they have to learn respect for people, property, the environment and themselves."

"One day, they will have a house and want their property to look nice."

Fiddler is troubled by the presence of skateboarders on her street but takes a positive stance: "We are trying very hard to tolerate them. How do we respect them if they don't respect us? If we cast out these young people or classify them in terms of 'those skateboarders,' it forms barriers, segregation, discrimination and a negative outlook."

Some officials in our community share Fiddler's tolerant views. Skateboarder Royce recalls that 18-year-old boarder "Harry" was once approached by three police cruisers and that the first officer talked to him about boarding and then gave him a police card to call, saying "if you ever want to come to a meeting ... you can come and state your case."

Royce plans to attend and thinks that an organized meeting would do some good.

Thompson will co-ordinate a meeting with police that will be open to the skateboarders and citizens.

"The meeting should take place sometime in September," says Thompson.

If all goes well, this meeting may facilitate construction of a skateboard park in Georgetown for next summer's season.



MEMORIES!

Georgetown's Cindy Dowling of the Halton Hills Quilters Club stands in front of her quilt entitled Memories. The quilt is on display until Aug. 11 at the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton. It took her about two months to sew the quilt which incorporates pictures of friends and family members. (Eve Martin photo)

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