

Reader says she received no notice of meeting, says program works

I am writing this letter because of comments by Karen Morris in the Independent and Robert Anderson on the front page of The Herald.

According to the many phone calls I received from people thinking they had Mr. Anderson's phone number,

there are quite a few angry people in Georgetown. I hope you take the time to drop a line to the paper and let your opinions be known.

I have been a Block Parent since the programme started. I have received very little communication from the committee since I've received

my "Little Red & White Card". My opinion of any planned project has not been required. I read about the Block Parent Garage Sale in the paper after it was over, and no one even asked me for a donation. No one has asked me to canvass five homes or make 10 phone calls. Now I pick up the paper

and read about the film night I never knew about and the vicious remarks made by these people about a service I help to perform on a volunteer basis. As a Volunteer Block Parent I have been called "too lazy, too ignorant of the facts, too uncaring" and as a resident of this town I am "sick and I don't care."

To Karen Morris I will say - No, she hasn't asked me for money, and No, it isn't hard work. But Block Parents do

require my service which I volunteer, my house, which I volunteer, and most of all - an investigation into my private and personal background by the police, to which I submitted.

To Robert Anderson I say - I watch children going past my house to and from school every day. I have on several occasions stopped little children from bullying others. I have done this before Block Parents come to town and will continue

to do so long after you "pack it in". I have done my volunteer job, but have you cared enough to find out how many others are silently doing theirs? You say there are not even 100 volunteers left. When was the last time you checked? Take a drive around Georgetown and count your cards. Apparently you don't have any idea of the organizations and schools in this town that depend on volunteers. Phone any public school and ask how many

people give their time because they care for their children. I think you better think twice before you tell us we don't care

about the children in this town. Because your Committee is not receiving a great many calls does not mean there's no

one watching. Be thankful us Block Parents have little to report.

Mrs. Joan Anderson.

Where were the parents?

To the editor of The Herald: I have been a member of the Georgetown Block Parent Committee for two years and this evening wondered why (Tuesday, Oct. 11). To me the most precious commodity I have are my children. The other members of the committee feel the same way I do. Ob-

viously, however, many parents in this town do not feel the same way we do.

For two years we have struggled to set up this program for you - for your children! We have worked long hours to get new members to keep them informed, to educate the children, to get sponsorship, which

we now have from the Elks Lodge.

We have sat up long hours stapling, folding planning newsletters. We have knocked on doors. We have had booths at the Fall Fair, at Pioneer Days, at the Santa Claus Parade. We have had ads in both local newspapers. We have gone into the schools with material for the children. We have the support of the schools and the police but apparently not the general public.

Were you there?

To the editor of The Herald: Dear Citizens: Where were you on Tuesday Oct. 11, at 8 p.m. Watching the World Series, Starsky and Hutch or some other time consuming pastime that took quite a lot of energy. You could have been watching two very informative movies about what could happen to your children, if they took ill, if they were approached by someone or worse yet, approached by a child molester on the way to or home from school.

But no you would rather sit at home and pretend that it couldn't happen to your child. But it could happen and only a few people in Georgetown are able to face that fact.

The executive committee of the Block Parents of Georgetown, are very dissatisfied with the public response to this very important program involving our children.

The fact that this could never happen to your child is NOT TRUE.

We in Georgetown are very fortunate that not many incidents happen here but they do happen.

We would request that more people take an active interest, take the time, put out a small amount of energy, and protect our children.

If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to call, 877-8978 or 877-4550 because someday it could be your child in need of a Block Parent.

The schools and the Police Department in the Georgetown area have helped in educating the children in A meris of the Block Parent Program. It is now time that the parents themselves became educated.

With the help of the local papers and your support we hope to achieve this.

Wayne Fiebig

Have we asked for money? NO! Have we asked you to do a lot of hard work? NO!

Either the people of Georgetown are too lazy or too ignorant of the facts or too uncaring or more than four block parents would have showed up to an open meeting to view two excellent films about the program. It was well publicized so that is no excuse.

I have this horrible feeling that the people of Georgetown are waiting for a child to be murdered or are too smug and think it couldn't happen here before they respond. I think the price is too high.

If the Block Parent Program dies in Georgetown it will be because of apathy on your part, not ours. Maybe you can live with nightmares of a child's battered body. I can't.

Karen Morris
A Concerned Parent.

Umbrage taken over remark

This letter sent to The Herald for publication Mr. Anderson:

How do you feel so secure and superior to judge our town of Georgetown as being sick and other insulting remarks, makes me question your good intentions.

I understand your feeling of lack of co-operation on our part, but cannot understand why this publicizing of this meeting was not handled properly. I think you can understand the point I'm making when only four committee members showed up.

I agree this meeting would have been beneficial to all Block Parents and believe me we had been properly advised. I understand being given the job of Senior Block Parent is a proper way of handling this previous meeting and any future meetings would be to call or write Senior Block Parents so they in turn could get in touch with their Block Parents. These feelings are shared by every Block Parent that read your (off the top of the head) rude remarks, which were unjustified and not called for.

Such an important matter calls for more than a small ad in the coming events.

Be assured we are people who have caring and human good intentions for each other being child or adult.

An apology for these cruel untrue accusations would be in order to all Block Parents in Georgetown, as a great offence has been shared by us all.

I can only think from your attitude one will not be given. All we ask Mr. Anderson is in the future handle these matters with a bit more organization. One idea has been stated in this letter and I am sure with a bit of thought other ideas could be just as successful in co-operation on our part.

We ask for a better chance in the future.

May I close with this remark Mr. Anderson, we are not sick people in Georgetown.

Upset Senior Block Parent
Cathy Sweeney

THANKS FOR STORY, REMARK EXPLAINED

To the editor of The Herald: We would like to thank The Herald, particularly Lori Taylor, for the article concerning Block Parents. It accomplished a purpose in that we have received numerous calls expressing the concern of many parents.

Some have resented the last paragraph in the article accusing them of being 'sick,' and we feel this statement deserves an explanation.

People in this town are far too complacent and smug if they THINK we live in a unique community where nothing can happen to our children or our citizens. One would have to be sick to possibly believe that. This is the context in which that statement was made.

No one can feel the frustration of the committee members upon seeing only four persons out of a town population of 17,000 people, at our recent, well advertised open meeting. This, coupled with the fact that the majority of our Block Parents were either neglecting

to put their signs in the window for months on end, or were leaving their signs as a permanent fixture, has led us to believe that people are unconcerned and uninterested.

We try to keep our Block Parents informed with newsletters half of which we have discovered go unread. We send out mass mailings, urging urging more people to become Block Parents. Half of these as well, join the shuffle from the mail box to the waste basket.

If people feel the program is worthwhile get INVOLVED, help us by showing your support. We hope to show these two excellent films again in the near future at another open meeting. They are certainly informative for our Block Parents and anyone else interested in finding out more about the program.

We will certainly look forward to comments from your readers.

Linda and Bob Anderson
For the Georgetown Block Parent Committee.

Why change to metric? Trade, world use: Reader

To the editor of The Herald: It is a natural consequence of a free society that people criticize their Government on nearly all issues which are made public knowledge. Though this may be a good practice, it is perhaps sometimes carried too far. A popular target for criticism these days is the conversion to the metric system. We hear such comments as "Why must we change to the metric system?" "What are the old people going to do?" "Why complicate things when we already know feet and inches?" (It is my experience that most people do not know that this is a British system of weights and measures, i.e. foot-pound-second (f.p.s.) system); and of course the most popular of all

comments is "Why does the Government spend so many millions of dollars on this metric business?"

I would like to comment in support of the action of our Government in instituting the metric system. The primary reason we are changing to the metric system is that most countries in the world presently use it. Hence, in terms of trade, we will save money in that there will now be no need to spend large sums of money converting from the f.p.s. system to the international M.K.S. system - Metric, Kilogram, Second system (the Metric System) whenever we trade with countries other than the U.S.A. Further, the teaching and learning of Mathematics will be a much less onerous task

since the M.K.S. system is a much more easily learned one than the f.p.s. system. Finally, we would significantly reduce computations in the everyday calculations of weights and measures.

Let us consider some examples. In the f.p.s. system, we must work with a base 12 to convert inches to feet; base 3 to convert feet to yards; base 16 to convert ounces to pounds; what is more ridiculous, base 5280 to convert feet to miles and base 4840 to convert square yards to acres. And Heaven forbid, thinking in terms of links, chains, rods, pecks, etc. must be beyond the realm of most folk! In the M.K.S. system, we need simple base 10 and powers of 10.

For example:

- 1) a man's height is 1.78 m (metres) equals 178 cm (centimetres) equals 17.8 dm (decimetres)
- 2) a small house consumes 5000 watt-hours (w.h.) of electrical energy; thus the consumption is simply 5 kilowatt-hours (5kw.h.) of electrical energy.
- 3) a subdivision property which measures 20mx30m is 600m² or 06 hectares (.06 hm²)

Let us therefore not use the excuse that the Metric system is too complicated for either the young or the old. The simple fact is that it is a facile system and mathematically a much more precise one than the f.p.s. system. Most of all, let us determine to live with and in the metric system and leave the British system to the historians. We will thereby not be forcing the Government to spend more of our already overspent tax dollars trying to convince us to "Go Metric".

Sincerely
Joseph F.S. Hagge

Johnson is upset over waste meeting

To the editor of The Herald: To say I am disturbed about the misinformation regarding the handling of Halton's solid waste is an understatement.

I was unable to attend the last Public Meeting when the costs of Reclamation Plants was aired, but let's put the record straight. When I, and other concerned people with a little foresight, tried to talk Halton County into looking at Reclamation Plants in 1974, the price was considerably less, the technology was proven and available, and was being implemented on this Continent, and at that time money was more available. Only foot-dragging by the Province and our elected representatives has left us with the situation we are in today.

The fact is that cost should never be used to justify Long Term Garbage Dumping (with all its environmental ramifications and energy waste). Five years is ample time for any garbage dump in any one location.

I was surprised that the spokesman from the Dominion Bridge Company (who built Montreal's incinerator) neglected to mention that Montreal derived \$200,000 per year from their facility, and that was some years ago. I was also surprised that none of the more successful companies who build Reclamation Plants (Black-Clawson, Wheelabra-

tor, etc) were not invited to the discussion.

One of the draw-backs to Halton's half hearted efforts into reclamation was that grants for such a facility depended upon the Region using the prototype built by the Provincial Government at Downsview, a facility that is years behind the times compared to already existing plants elsewhere. Systems handlings 100 per cent of the Region's garbage can be devised with a little forethought and imagination. Large metal objects can be recycled, construction debris can be used for road beds, and filling excavations, glass and paper can be reclaimed, ash from the incinerator can be used to make fire-proof, sound-proof cinder block (I have the plans and formula for such plants). Such blocks are ideal for partition walls and for fire-proofing high-rise apartments.

It is obvious to me that we are not going to get anything done on the garbage situation until there are changes at both Region and Queens Park and people other than those directly threatened with garbage dumps in their areas, become truly interested in the Solid Waste situation. The Environment and the Solid Waste situation should be part of the public and High School curriculum.

William A. Johnson.

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