

# Freedom's not just another word

Ask Georgetown District High School student Jessie Ramautarsingh what our society's most precious heritage is, and she might hand you a copy of her gold medalion essay.

Out of 14 competitors, Jessie's essay was chosen to represent the Georgetown area in the annual Optimist Club essay contest. The topic for the contest was: "Freedom, our most precious heritage."

At the Optimist Club meeting March 10, Jessie was joined by her fellow competitors to receive the results. Suzanne Parker was given the silver medalion and Mark Crane won the bronze.

The essays were judged for their organization, vocabulary, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, neatness and adherence to contest rules. All essays were between 400 and 500 words.

Jessie's first place finish entitled her essay to be judged at the district level, which includes the area from Highway 24 to North Bay, and to the Quebec border. At that level, Jessie won second place.

Judges of the essays were Mr. Mike Stankowitsch of the Waterloo Board of Education, Mrs. Renee Norburn, a former Superintendent of Education in England and Dr. Elizabeth Ann Hill, formerly of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and now with the Peel Board of Education.

Other participants in the contest included: Joanne Bettes, Chris Goodlet, Linda Ho, Rob Kemp, Garry Murdoch, Ashley Richards, Graham Shephard, Stephanie Sieber, Andrew Soward, Darryl Thomson and Christian Wasserman.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following essay is by Jessie Ramautarsingh who won first prize in the Optimist essay-writing contest recently:



The fight for freedom seems to be an endless struggle for mankind. Since the beginning of time, men have been conquering other men and enslaving them. The men who conquer enjoy greater freedom. However, the conquered men lose their freedom, lose the right to question and are compelled to obey. Human beings enslaving other human beings to achieve greater freedom for themselves, is an idea we in the West find hard to accept.

Once a society earns its freedom, it has the tendency to abuse it. Today, many of our freedoms are taken for granted. We, in the West, are fortunate enough to have had our ancestors fight for our freedoms. At times we have forgotten what they endured. We have the freedom to do whatever we want, as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. We have the freedom to elect our leaders. We have the freedom to tell them what they are doing wrong, without fear of persecution.

We also have the freedom to build nuclear weapons, resulting in the freedom to destroy our planet earth a few times over. I believe, however, that our ancestors wanted us to use our freedom only to promote prosperity, brotherhood and happiness. Ultimate freedom means univer-

sal friendship, personal liberty and the absence of undue restrictions, not universal fear of one another, not the fear to express ourselves, nor the fear to worship as we wish.

We must not neglect to remember the struggle that Blacks undertook in the United States to fight for their rights and freedoms. Totalitarian countries do not enjoy the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, the freedom of assembly and other freedoms that we enjoy.

Every person living under democratic rule, regardless of colour, creed, race, age and religion, has these rights. The American Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights have given us these freedoms and it is important that we uphold and practise them. As John F. Kennedy once said, "We are confronted with a moral issue, it is as old as the Scriptures and as clear as the American constitution. The heart of the question is whether all Americans are going to be afforded equal rights and opportunities. It is whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated." (ref. Harris, Janet, "The Long Freedom Road", United States, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1967, p.146.)

For, in actuality, this is what freedom really is.

In conclusion, it can be reiterated that the fight for freedom is an endless struggle. The goal is, of course, to encourage the demise of universal fear of one another and to promote the benefits of universal friendship. We must never forget those who sacrificed their lives to attain the freedoms we possess today. Indeed, freedom is our most precious heritage and it should never be abused or taken for granted.

## Sell surplus land: report

The cedar bush on Princess Anne Drive could be sold for development into homes, a Halton Region report says.

Signed by the Region's Chief Administrative Officer, the report says the Town wants to get ownership of the surplus land at the municipal wells site back from the Region.

Originally an asset of the Town of Georgetown, the eight-acre wells site bounded by Mary Street to the West, Princess Anne Drive to the South and Charles Street to the east, was handed over to the Region in 1974 with Regionalization.

Public works staff and a hydrology consultant have said a portion of the Princess Anne Drive

well site fronting on Princess Anne and Charles Street could be declared surplus and developed for residential use. Some of it could also be used for realignment of the Princess Anne and Charles Street intersection.

Burlington Coun. Joan Little said if the town is out to make a profit by selling the lands, then the Region should share in that profit 50-50, since the Region has been maintaining the property for 12 years.

The Region's Property Agent Don Williams said Halton should sell the surplus lands back to the town for \$2 as the lands were paid for originally by the town. He noted a similar case in Burlington's Elizabeth Gardens

where four homes were built on surplus Regional lands and Burlington kept the profits. Just as in the Princess Anne case, Burlington had originally owned the land before Regionalization transferred the ownership to Halton.

"Back in 1974, there probably wasn't proper allocation of what the Region should really have assumed," Regional Treasurer Joe Rinaldo said. "If done properly, the Region may have taken a much smaller portion at the time. The fairest way is to refer it (surplus land) back to the municipality."

Coun. Little had no objections.

## W.I. has a Maritime twin

NORVAL-Jaenet Struiksma was hostess for the Brampton West Women's Institute meeting March 10. Betty McClure, Florence Hutton and Doris Sharpe presented dessert and assisted the hostess.

Isobel McKay, president, opened the meeting with thoughts on leadership training and self-development of the individual and their service to the community given by Young Jaycees in action.

Many young people and communities are benefiting from the activities of the Jaycees. Lois Fraser recorded the minutes in the absence of secretary Isobel Fraser. Wilma Archdeon presented the treasurer's report. Plans were made for a community ecure to be held May 1 starting at 7:30 p.m. at Huttonville Public School.

Members answered the roll call by naming a place they hoped to visit. The topic for the meeting, "our twin-plus" focused on Prince Edward Island which is Ontario's Women's

Institute twin province for three years.

Florence Hutton introduced Doris Sharpe, who showed pictures of a summer tour she and her husband enjoyed to the Maritimes. The W.I. of PEI were given permission to publish a W.I. booklet on the world famous author L.M. Montgomery.

Marion McClure thanked Doris for her pictures and display of many articles depicting life in the Maritimes. Janet Struiksma and the hostess, Florence Hutton were thanked.

The branch annual meeting will be held April 14 at 10 a.m. at the home of Jane Terry.

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