

readers write

Concerned parents explain their side

To the Editor of The Herald: In response to last week's article on Park School, I would like to formally state our stand on the issues.

At Park, there is not a true "open concept" but a series of overcrowded, split grades consisting of anywhere from six to 12 groups per class. Our concern is that, with even six groups per class, the amount of time spent with each group must be minimal not to mention individual attention.

Based on six groups per class

we have roughly calculated 195 teaching hours per group per year. If split grades were abandoned the teaching hours increase to roughly 400 hours per group per year.

This can be accomplished easily without extra burden to the taxpayer and should be clearly inspected by Park parents. Ms. Larsen's statement was distorted as to the truth and should be reviewed with her.

The so-called four letter words were hurled around by

one parent only—not all concerned, as stated. I still contend, as at the meeting, that although a teacher's day is forever challenging the more proficient she becomes the easier her load should be. But, with constant changes, the stress on the teacher makes her job become harder and harder. As stress continues the basics in education get lost in the middle.

In response to Mrs. Barrager, I congratulate her

on her questions. I will endeavour to answer them to her satisfaction.

Parents attended from different schools but most were from Park. Because of this, conditions at Park were the major issue where complaints were directed at Mr. Oprica and his policies but not at the teachers. We all felt that the teachers were providing the best, under trying circumstances.

We numbered about 30, but considering the weather,

parents night and night courses on that evening we were satisfied with the initial turnout. Although some expected parents did not attend for valid reasons their support was very much there.

We did not want names published to protect our children and teachers involved from harassment. We feel we requested this in good faith.

Our parents did help us with homework and we will continue to but they did not

have to teach. There's quite a difference.

We have offered positive steps to correct the situation at Park but they have fallen on closed ears. The ultimate positive step was to transfer children to other schools to receive the proper education they so rightly deserve. This was a most difficult decision and was not taken lightly by us.

We are attacking one school only—Park but are sincerely sorry matters have brought us to this point. We came to the

decision to either give up or fight so we fought. We did not expect front page coverage. But we were delighted to receive it. We feel our excellent teachers have been made to bear the brunt of this conflict, and for this we feel for them. They work hard to make an impossible system work. Every child that has been transferred so far, is happier and appears to be learning a great deal more. Because of this, we all feel we have made the right move for our children.

Betty Fisher
"Concerned Parents"

Eternal bliss dinosaur thinking?

To The Editor of The Herald: According to recent press reports the development of the Halton Hills region may be retarded because of - as I understand it - an insufficient existing number of municipal watermain in the area.

As usual, "development" is to be understood as the covering of the land with houses, schools, shopping centres, parking lots, the whole spectrum of suburban achievements. Indications that we may be spared this wholesale destruction of the Esqueping countryside can be

regarded as the best news to reach this area for some time, particularly in view of the bankruptcy of the much heralded "Toronto-Central Regional Plan", which would have given us some measure of protection.

Yet, incredible as it may seem, there are voices in the councils of the northern region protesting the lack of "development" for this area, naively defending the completely discredited notion that more houses, more people, more acres covered in asphalt will lower the individual tax burden or - as the somewhat

poetic saying goes - achieve social equity. There are those who plead for a continuing conversion of two percent of the rural area to residential, a plan that, if followed, would almost guarantee eternal bliss for everyone.

A conversion at this rate would see the complete disappearance of the rural area in 50 years, obviously in the opinion of some councillors a desirable state of affairs. Perhaps it should be suggested then, that we make a concerted effort and get the bulldozers really going on 4 percent, or better still 10 percent of the

area per year, so that the satisfying condition of living in Suburbia may be enjoyed in our own lifetime, and not only in that of our children.

Personally, I resent being represented in the municipal council by a mentality dating from the age of the dinosaurs. I expect my councillors to progress with the times and to protect, rather than to attempt to destroy the land with the governing of which they have been entrusted.

Charles Hildebrandt
RR 1
Georgetown



SPELLING may not have been important to the Girl Guides of Norval Presbyterian Church. Lenore Neuman proudly displays the sign that directed so many to the bazaar. OOPS bazaar.

Many help UNICEF help

To The Editor of The Herald: Each year hundreds of people, young and old, in the Georgetown area contribute to the UNICEF 'Hallowe'en' campaign. It is impossible to reach all of you to say "thank you!"

To each and every person who gave money, to the ladies who sat so patiently and counted and rolled all the coins, to the principals and ministers who allowed the campaign to be carried on in their schools and Sunday schools, to the children who cared enough to share

their night of fun. To Verdun Rebekah Lodge, the Countess of Strathmore chapter IODE and the staff of the Imperial Bank of Commerce who checked all the money deposited. Everyone's contribution is truly appreciated.

Through their efforts UNICEF will be able to carry on their programs of health, nutrition, educational and social welfare in the underdeveloped countries around the world. The need was never greater.

Gratefully,
Jean W. Barber (Mrs. K.D.)
Chairman, Georgetown Area UNICEF 'Hallowe'en' Fund

UNICEF DONATIONS 1974:
Centennial Public School, \$100.68; Countess of Strathmore Chapter IODE, 10.00; Georgetown & District High School, 83.36; Joseph Gibbons Public School, 74.13; Glen Williams Public School, 72.72; Knox Presbyterian Sunday School, 41.78; Limehouse Public School, 95.28; Mountainview Baptist Sunday

School, 11.43; Norval Presbyterian Sunday School, 14.00; Norval United Sunday School, 31.84; Park Public School, 115.83; St. Andrews United Sunday School, 51.00; St. George's Anglican Sunday School, 73.50; St. John's United Sunday School, 64.87; St. Paul's Anglican Sunday School, Norval, 15.09; Stewarttown Senior Public School, 91.15; Verdun Rebekah Lodge, 25.00; Dutch Christian School (Sent in by them), 131.63; Total \$1,105.22.

Norval news

Girl Guides bazaar a definite hit

The Christmas meeting of Norval Women's Institute was held on Thursday evening December 5, at the home of Mrs. Jean Harrop with Mrs. Ina Terry presiding.

Glen Webb, assisted by Linda Nixon, demonstrated how to make Christmas door decorations and a Christmas flower arrangement. Tickets were drawn on the arrangements and the winners were Mrs. Jean May, Mrs. Gladys Chester, and Mrs. Ina Terry.

An exchange of "nonsense" carols with Mrs. Doris Sharpe playing the piano were enjoyed.

During the business a letter was read from the club's adopted child in Hong Kong. It was decided to donate a food hamper and gifts for Christmas to a needy family. The turkey for the hamper will be donated by Maple Lodge Farms. Mrs. Ina Terry, Mrs. Grace Crawford, and Mrs. Kathy Chester were appointed the committee to be in charge of the hamper.

A social time was enjoyed while Mrs. Marie Murray and Mrs. Elliott assisted the hostess

in serving a delicious lunch.

Unit Two of Norval United Church Women enjoyed a pot luck supper at the home of Mrs. Phyllis Moffatt for their Christmas meeting on Wednesday evening, December 4 with 19 present.

Following the delicious supper they enjoyed carol singing accompanied by Mrs. Lois Reid on her guitar. Mrs. Mona Fishburn gave a few readings and Mrs. Betty Johnson led a discussion on "What Christmas Means To Me."

Tickets were drawn on a Christmas cake made and decorated like a Christmas tree by Mrs. Phyllis Moffatt which was won by Mrs. Rosie Laidlaw.

Santa Claus arrived to distribute gifts from the tree to end a very enjoyable evening. Mrs. Ann Wilson's group were in charge of the evening.

Norval Girl Guides' bazaar held in the basement of the Norval Presbyterian Church on Saturday December 7 was quite a successful event. The leaders

and the 19 Guides are very pleased with the number of people who turned out to support them and of the sale of the homemade baking and stuffed toys, etc. The girls' mothers assisted in making the homemade baking and some of the work of the bazaar themselves, serving tea and coffee, and in charge of the various tables of items for sale.

Lucky draw winners were: Linda White, a book mark and a brass wheelbarrow; Lenore Neuman, \$5.00 gift certificate at Zellers; Mrs. Mona Fishburn; set of 4 ashtrays, and Debbie Frost, hair wash and set.

Leaders are Debbie Frost, Kathy McDonald and Carolyn Ewen.

Brian Evans assisted by Rob Aron of Brampton, are Scout Leaders for the Norval Scouts. There are six boys in the troop so far but they hope that others will join them. Any boy who is 11 to 14 years of age is welcome to drop in at a Scout meeting any Tuesday evening at St. Paul's Anglican Parish Hall to

see what goes on and, if interested, join the troop.

The boys have had one overnight camp this fall and are busy working towards their badges.

The leaders are proud that, out of the six boys, three have been chosen to go to Norway for three weeks near the end of July with other Scouts from Canada. They are David Ballie, Chris Reed, and Russell Hamilton. The boys have to earn most of their expense money for the trip themselves so they are available for any odd jobs that need to be done around your home. No doubt the local group Committee for Scouts and Cubs will hold some money-raising projects to give the boys a hand to meet expenses.

It was White Gift Sunday at Norval United Church on Sunday, December 8. Each class of the Sunday School participated in the service and presented their gifts.

The Kindergarten class sang "Away In A Manger" and Shelly Laidlaw told a children's story. The Primary Class gave a poem in unison, "Our First Christmas Gift". The Intermediate Girls' Class gave a poem in unison, "Precious Gift". The Intermediate Girls' class acted a parable about gifts. The Junior Boys' class, with some help from the girls, presented a Christmas pageant of the birth of Jesus. The Junior Choir sang a couple of selections during the service. Rev. R. Walter Ridley's message was on "Humility Gate".

The gifts will be taken to St. Luke's Church and the Fred Victor Mission to assist them in their ministry to the many people who have particular needs in Toronto.

Get well wishes are extended to Mrs. M. H. Moyer who is a patient in Peel Memorial Hospital, Brampton, as the result of a car accident.

Also to Mrs. Vera Taylor who is a patient in Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Dorothy McLean

They support Park principal

To The Editor of The Herald: From reading the headlines in your newspaper over the last two weeks one would gain the impression that all was not well at Park School.

As the parents of three children who attend Park School we wish to state that we are very pleased with the education our children are receiving. We are satisfied with the standard of education and the attitude towards education at the school.

Our children have now received education in three countries (Canada, Britain and USA) and we know from personal experience that Mr. Oprica and his staff endeavor to provide the children with individual attention to a degree we have not found in many of the schools our children have attended and which was certainly not present in the education we ourselves received in the 1940's and 1950's.

In particular we are very impressed with the open way in which Mr. Oprica and his staff are willing to discuss and deal with any problems which arise in connection with the education of our children.

My wife and I attended the meeting at Park School which was headlined in the last issue of The Herald. We were very disappointed at the manner in which your newspaper chose to report the event. Not only did it inaccurately report the complaints of the very small, but highly vocal, group of parents who did speak out against certain aspects of the organization at Park School, it failed to report the Principal's

detailed replies to the actual questions and issues raised.

It also failed to report that a number of parents spoke out in favor of the work the school is doing. We believe that your newspaper could have served the interests of the children, staff and parents of Park School in a more responsible manner had you presented the issues discussed in a factual rather than emotional manner, and had you also presented the opinions of a more representative group of parents than those apparently supporting the North Halton Renaissance Committee.

Doug & Jean Belshaw
155 Main St. South

Ho Ho Ho,
Santa Claus

Kiwanians honor 4-H members

By Henry J. Stanley

The Kiwanis Club of the Kingsway invited several of the top 4-H club members from Halton to their annual 4-H awards banquet at the Old Mill in Toronto on Monday, December 2. Following an enjoyable meal, Bill Sellers, chairman of their Agricultural and Conservation committee, called upon the 10 Kiwanis Scholarship winners from Halton for 1974.

Each of the following members received an illustrated dictionary: Marie Murray, Acton 4-H Club; Bruce McKeown, Halton 4-H All Breeds Dairy Club; James

Linsay, Halton 4-H Beef Calf Club; Holly Hurren, Halton 4-H Holstein Calf Club; Dianne Dorsey, Halton 4-H Horse Club; Joseph Weeden, Halton 4-H Sheep Club; John Reid, Halton 4-H Field Crop Club; Bill Robinson, Halton 4-H Livestock Judging Club; Nancy Lawrence, Halton 4-H Homemaking Club; and Lila Dennis, Halton 4-H Homemaking Club.

Also in attendance were: Jeff Nurse, president of the Halton 4-H Club Leaders' Council; Mrs. Marjorie Cordingley, 4-H Homemaking Club Leader; Miss Lorraine Holding, Home Economist; and Henry Stanley,

Agricultural Representative for Halton.

The top 4-H awards for our Halton 4-H agricultural clubs were then presented. The J.E. Whitelock Trophy for the most outstanding 4-H member was presented to Cecil Patterson, RR4 Milton and the Claude Bain Trophy for the most outstanding first year member went to Ellen Hurren, RR2, Campbellville 2.

Guest speaker was Mrs. Bernice Inman from the Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary in Streetsville. This sanctuary cares for 2,000 birds every year that have met with various accidents. Her slides and commentary were most enjoyable.

This concludes our 4-H activities for 1974. The 1975 projects will commence on Tuesday, December 17th with the organization meeting of the Halton 4-H Veterinary Science Club, in the Agricultural Office, Milton at 8:00 p.m.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

The Council for the Town of Halton Hills requests interested residents to advise the Clerk Administrator in writing by December 14th, 1974, if they wish to be considered for appointment to serve on the Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment, the Halton Hills Public Library Board, the Halton Hills Parking Authority or the Recreation Advisory Committee for Ward One (Acton) or the Recreation Advisory Committee for Wards Three and Four (Georgetown).

Written reply should indicate the specific committee or board for which appointment is requested and may include any personal background information deemed appropriate.

G.D. PRITCHARD, A.M.C.T. C.M.C.
Clerk Administrator
Town of Halton Hills
36 Main Street South
Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 3G4

New officers for Halton's Pride

The regular meeting of Halton's Pride No. 393, Loyal Blue Association, was held on Nov. 22, in the Odd-fellow's Hall. Election and installation of officers for 1975 was held and the following are the new slate of officers.

Worshipful Mistress, Mrs. Lauretta Mills; Immediate Past Worshipful Mistress, Mrs. Cathy Chalmers; Deputy Mistress, Mrs. Viola Jarvis; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Nancy Simpson; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Carter;

Treasurer, Mr. Morley Mills; Chaplain, Mrs. Frances Magee; Director of Ceremonies, Mrs. Betty Dixon; Conductor, Mrs. Edythe Peck; Inside Tyler, Mrs. Nora Pihl; Outside Tyler, Mrs. Aleda McCartney;

Auditors, Mrs. Millie Mc-Niven Mrs. Jessie Shortill;

Committee, Mrs. Hazel Preston, Mrs. Betty Dixon, Mrs. Daisy Harris, Mrs. Cathy Chalmers, Mrs. Edythe Peck.

The election and installation was conducted by Unity District Mistress, Mrs. Jessie Shortill, assisted by her district officers from Branford, Preston, Guelph and Rockwood.

Unity District Lodge will be meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5, in Rockwood, at which time Halton's Pride Degree Team will be assisting with the Scarlet Degree.

Plans were finalized for the annual Christmas Dinner which will be held at the Driftwood, Norval on December 27.

A gift of \$2.00 for each child in the LTB & Orange Home was decided upon and this will be delivered to each child personally by some of the members of the local lodge before Christmas.

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Keep your axe sharp

To The Editor of The Herald: Would you kindly, do me the honor of addressing my good friend of fauna and forest and true son of the northern bush-wacker league (No malice intended) Bob Ollivier.

I noted a reference in his column to a "C" in reference to cutting trees for any purpose. I would like to ask him how he enjoyed our nice, hot stew and hot coffee from said tree and the warmth of a fire after having soaked all our clothes to the waist in about 30 below zero.

Without further adieu I would wish Bob a Merry Christmas and may his fireplace roar with good old birch trees.

Your flashing buddy,
Terry Christie
P.S. We may make another trip Bob so keep your axe sharp.

Santa sends a message

To The Editor of The Herald: Every year, my job in Canada becomes a little bit harder, in spite of - or perhaps because of - our vast technological achievements.

You see, each year, I receive a larger number of heart-breaking letters from young folk who say they could manage without Christmas presents if only I could send Daddy back. My research shows that Daddy was in a fatal traffic accident, and it is very hard for a little one to understand how it is Daddy can go off to work, fishing, shopping etc. right as rain, but never come back.

Through the pages of your paper, may I ask for the help of all the drivers in your coverage area? We have just come through Safe Driving Week in Canada, and everybody has seen a barrage of safety messages. Please remember them, not only through the hustle and bustle of this holiday season, but all through 1975.

Then, I will be better able to concentrate on finding the kind of gifts that make up the more routine requests from our children. Let's have no more sad, desperate faces at Christmas time.

Wishing you and yours a very merry and safe Christmas!

Ho Ho Ho,
Santa Claus

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BOXING DAY

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

By authority of the Municipal Council for the Town of Halton Hills, I hereby proclaim Thursday, December 26th, 1974, Boxing Day within the Town of Halton Hills, and call upon all residents to observe the same.

On behalf of the Municipal Council, I wish all residents and ratepayers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

T. J. HILL
Mayor, Town of Halton Hills

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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