

"Whipper" Billy Watson won't stop fighting

"Whipper" Billy Watson, twice world wrestling champion and member of the Order of Canada, told a joint meeting of five service clubs in Georgetown that his career as a fighter is not over.

"I fight for the rights of the handicapped person in our society," he told about 85 members of the Kinsmen, Lions, Rotarians, Jaycees, Knights of Columbus and the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service last Tuesday at the Lions Hall.

It was the first time in

Georgetown that the service clubs were formally together in one room, Rick Easting of the Kinsmen who were hosting the event, said, adding that the five service clubs hope to work together more closely in the future.

"Whipper" Watson, who is an director of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and speaks from Newfoundland to Vancouver on the plight of the handicapped, said there were 19 in Georgetown who are physically handicapped.

Work done by the service

clubs, almost each of which has adopted as its main interest one particular crippling disease, "is a tremendous effort in your town," Whipper said.

The Crippled Children Society is dealing with "10,000 handicapped boys and girls" in Ontario and the funds which are raised through the annual Easter Seal campaign to support the society's 15 treatment centres and five outdoor camps in Ontario—more than in the rest of Canada combined—"in no way is enough," he said.

"Close to three or four million Canadians are handicapped," Whipper said.

"Why are we discriminating against these people, a seventh of our population?" He told the audience that even after 25 years of fighting disease which cripples young bodies, he did not understand what being handicapped meant until four years ago when he was struck by a car and had his leg nearly severed.

"God, why me?," Whipper told the audience he asked himself at the moment of the accident. In the hospital, where he had three operations in four months, the former wrestling champion told the service clubs: "I felt sorry for myself."

But a man who did not give up fighting in 60-minute wrestling bouts even in the last seconds of more than 6,500 matches was not to be pinned to a bed. Although now he is never free of pain and is partly paralyzed in his hands, he said, he speaks as often as he can and visits as many crippled children as he can.

"We have no idea of what being handicapped is," he said.

One of the thoughtless ways in which handicapped are discriminated against, he said, was in denying them access to shopping plazas and public buildings. A flight of stairs or a curb can be an insurmountable problem for someone in a wheelchair.

Work with handicapped children by someone else other than the parents is one of the things which gives youngsters strength in their battle to overcome the handicap, he said.

"It's important to become involved," he said, "...to grow up with a child. Children depend upon those who surround them."

Four crippled children will be treated to a night on the town including dinner at two area restaurants thanks to a draw which was held at the get-together. Complimentary dinners for two were offered by Spot on Seven restaurant, in Georgetown, Someplace Else restaurant in Huttonville and the Hunter's Inn in Georgetown. The money used to purchase tickets on the draw was donated to the Crippled Children's Society.

Winnings of the dinner at Spot on Seven, Paul Armstrong and Dick Licata, Rotarians, returned their complimentary passes to the head table and a "Chinese auction" was held to raise a little more money. Another \$30 was raised and Rotarian Bob Neuman walked away with the pass.

The winners of the other two dinners, Dave Tyrell of the Jaycees and Russ Diegel of the Kinsmen donated their tickets to be used by handicapped children.

The total raised for the Crippled Children Society was just over \$200.

Math team in top 50 in Canada



THE TEAM representing Georgetown District High School in the national Math Test were led by (back row, from left) Nigel

Phipps, and Nigel Cooper and (front row, from left) Lance Adams, Chuck Kall and Dave Nichols.

A team of Georgetown District High School mathematical "Whiz Kids" have placed 50th out of 901 high school math teams from across Canada in the annual Junior Mathematics Contest sponsored by the University of Waterloo.

The GDHS team, in fact, was 2nd out of a total of 461 Ontario schools entered in the competition. A total of 17,000 students took part in the test, which is basically related to the math courses in grades 9, 10, and 11 but also involves enrichment topics to make things just a little tougher.

The top five scores of each high school's entries are combined to provide the school's placement in the overall standings. Top score possible was 140.

Nigel Cooper, a grade 9 student, topped the GDHS team with a score of 93.25. Dave Nichols, grade 10, was second with 87.75; Nigel Phipps, grade 10, 83; Chuck Kall, grade 11, 75.5; Lance Adams, grade 10, 74.5.

Cooper and Nichols, as a result of their extremely high scores, will now be placed on the Provincial Honour Rolls.

Leave Silver Creek as it is

To The Editor of the Herald: Reference the article Major Plan for Silver Creek Proposed. To begin with, its slopes are not granite, but limestone. However, what really does move me to write this letter is the fact that none of the alternatives proposed for Silver Creek seem to include the possibility of just leaving it the way it is. Its present state is precisely why it is such a unique little spot. For heaven's sake, why can't we just leave it alone?

The conservation authority has done a fine job in providing recreational facilities at Terra Cotta. The winter attendance testifies to that, and it will probably be even greater with the advent of spring and summer. Silver Creek is a small enough area relative to the rest of the conservation authority property, the major portion of which is well suited and developed for those who like to have their recreation set before them.

But those who prefer to have little pockets of truly natural landscape might be given some consideration as well. And this will not be achieved by bulldozing Silver Creek into some totally unrecognizable mold, simply to conform to the rest of the conservation area. The minute you lay hands on Silver Creek you will have sounded its death knell.

Please will the planners and the members of the conservation authority not put high on their priority list the option of just leaving Silver Creek to be Silver Creek?

Cora Barwell, Churchhill Road, Acton Ontario.

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Trustee explains why he can't support budget

To the Editor of the Herald: Although the education budget now before us deserves lengthy discussion, together with drastic reductions, I will attempt to be brief.

Unfortunately, it now appears, in some items, we take the attitude of "what's a million" — e.g. \$47,752,403.00 for salaries for administration, superintendents, assistant superintendents, coordinators, consultants, principals, vice-principals, major and minor heads of departments, teachers, etc., etc. This is \$9,542,845. more than last year. These tremendous amounts of taxpayers' monies do not include fringe benefits, wages for clerical and non-clerical personnel. Those items, of course, amount to a further few million dollars. Fringe benefits alone, \$2,266,000.00 for 1976; \$1,906,000.00 for 1975, an increase of \$306,000.00.

Overall, it would also be well to remind ourselves that the budget for Halton Board of Education has increased from some \$28 million in 1969—the first year of operation—to \$73,082,964. in 1976. This stupendous increase is way out of proportion to any increase in either the number of students or fringe benefits for instruction, as it constitutes by far the largest proportion of our budget—salaries alone around 76 percent. On the other hand, in efforts to make up this huge amount, cuts of a

comparative minor nature are made which affect productivity and quality of education — e.g. phasing out program councils, closing Snider School, etc., support for higher standards and uniform examinations, etc. etc.

It is of special interest of note that in addition to many millions of dollars spent on instruction, as referred to, there is a further item of \$328,000 for supply teachers but only \$4,705.00 for paraprofessionals. No mention is made of the 1,800 odd volunteers who give their services without any cost to the Board. We must recognize that by this valuable contribution, education in Halton has greatly benefited.

On the other hand, for the \$47,752,403.00, we purpose to spend on instruction, parents and taxpayers are entitled to be assured with complete confidence that the expenditure is paying dividends. It is obvious that this budget is completely out of balance. We are sacrificing supplies and services for salaries.

We must also recognize the future affects of this added taxation burden on the public. In addition to perpetuating overall inflation, a spiral of increased costs for commodities will result—mothers leaving their homes and neglecting their families to obtain revenue to pay the increased costs; conflicts, confusion, chaos, unhappiness,

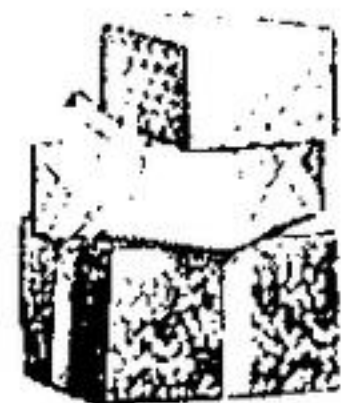
will develop, then a series of problems, rather than an improved society.

Much more might be said in justification for more control of over-expenditures. As a board member, representing the public, I cannot support the proposed budget.

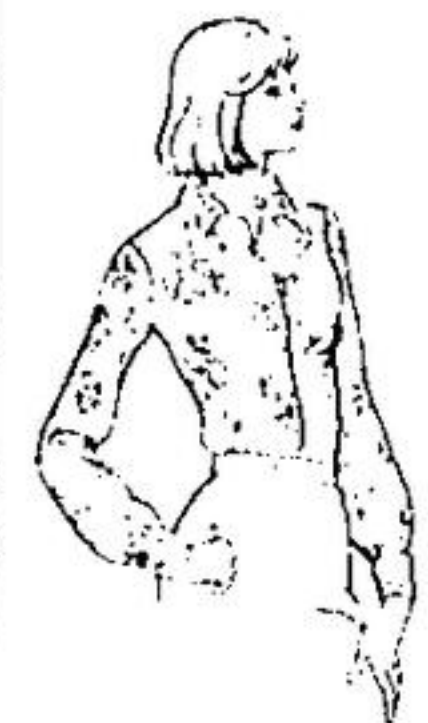
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