

Citizen's forum

Not social group

Dear Sir: This letter was addressed to John Summers and was filed with The Herald for publication.

As you are an obviously self appointed critic of the arts groups in Georgetown, I find it very difficult to accept your labelling of the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown a "social phenomenon mainly".

I have been president of the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown for the past 15 years and I do not recall ever having discussed with you the aims, ambitions, objectives, activities or future plans for our group and so do wish you would use a little discretion when labelling our group with only heresy as a basis for your judgement.

This year marks our 44th Annual Exhibition and Sale. Our group has never applied for a loan or accepted monetary help from any other source but have through the efforts of our members maintained financial independence. We have donated time and money to help other groups have financed members taking advance classes of study at Sheridan thereby upgrading their Crafts, acted as teachers of our crafts to others and in this way have passed on our knowledge and love of the Arts and Crafts.

We have many members active in other groups such as Halton Hills Arts Council, Rug Hookers, Spinners and Weavers. Members have donated their time to act as Judges - no fees charged - at the Georgetown Fall Fair and have made a donation to the Fall Fair Prize list in the Arts and Crafts section for many years.

If you remember, Robert Bateman's first visit to Georgetown was presented by the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown and the proceeds of that evening, some \$1,102, was donated to the Bruce Trail Assoc. at his request.

I could list many more achievements by your so-called "Social phenomenon" group. As we have been successful for 44 years in the Arts and Crafts in Georgetown we are naturally very proud of our past record.

We are all active craftspeople and because we love our crafts and enjoy one another's company while pursuing them feel you were very unjust in labelling us as you did.

Sincerely
Arts and Crafts of Georgetown
Patricia A. Beer
President

Make your wish

Dear Sir: The recent sudden death of John Cromack, son of Mr. Brian Cromack of the Georgetown I.G.A. Store, has saddened many of us.

As a gesture of community friendship and to say "thank you" to Mr. Cromack and his family for the way they care about their customers, I invite individuals and businesses to make an "In Memoriam" donation to the "Make-a-Wish" Foundation for children.

Thank you for your support.
Patricia Johnston
Donations: "Make-a-Wish" of
Halton Hills, Box 2000, 30 Main St.,

Fond memories

Dear Sir: I have lived where I live for eight years and went to Speyside since Kindergarten and now I'm in grade five. My little sister has Spina Bifida and needs a good special school to go to. She is in Kindergarten going into

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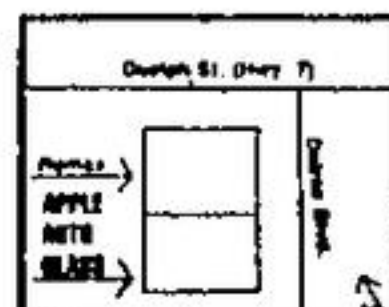
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on the quality of life that is engendered by a sense of neighborhood, than on the "sense" of efficiency statistics.

Sincerely,
Catherine Jubenville

Affects town

Mr Mayor Sir: I have read in The Herald that town representatives do not want to get involved with school closings. Does the town not see the impact with two schools closing in an area? What family wants to move into an area with no schools? With the price of houses families would not hesitate in selling and moving to another community where schools are close by. The end results are a run down area turning into a slum.

On the other hand just think what a consolidation committee could do for the town. They could decide that this area only needs garbage pick up every other week or maybe once a month. Placing the streets would become a low priority in this area. Also the same with street repair and maintenance. Halton Hills Hydro could set up the street lights to be turned off after mid night, saving electricity. This list could go on forever.

How will the town be able to attract new industry into this area? People will stay away from any area when they see that their children will have to be bussed to school or have to walk over half a mile. In winter I am unable to picture a five, six or seven year old walking to school, especially during a snow storm or during frigid temperatures.

In my opinion anything that affects a community also affects the town. As far as I am concerned the Board of Education must reject the Consolidated Committee report. It will be the first spike in Halton Hills coffin.

Yours truly
R. Huseman
Parent and Taxpayer

No reason to close

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was addressed to Halton Board of Education trustees and filed with The Herald for publication.

We presently have a son attending Speyside and soon a daughter will be ready for school Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are spent at the school in community activities such as exercise classes, playschool and monthly movie nights.

We see the loss of the Speyside school as not only the loss of an excellent country school but the loss of our community's only community centre.

In today's tough financial climate, it might be easier to accept if the school were old, expensive to maintain and needed major upgrading, but the exact opposite is the case. It

appears the school is extremely reasonable to operate it may be the most reasonable and requires no upgrading or repairs. I also understand it has little outstanding debt, unlike other schools in the region.

It would appear the savings of closing Speyside would be all but negated by the additional cost of bussing.

Acceptance of the closing of Speyside and the excessively long bus rides resulting might become tolerable if the quality of education were substantially improved, but this would appear to not be the case. Seeing that the curriculum is dictated by the board, the physical location of the school has no effect on this. The common belief of "Bigger is Better" has been examined relating to schools and found to be not the case by studies in this field.

We are pleased with the education our son is receiving, both formal and informal, look forward to the education our daughter will receive at Speyside and don't believe it could be sufficiently improved elsewhere.

One needs only to enter a "country school" such as Speyside and then a "city" school to realize our belief that the "informal" schooling is not going to improve but definitely decline.

We would like to know the reasons for closing any school, particularly Speyside. It would seem to me that residents have a right to know that as long as we support our school financially, physically, and emotionally.

We, like many other parents, would support the board in a school closing for good cause, but after looking hard and long, cannot find just cause and therefore request you look long and hard at the recommendation and the facts prior to making your decision.

Sincerely,
B. Wurster,
Kathryn Wurster,
RR1 Milton

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YES and Futures

Thousands of young people are out of work and cannot get a job. Barriers to employment may be compounded if the person is disabled in any way.

The Youth Employment Services (Y.E.S.) in North Halton, a service of the YMCA, opened its doors in June 1985 in order to assist youth, between the ages of 15 and 24, who are seeking a full time permanent position.

Personalized, individual counselling, as well as group counselling sessions are held until a proper placement is determined - whether employment is secured, the person returns to school, or referred to another agency. If the person gets a job, follow-up support will be on going for three months. Program topics include: goal setting, application forms, resumes, interview techniques, job search strategies, educational and training programs, and life skills counselling to assist with problems impeding employment.

Of the approximately 200 clients that have been assisted by Y.E.S. to date, about 7% have had a disability. For some the Futures Program may have been the key to assisting them in getting the work experience they required to make them employable. Anyone between the ages of 16 and 29 regardless of educational level who has been out of school and unemployed for 12 weeks and has a disability as defined by the Ontario Human Rights Code, can apply.

This would include persons with any degree of physical disability, condition of mental retardation or impairment, a learning disability or a mental disorder.

The ultimate goal of Future is to match job or career aspirations of the participants with appropriate placement in the private or public sector or non-profit community organizations. The employer must provide more than just a job as constant, disciplined on the job train-



By PAT WOODE
Herald Columnist

ing is necessary.

Futures will provide 16 weeks of job experience at provincial minimum wage, which as far as possible, will lead to full time employment. For the others who may need more education there is an option of getting work placement for one year - provided one accepts schooling for at least three hours per week.

Breaking down barriers to employment can be difficult if you have a disability however, Y.E.S. counsellors are there to help. Call 877-8979 or drop in to your local Y.E.S. office.

Roughly 35 organizations made an appearance at a recent press conference in Toronto to express their support of the proposed government legislation to end extra billing by doctors. A presentation on behalf of the disabled was made by Trics, President of Persons United for Self-Help.

Council filming

Town councillors might be primping themselves up more than usual soon, as the television cameras of Cable 4 zoom in on their council meetings.

Monday night, councillors approved allowing students from Georgetown District High School to film their meetings as part of "The Halton Regional" local news program aired every other Tuesday at 5 p.m.

The local news program is created, directed and produced by the GDHS students.

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