

Bradley anniversary

Roy and Rosa Bradley of Georgetown celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a gathering of friends and family July 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. The celebration takes place at John Bradley's home at 78 Stevens Cres. and everyone's welcome. Bring best wishes only, please.

How to ruin your children

From the Canadian Teachers' Federation
Adults are quick to criticize today's young people and sometimes with good reason. Most of us have encountered a few rude, selfish, foul-mouthed, lazy teenagers.

But those who are quickest at finding fault with the younger generation are also those who seem to forget who is rearing this younger generation.

You will hear adults say that today's children are lazy and don't want to work.

First of all, the statement is untrue. Some youngsters are industrious and quite willing to work. Some even enjoy it.

But no one should be surprised that some young people are lazy and don't want to work. After all, we train them that way and they learn well.

From infancy, we give them everything they want. We satisfy their every craving or whim for food, drink and comfort. We supply them with spending money without ever requiring that they get out and earn their own. We pick up everything they leave lying around the house - books, shoes, clothing. We make sure they get to school on time in the morning. We let them come in at whatever hour they choose. And so on...

The excuse we often use is: "I don't want my children to have things as tough as I had them".

Result - they grow up thinking the world owes them a living. And never having been taught the meaning of the word "NO", if they are eventually arrested for shoplifting, stealing a car, or on a drug charge, or if they don't amount to much in life, they will have been conditioned to believe that society was against them, that they were persecuted, or that life handed them a raw deal.

We also shouldn't be surprised if children, as they grow older, are unable or unwilling to accept responsibility for anything. We must realize that we do not teach children how to take on responsibility as long as we take on responsibilities for them.

And we don't help our children by always taking their part against the police, their teachers and the neighbors - even if our natural inclination is to believe that these people are all prejudiced against our children.

Children, even teenagers, learn by example. A rude, disrespectful youngster, in many cases, learned rudeness and disrespect at the feet of an adult who had little respect for society's laws and conventions. And children are not born with prejudices, they learn them from adults. Unfortunately, "don't do as I do, do as I say" is an unfair expectation that adults have of young people.

So after all the gobbledygook from the child psychologists has been said, raising children to become responsible, considerate adults may not be that complicated after all. In very general terms, and at the risk of oversimplifying the task, here are a few hints which may help:

- Since children learn by example, give them a good example to follow.

- Teach children the meaning of words or concepts like "yes and no", "rights and responsibilities", "right and wrong".

- Begin assigning responsibilities to children at an early age.

- Children are looking for direction and guidance - give it to them.

- Don't expect the school, the church, the police, the community to do the job of raising your children for you.

However, even having done your best, you may still find yourself occasionally saying, in frustration, "I can't do a thing with my Johnny". On those occasions, you might have a kind thought for Johnny's teacher who has to cope with thirty little Johnnies every day.

Bike club can't use local forest

The Halton Off Road Riders Association, a group of small engine motorcycle enthusiasts, have been denied permission to use a chunk of regional forest near Hilton Falls in Milton to hold an "observed motorcycle trial" Nov. 7.

Regional councillors Wednesday endorsed a recommendation from the planning and public works committee which noted that the region's environmental and ecological advisory committee objected to the event.

An "observed" motorcycle trial is one in which riders aboard small-engine bikes demonstrate their skills by meandering at low speeds through a specially designed course. Although members of the advisory committee reported after last year's event that the Association kept the track clean and insured that damage to the environmental was minimal, it was concerned that continued events would leave long-term damage in the area.

Milton Coun. Bill Johnson reminded councillors that the region may take over the forest for use as a conservation area.

"I think (holding the event again this year) is setting a dangerous precedent," he said. "It may become a detriment to the environment."

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