

-A knife wouldn't have killed my son

Is it guns or people that kill? The Halton-Peel area was shocked five months ago with the shooting that took place at Brampton's Centennial Secondary School in which two people were killed, 14 injured and then, as a final act, student Michael Slobodian turned the lethal weapon upon himself.

John Slinger, age 16, was one of the victims of that shooting rampage. Since that time his parents, rather than mourning the death of their son, have begun a campaign to restrict, in some way, the availability of guns in hopes of reducing and hopefully eliminating any similar outbreaks of violence.

Berwick Slinger, John's father, addressed the members of the Georgetown Kinsmen Club at their Tuesday night dinner meeting last week. "The question of gun control is a serious matter," explained the concerned father. "I'm not an authority but this situation has been forced upon me."

Few people are truly aware of the availability of guns, he said. Criminals are not the only ones in possession of the lethal devices.

"There have been many cases of guns reported in schools," stated Mr. Slinger. In a recent letter to Canada's Solicitor-General Warren Allmand, the Slingers presented eight, fully documented instances in which guns were brought into schools in this area.

One example occurred in Georgetown. In 1971 a 16-year-old student dropout returned to GDHS and fired a blast from a 20-gauge shotgun at shop teacher Ron Nelson. The blast shattered a glass section of a door; close to the teacher's face.

The youth was taken into custody and sentenced with a recommendation for psychiatric treatment.

For Georgetown and Brampton residents it is too late to say "it couldn't happen

here," Mr. Slinger noted.

The main areas of concern regarding guns have been outlined in a letter from the Slingers to the solicitor-general which will be considered at the next sitting of parliament. It calls for some form of gun control in Canada.

"We could be expected to be counted among those who demand abolition of guns and we do certainly wish this was possible, particularly in the urban areas. We recognize that, at best, this could only be an ultimate aim, since such a sudden change would be resisted," the Brampton couple stated in the letter.

"We must accept, however, no less than the classifying of all firearms as restricted weapons under the Criminal Code."

If Mr. Slinger's plan is adopted as proposed, permits would be required before anyone could own a firearm. Permits would not be issued to persons under 18, anyone with



Berwick Slinger...

a criminal record or anyone with a record of drug addiction, alcoholism or mental illness.

Issuing of the permit would be delayed for 30 days pending police approval.

Mr. Slinger also realizes that the availability of ammunition is also a major contributing factor to the upsurge in violent deaths.

"Limits should be set on the amount of ammunition sold to an individual and the amount which may be stored in a private residence.

Firearms stored in a private residence should be stored under lock and key with ammunition locked up separately, he stated.

"Guns have no place in school," stated Mr. Slinger. "Many teachers have received similar threats of violence with guns that have gone unreported until the recent Brampton and Ottawa crises".

Infringing on the rights of people who enjoy hunting and have already shown they are concerned enough about the use of firearms to lock their gunspace is something Mr. Slinger does not want to do.

"The boy who killed my son, was experienced in the handling of guns," furthered Mr. Slinger. "If the guns in that home were locked up, unloaded, there is a chance my son would be alive today."

At present handguns are the only restricted weapons requiring ownership and

transportation permits. Anyone wishing to purchase a firearm in the unrestricted range of rifles and shotguns can do so if they are over 16. Legally the purchase of the guns and ammunition can't be stopped by parents.

"Some stores have introduced a voluntary hike in the minimum age at which someone can purchase guns and ammunition, in hopes of reducing the cases of violence," stated Mr. Slinger.

One parent at the Tuesday meeting was concerned when his son turned 16 and would legally be permitted to buy a gun for the first time. "I don't want him to have one, not at 16. I don't think he'll be responsible then, but legally he can have one."

Mr. Slinger advised the concerned parent to write to his member of parliament in hopes that raising the minimum age would take place before the boy turned 16.

"Write to your MP's. They will listen. With more and more people in favour of gun controls, their minds have been changed on the subject."

Research into gun-related incidents of violence in schools or with students has shown 18 years old to be the average age of those involved in the shootings, Mr. Slinger explained.

"There are more guns today than ever before. In the first five months of 1975, 150,000 firearms were imported into

Canada; that's almost 50 percent more than the same time period last year."

If guns and bullets were harder to acquire Mr. Slinger felt that gun deaths would be severely reduced.

"In moments of passion and severe anger anyone can reach for a loaded gun and kill someone. If the guns were locked and unloaded with the ammunition locked elsewhere, a vital cooling off period would be forced upon the angered person which would probably cancel the killing idea."

"Two friends were playing ping-pong, and it resulted in a fight. One man reached for his loaded gun and shot the other. By the time he realized what he had done it was too late. A gun without bullets is just a club," explained Slinger.

The solution to reducing gun deaths is simple, he concluded. Regardless of the cause for the act of aggression, remove the guns. "A knife wouldn't have killed my son."

Pressures of today's society were cited as one of the causes of the bloody acts that have killed and wounded so many, but regardless, Mr. Slinger stated that he felt that the solution of reaching for a gun is not the answer to settling any disagreement.

"We cannot undo the tragedy that cost us our son, but we can urge our politicians to adopt restrictive measures which will prevent the recurrence of these tragedies."



...father of slain Brampton student speaks to Kinsmen

Drag strip park facilities for rural users

It's back to the drawing board for Bob Clipham and from there it's back to the planning board.

Mr. Clipham continues to present plans for development of the Toronto International drag strip into a low density, high income estate residential development—the town's first—but Halton Hills subsidiary planning board is holding back on giving it even preliminary approval until everything is totally up to par.

Which has not pleased the developer of the project, Murray Gruson. "Utterly ridiculous," he commented as the board voted in favor of the tabling resolution.

After redesigning the road pattern of the subdivision to meet demands made four weeks ago by the board, the developer and Mr. Clipham were told last Tuesday night that the entire subdivision plan had to be reviewed by the planner and the town's department heads before preliminary approval could be given.

Mr. Clipham had produced three alternative road patterns to satisfy the board's demand that a block of homes adjacent to a 16-acre park, front on the park instead of butting onto it.

Of the three alternative plans, board members voiced approval for one which provided a four-way intersection 150 feet away from a second intersection.

Although some objections were expressed about the proximity of the two, members felt that the small amount of traffic travelling through the area would not create any major problems at the intersections.

Major objections, however, were voiced about the maintenance of the 16-acre park and the provision of facilities for it.

Marlo Venditti, town planner, caught Mr. Gruson and Mr. Clipham both off guard when he reported to council that the developer had agreed to build, at his own cost, a baseball diamond, soccer field, courts and changerooms in the 16-acre park for use by residents of the subdivision, and Limehouse and Acton.

"I don't believe recreational facilities were mentioned," Mr. Clipham countered. He added that details, however, might be worked out.

Mr. Venditti explained that when recreational facilities for the subdivision were first

presented to former recreation director, Doug Collison, "he felt there was a significant need for facilities for people in Limehouse and adjacent rural areas."

"That park is not in an easy area for the town staff to maintain," said Councillor Ric Morrow. "It's a good distance

from any of our facilities...It's going to cost a lot of money to develop."

He suggested that the town accept a cash payment from the developer in lieu of the parkland but that did not rest well with Ward 2 Councillor Dick Howitt. "If we take five percent in lieu that money will

just go into the pot. The people in our rural areas are wondering why they can't have recreational facilities equal to those of the urban areas."

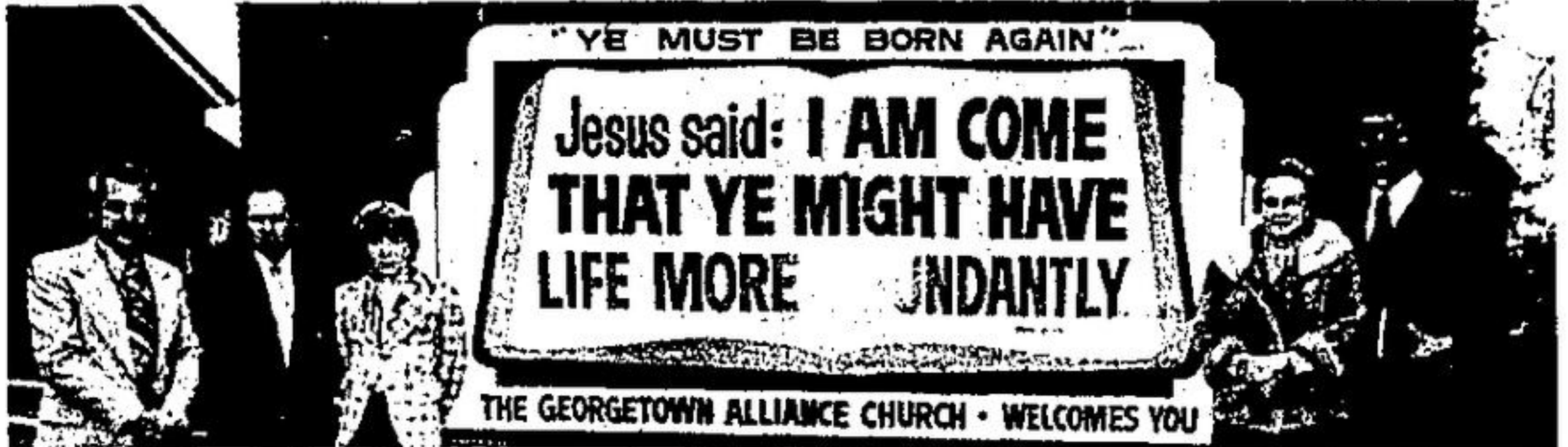
"I would prefer to have a recreational complex to service Limehouse and perhaps part of Acton," he said.

"I shudder to think that we would even consider refusing to have this land given to us," added Councillor Roy Booth who noted that the 50 new units to be built in the subdivision will place a large extra burden upon the town's recreational facilities, both urban and rural.

Although there is little recourse for him to take Mr. Gruson, speaking to the board, commented that, since his first plan for the drag strip land had received at least approval in principle from the town he was willing to take that plan to the region for its approval instead of waiting for a final okay on this present plan.

Mr. Gruson had previously told council that he prefers the second plans for the land.

This congregation decided to really get their message across



A WARM INVITATION proudly displayed on the new sign erected last week by the members of the Christian Alliance Church. Bob Haines, Neville Palmer, Steve

Motorists travelling south on Main Street from Guelph Street will be greeted by a new and colourful sign in front of the Georgetown Alliance Church. Stretching nine feet

by four feet, the sign bears the Biblical text, "I am come that they might have life more abundantly," words of Jesus recorded in John 10:10.

The sign was provided

through the generosity of donors who modestly preferred to remain anonymous.

"This whole idea came from lay people," said Peter Ralph,

pastor of the church. "It is a delightful, unsolicited surprise."

"The text was chosen because it conveys the positive purpose of Jesus' ministry and the message of the church."

Brampton labor will fight 'Attack on Inflation'

Brampton area union members meeting last week told the federal government

bluntly and unanimously that they will fight the so-called "anti-inflation program" all

the way. One after another, plant and office workers condemned the government's

policy as dishonest, inequitable, undemocratic and much more. They characterized the program as nothing but a "mammoth public relations job aimed at loading the cost of inflation on the backs of the working people."

Sponsored by the Brampton and District Labour Council the meeting was called to give labour's views on the government's wage and price control program to area MPs Ross Milne and Dr. F. Philbrook.

Only Mr. Milne could attend. Ross Milne, MP for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe, attempted to justify the government's program as being aimed at "big government, big business and big unions" in the interests of protecting the "little people"

Several union members vigorously pointed out that to agree to the so-called "restraint" program would be to accept the proposition that wage increases were responsible for inflation, or even partly so.

Because of the critical nature of the issue the opposition to the program was put in the strongest terms by many union members. Words such as "sham", "hoax", "gimmick", "lie", "sell-out", "discriminatory", "wage-shackling", etc., were used to characterize the government's program.

Following two hours of discussion by 50 delegates representing plant and office

unions in the Brampton-Bramalea-Georgetown-Orangeville areas the meeting unanimously adopted the following telegram to be sent to Prime Minister Trudeau, Finance Minister Macdonald and heads of the opposition parties:

"Meeting Brampton Union members representing thousands area workers tonight told R. Milne, M.P. 'Labour firmly opposed to government's so-called anti-inflation program. We believe it is outrageously inequitable, patently dishonest, highly undemocratic. Its purpose is to load entire cost of inflation on backs of workers. We demand you withdraw Bill C-73. If not we will fight its implementation all the way.'"



TO WEAVE OR NOT TO WEAVE. Julie Munnoch, demonstrated to the primary grades of Wrigglesworth School the techniques of weaving. Julie is a partner with Maria Jennings in their new shop, "The Weavers House" located at 35 Park Avenue in town.

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NOTICE
 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
APPOINTMENT TO LOCAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Council for the Town of Halton Hills requests a written reply from residents in the area comprising the new Town of Halton Hills who would be interested in being appointed to serve on one of the following local boards or committees of this municipality.

THE HALTON HILLS COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
THE HALTON HILLS PARKING AUTHORITY
THE HALTON HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
THE HALTON HILLS RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WARDS 3 and 4 GEORGETOWN AREA)

Applicants should indicate clearly what board or committee they wish to have their name considered for appointment. Incumbent members, whose appointment terminates on December 31, 1975, are required to advise in writing if they wish to be considered for reappointment to the board or committee they are presently serving on or to some other local board or committee.

Interested applicants should forward their written replies to the undersigned on or before November 25th, 1975.

G.D. PRITCHARD, A.M.C.T. - C.M.C.
 Clerk & Administrator
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