

Parkette sale is 'ill-advised'

Dear Mr. Pomeroy,
An article in the Independent dated May 7, states that the consulting firm of Balmer Crapo Associates has recommended selling Mary Street park. We must protest this ill-advised action, and urge that no such thing be done.
First of all, this park serves the neighborhood children of all ages as a play area. It's positioned at the junction of a number of streets, and its easy accessibility is part of the reason for its success. It's much more likely that the street will become the informal play area.
The city's \$54,000 consultants claim it to be "too small to be useful". Who are these consultants to tell us this? They didn't ask for our opinion, or perhaps, more to the point, that of our children. They surely don't think that only parks for organized sports are valuable. There are several vacant lots on Cleveholm Drive that will be built on in the next year or so which will bring even more children into the neighborhood.
Secondly, this park serves the whole town indirectly by its example. Remembering the vandalism that has occurred in Halton Hills, it is surprising to hear the city's recreation director endorse the destruction of this park. This move will only increase the sidewalk loitering and boredom. Would it be more useful to in fact secure wherever possible other similar small parks all over the town.
Children of all ages do play in the park. Every day games of all sorts are played there including pitch and catch, baseball, soccer, touch football, even kite flying. If the park is taken away from the children these games will move into the streets as most of the children want to play together near their homes. The park could be used in the winter if a skating rink would be provided. It is ideal for a local outdoor rink.
Thirdly, it is shameful that the developer should have been forced to set aside this land as a park, only to have the city reverse itself, deny its own arguments, and then seek to profit by reducing the amenities available to its citizens. One also hopes that the recommendation of the consultants to sell this land is not inspired by any desire to make the \$54,000 bill more palatable.
Therefore, we urge everyone who wants to see this park survive and others like it formed, to write or phone the city and make their opinions known. Once the land is sold it is gone forever and we believe a trust will have been betrayed.
Yours truly,
Joan and Ivor Banks

Law inadequate to control trespassing

To the editor of The Herald:
My sympathy goes out to R.M. Esplen in the recent shooting of a trespasser. Both the government and the courts treat this offense of trespass far too lightly. Trespass is the first ingredient in the making of a criminal - contempt for the rights and property of others.
Hunters, snowmobilers and fishermen should only be issued licences upon proof of lease or ownership of sufficient and proper acreage to warrant the sport. Divide the province into areas with identifying colours which the sportsman must wear together with a large number front and back. The color would identify the area, the number the individual and the license the actual acreage.
Most trespassers are not land owners as such. They would not picnic on the front lawn of the premier's residence or the home of the local judge. Retribution would be swift and sure. Why are they treated so gently when it's farm property? Too light a punishment only encourages a repeat of the offense.
Trespass should be dealt with on a mandatory basis. Say two years of picking up trash on our highways. The frustration of trying to stop trespass on a hundred or more acres is just unbelievable under today's laws. The offender is lost in the woods before the police can arrive. If the trespass leaves without an argument or attempted intimidation you are fortunate.
Mrs. Esplen's trouble is the result of inadequate laws. Perhaps his lawyer would like to start a fund for his defense and a change in the law? I'm sure there would be no lack of support.
Sincerely,
A.H. Bell,
Brockville, Ont.



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