

# Letters to the Editor

## Mother supports course in parenting education

To the editor of The Herald: Is it possible that the Provincial Ministry of Education has been unable to grasp the motivation behind International Year of the Child and the implications of turning a deaf ear to those who promote enriching programs for children within the educational system? It would seem likely when one views the decision of the Ministry not to accept Principal Eric Balkind's Parenting Course to compulsory inclusion at the secondary level, and a diluted, fragmented approach to the course for Grades 7 and 8.

In a time when our society is faced with an increasing incidence of juvenile violence, child abuse and neglect, and many other social ills relating to the child, it is a refreshing breath of air to have an Eric Balkind in Halton. His recommendations for including Parenting Courses within the course of study in Halton schools could very well have put Halton in the vanguard of social responsibility toward children. But instead, the provincial ministry waffles, and our own Halton board of education compromises.

Surely our board members must realize the significance of parenting courses, especially for children from less than

adequate home environments. It could be their only chance to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect that has been firmly established in numerous Social Agency reports. It is folly for the Halton board trustees to expect the church and community centres to pick up the ball and expect any significant improvements. Parenting education at the adult level is too late for too many as responsibility toward other human beings begins in childhood. Besides, if parenting courses are left to the churches and community centres you wind up preaching to the converted. Those who would most benefit from this course rarely belong to a church or community centre! However, ALL children attend school. For those children from inadequate home situations, the Parenting Course would have immeasurable positive impact at an early age; whereas, it is often too late to help the neglected child once they reach early adulthood and the insidious pattern of child neglect simply perpetuates itself.

Halton board of education's superintendent of program, Dr. Robt. Dixon, stated in the February 28th Herald that, "Grade 7 and 8 students were not as interested in parenting at that stage as they would be in a couple of years". My own

personal observations of children in that age group do not bear that out. Even so, does 'interest' necessarily preclude inclusion of any subject within the school system? Do we exempt children from mathematics and language arts who are not interested? Certainly not - and the premise of exposing children to fundamental parenting practices is as "basic" a need in our society as mathematical computation and English grammar.

The Halton community should be able to expect more from the elected Trustees than the ambiguities expressed by Halton Hills Trustee Mrs. Betty Fisher when she declares, "...there are areas in the proposal which could conflict with the home, and these areas of potential conflict should be ironed out before implementation of the proposal". What areas of conflict? Anyone who has seriously read this proposal is aware that the Parenting

Course made no reference to telling existing parents how to 'parent'; nor is it intended to inflict parental values (i.e. right and wrong) on children. It is merely an attempt to guide children toward their future par-

ents) in the responsibilities of parenthood from a practical viewpoint, i.e. care, nutrition, handling, etc. The benefits to society of a program such as this materialize in the future generation of children. In other words, "preventative methods" of curing childhood social ills. What better acknowledgment of the International Year of the Child. As a trustee, the "child" should be your first priority. Mrs. Fisher and may I suggest that you re-evaluate your understanding of what Mr. Balkind's Parenting Course is all about?

As well, the Halton board of education should ideally be presenting a supportive and unified approach to the Parenting proposal and make every effort to have the Provincial Ministry of Education re-think its position. As it stands, our only hope seems to be with Halton Hills' Wards 3 and 4 Trustee, Barry Shepherd who stated, "...Mr. Balkind's original recommendations are being diluted rather rapidly, and I'm disappointed about that."

So am I, Mr. Shepherd. Disappointed with the provincial ministry's stand, the Halton board's inability to act in unity on such an important issue, Dr. Dixon's reference to 'interest', and my own trustee, Betty Fisher, who not only appears to misunderstand the intent of the course, but is not representing me adequately in this issue.

Yours truly,  
Pamela Sheldon,  
Speyside, Halton Hills.

Members of the town's general committee watched a brief slide presentation last Wednesday that was prepared by the provincial ministry of environment following the success of Georgetown's Divide and Conquer garbage separation programme.

Slides depicting Georgetown's downtown core, and other scenes are featured in the ministry presentation, which is accompanied by a tape narration that outlines the value and operation of such a programme.

Town engineer Bob Austin informed the committee that more than half of Georgetown's homeowners participated in the pilot programme last summer, placing glass

and metal articles in separate garbage containers and bundling newspapers for separate collection.

The Divide and Conquer programme cost the province \$19,000 during its initial nine-month trial period. Mr. Austin said, and saw some 310 tons of glass, metal and newspapers collected during specific rounds. Response from the public has been almost unanimously positive, he added.

A committee recommendation approved by council Monday night authorizes the programme to continue in Georgetown until Dec. 31. Costs of the programme, to be borne by the province, are not to exceed \$52,000.



### COMPUTER COURSE

Computer Science and data processing classes at Acton High School have a chance to see how a computer really works this week. Steve Watson, the manager of Burlington's Radio Shack has agreed to loan the \$1200 computer to the school for a trial period.

According to Rick Hoychuk, data processing and computer science instructor, the high school is considering purchasing a \$5300 unit from Radio Shack. The computer could be used for storing class records as well as instructing students in computer courses.

### Students take part at Mountsberg

There was an increase of about 4,500 students participating in the Mountsberg Education programs in the 1977-78 school year over the previous year. Halton Hills trustee Barry Shepherd reported to the Halton board of education Thursday.

Mr. Shepherd is the board's representative on the Joint Conservation Committee and in that capacity, heard presentations on the recreational and educational facilities provided for Halton students at the educational facilities at Mountsberg and Crawford Lake.

Mr. Shepherd commended the conservation authority for its efforts on the student education programs, which include studies of ecology, wildlife and plant growth year-round, in addition to more specialized attractions such as the maple syrup harvest and other seasonal activities.

"I expressed a personal hope that our students will continue to take part in the variety of activities and programs available at these areas," Mr. Shepherd told the board in his report.

### Garbage program will continue

Members of the town's general committee watched a brief slide presentation last Wednesday that was prepared by the provincial ministry of environment following the success of Georgetown's Divide and Conquer garbage separation programme.

Slides depicting Georgetown's downtown core, and other scenes are featured in the ministry presentation, which is accompanied by a tape narration that outlines the value and operation of such a programme.

Town engineer Bob Austin informed the committee that more than half of Georgetown's homeowners participated in the pilot programme last summer, placing glass

and metal articles in separate garbage containers and bundling newspapers for separate collection.

The Divide and Conquer programme cost the province \$19,000 during its initial nine-month trial period. Mr. Austin said, and saw some 310 tons of glass, metal and newspapers collected during specific rounds. Response from the public has been almost unanimously positive, he added.

A committee recommendation approved by council Monday night authorizes the programme to continue in Georgetown until Dec. 31. Costs of the programme, to be borne by the province, are not to exceed \$52,000.

**TOY MAGIC**  
specializes in those  
**HIGH QUALITY**  
educational toys &  
children's books you are  
looking for!

Come in for:  
● Professional advice  
● Excellent selection  
Nice prices too!

Mountainview & 7  
Georgetown, Ont. **877-8800**

## Credit Valley Artisans correct misconception

To the editor of The Herald: It was brought to my attention that your edition of Feb. 21 in a column entitled "About the Hills" noted that "the Artisans raised \$3000 for equipment" and are asking for an additional \$200.

While this is essentially correct, it is misleading in that the \$3000 is not the result of some special fund-raising effort but actually represents an approximate value of the inventory of equipment and supplies acquired over a period of about 4 years. This is the result of hard volunteer work on the part of a dedicated group of members put into such activities as Art in the Park, Summerfest, and Christmas sales, and the offering of numerous craft courses twice a year for which this equipment is provided. Additional generous support is provided by Halton Hills and Wint-

ario grants. This "outside support" is greatly relied upon in providing the services to the community which are the reason for the existence of the Credit Valley Artisans.

It should be noted that all equipment acquired by the Artisans is in fact, public property in that it reverts to Halton Hills Recreation Department in the event that our group ceases to provide instructional courses and facilities for on-going participation in the arts and crafts.

We think that we are doing a good job as demonstrated by the fact that this season we are operating 12 courses, out of 16 offered with a participation of nearly 100 persons.

This is an increase of about 100 per cent over the previous winter and indicates the grow-

ing public awareness of our work in providing this type of recreational activity in the community through the last four years.

We are very fortunate in having 'our own' premises in Cedarvale Park provided by the Town to house our equipment and in which to carry on our year-round activities. Members who have some competency in any craft can have access to The Cottage at any time to use the appropriate equipment and we would like especially to encourage this aspect of our mandate. Application forms for memberships and courses are generally available in local craft shops and provide further information on our organization.

A. Dewdney  
CVA Treasurer

### Superior employee disagrees

To the editor of The Herald: In last weeks paper there was an issue concerning a union meeting about Superior Glove, Saturday, February 24.

The paragraph written concerning an anti union member stated when questioned about bad back, etc. is about me. It is twisted and incorrect. I would like to correct it. I did not state at the meeting or otherwise that I was afraid of hurting my back. I do not have any trouble with my back. As for 70 pounds of cotton roll, I have proper equipment to help me, a hoist, etc.

I also have a full time helper and can ask at anytime for help from one of the men that work there if need to have assistance with anything. I have always been able to talk with Frank (Mr. Geng) at anytime for any reason. I am certainly not afraid of him and never stated I was, at the meeting.

As for wages, when I was asked, I said it was none of their business, when \$4.00 was mentioned by a lady I said, O.K. \$4.00. But I make more than \$4.00 an hour for quite sometime and still think my wages are nobody's business but my own.

As for a man's job, who says so. My job I have enjoyed for 3 years with no problems to my health or otherwise. I can do my job successfully and I have worked hard to achieve this goal and I have no fear of losing my job.

Linda Bastell  
Acton, Ontario

## Swimmers need CASA to improve abilities

To the editor of The Herald: In the four years since building the indoor pool, the improvement in the caliber of swimmers has been fantastic. This improvement has shown especially in the High School swim team. The Rebels won the Haltons, the Peel Haltons, and had seventeen swimmers qualify to swim at O.F.S.A.A. last Saturday, where they made the finals in three events. Most of the high school team received their early training with the Georgetown Swim Team.

The swimmers of Georgetown now have to decide when to form a proper swim club and when to become affiliated with Canadian Amateur Swimming Association (C.A.S.A.) It is only through C.A.S.A. sponsored meets that our better swimmers can have the competition they need. In the next few weeks those interested in competitive swimming will be asked to vote on the establish-

ment of a swim club. If the vote is in favour, the club could be formed in time for the start of the season in September. Two areas of conflict exist between the G.S.T. and the High School:

1. Any swimmer of the high school team must break their affiliation with the Georgetown team. This seems to be most unfair to the team which did the initial training, and unfair to the students to divide their loyalty.

2. In Halton Hills any swimmer who swims for a C.A.S.A. club has to swim as a senior in High School competition, irrespective of their age. Halton is the only jurisdiction in Ontario with this regulation. Once again, this would divide the loyalty of the students if a C.A.S.A. club were formed.

Both these reflections should be eliminated before September. Swimmers not interested in competitive swimming should realize that most of the pool

staff and swimming lessons instructors are, or have been, on the swim team. The higher the calibre of the swim team also raises the standard of instruction for beginners.

Continued progress cannot be made without providing better competition for the swim team, and this cannot be done without becoming affiliated with C.A.S.A.

Those families involved in competitive swimming must be prepared to attend swim team meetings and if the vote is in favour of forming a C.A.S.A. affiliated club, parents will have to take an active part in its organization.

Enough people must participate so that the work load does not fall on a few dedicated people to make the club a success.

If swimming in Georgetown does not continue to make progress, it will decline.

Norma P. (Ted) Elson  
Georgetown

**HALTON HILLS CREDIT UNION**  
273 QUEEN STREET ACTON  
HALTON HILLS  
ONTARIO  
PHONE 519-853-0911

**New Rates Effective March 1, 1979**

LIFE INSURED DEPOSITS TO \$2,000.00 7.25%

**PLAN 24** CALCULATED ON MINIMUM DAILY BALANCE AND PAID SEMI-ANNUALLY **9.25%**

1 YEAR TERM	10.50%
2 5 YEAR TERMS	10.00%
REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	10.00%
REGISTERED HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS PLAN	10.00%
PERSONAL CHEQUING ACCOUNTS	4.00%
(No Charge Chequing No Limit on Cheques)	

**ONLY ONE LOCATION IN ACTON**  
273 Queen Street East **853-0911**

31

COMING SOON!

A BASKIN-ROBBINS  
ICE CREAM STORE IN GEORGETOWN.  
It could be yours!

"Baskin-Robbins makes the best ice cream in the whole world." We really believe this. And you could own one of the wonderful stores that sells this great ice cream.

If you'd like to make a very good living making people happy...

Write the franchise manager.

Baskin-Robbins Regional Office.  
6205 Airport Road,  
Malton, Ontario. (L4V-1E1)

BASKIN-ROBBINS  
ICE CREAM STORES

© Baskin-Robbins 1979

Opening everywhere.

We make people happy.