

**MORE LETTERS**

# Reader losing confidence in elected officials

**Editors note:** The following letter was filed with the Herald for publication.

An open letter to the Mayor and Councillors:

Dear Elected Members:

I am writing to express a concern I and others voiced at a

meeting of neighbours held at my home last week.

My wife and I bought our home in Georgetown twelve years ago because this town, and the surrounding community, represented all of the positive things that areas such as Mississauga, Brampton,

and Bramalea were losing. Georgetown still had a sense of community, and the local government seemed to desire to maintain this friendly, small-town atmosphere. The council and mayors were open and did their best to represent their constituents. As

residents, we felt that the democratic process was indeed alive and well in Georgetown, however, I regret that this seems to be changing.

I live in the Park area of Georgetown. In recent months, we have seen the application for a senior citizen's home, the wanton destruction of a beautiful old home and the threat of massive condominiums on Maple Avenue, the possibility of development in Mackenzie's Lumber Yard and a rumour of yet further condominiums on the site of the old Hydro building downtown. Of these developments, only the proposed senior citizen's home has expressed a desire to build with a concern for the atmosphere and the structural tone of the existing neighbourhood. In fairness, Mr. Mackenzie has not yet tabled the designs for his property, but the Maple Avenue condominiums are another thing.

The town went to the expense of developing an official plan which organizes residential, commercial and industrial areas; provides park land and open spaces; and protects natural water courses and wetlands. The basis for organized growth and development has been prepared and the onus is now on the Council and town planners to see that new building conforms to this plan and blends in with the geographic and social structure of existing neighbourhoods.

How, in the best interest of your constituents can you allow a change in the zoning of an area from an R1 (single family) rating, to an R4 (high density/apartments) rating as proposed on Maple Avenue? Will any of our neighbourhoods be safe from such drastic changes? When people invest in a home they purchase a structure, but they also buy into a neighbourhood and lifestyle. By-laws were written to ensure conditions in given sections of our community. They are there not only for the benefit of the planning committees, but also for the protection of the residents. The fact that you are even considering this proposal to change the zoning is disconcerting and seems to convey a message that growth and development in Georgetown is in reality wide open

and not strictly planned and controlled.

Mayor Miller's views that the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is "hurting smaller communities in the watershed by trying to choke off development ... above Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville" further adds to our sense of alarm. In The Week End on Saturday, July 21, 1990, it is reported that Mayor Miller maintains that the C.V.C.A. policies "will hit developers hard in their wallets." At the same time it is reported that the C.V.C.A. argues that the changes proposed would tighten control of storm water runoffs from future development and protect communities from water quality deterioration, significant erosion and flooding dangers. While the C.V.C.A. is obviously concerned with trying to protect our environment, Mayor Miller is reportedly concerned about developer's wallets.

In short, I, and those who attended our meeting are quickly losing confidence in the reliability of our elected officials. Is your vision for Georgetown's future that of the constituents that you represent? I challenge the councillors to survey the voters in their area to get a real idea of what the public wants. I would hope that it is still their interests that you wish to represent.

At the moment I am proud to live in Georgetown, and I don't want this town to have to endure the problems associated with disorganized development. As the Town Council, you have the power to ensure that development is controlled in a way that will socially benefit present as well as future residents, and not just provide short term financial profits for the developers and future problems for Georgetown.

Yours truly,  
T. Hallett,  
Georgetown.

# Acton hockey volunteers put in very long hours

**Editor's note:** The following letter was filed with the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Dear Mrs. Spingola:

I feel it only right to answer your article you had printed in the Herald July 18, 1990, referring to the unqualified staff who run House League hockey in Acton.

I would have appreciated that you contacted the board first to discuss your dissatisfaction. An offer was made to view our seasons score sheets so that the number we had could have been reviewed and proof, in black and white, where our numbers came from. This was not responded to. As a board we can only go by the score sheets that are turned in.

The numbers on the sheets are counted from the beginning to the

end of the regular season. Excluding exhibition games, playoff games and select games. These rules apply to all players.

It saddens me as well, Mrs. Spingola, that someone can sit back and throw stones at an organization that is run solely by volunteers.

This so unqualified staff puts many hours into House League hockey, trying to make it fun and interesting for the players. The board's hockey season starts in June, booking ice time and ends the following April at the banquet. Not just showing up on a Saturday morning for an hour.

Since this so unqualified board took over, we have brought some new ideas into House League hockey.

1. A banquet that every player

can be proud of and receive a trophy which your player received.

2. Organized practices for every player in House League (which they haven't had in years), and your player attends.

3. Organized House League select teams, so that the players with that little extra talent can play in out-of-town tournaments, with your player attending.

4. Organized and worked hard to get House League jackets, which your player wears.

5. Organized the House League so it could play out of town teams and gain some experience and interest playing other teams, which your player plays in.

Due to another volunteer group, The Acton House League Hockey Moms, who also put a lot of their time into House League hockey, so your player can play hockey at one of the lowest registration rates in this area.

It saddens me that all the good work we have done with the best interest of kids in mind being our first priority that someone can be rude enough and call our board unqualified staff and careless adults.

We apologize if a child's feelings are hurt or enthusiasm is shattered. Any who really know us can trust that we work with all the kids with fairness and encouragement. Calling our board careless, is a sour grape to swallow.

In closing, this coming year is the last year for our board to be managing House League hockey. In the new year elections are being held. If you feel there is such a terrible job being done, I'm inviting you to step forward and volunteer your time for a position on House League Hockey Board of Acton.

An Actively Involved Parent,  
Coach, Referee, Board Member,  
1st Vice-President AHHA,  
Rick Dale.

# Hockey registration decline explained by expansion

Dear Sir:

Our decline in registration is due to Rep hockey expanding their teams within our town. As for qualifications, our President has been involved with House League hockey for 20 years. Our 1st Vice-President and myself as volunteers to benefit all our players have paid out of our own pockets for Referee, Coaches and Trainers Clinics to be able to be better qualified and to enable our players to go to tournaments.

The player in question according to our records had a total of 32 points in the time awards are calculated from. A lot of the time a player may take the shot but another player tips it in. Referees determine who goals and assists are awarded to, not the Association. We can only go by score sheets turned into us by coaches or officials.

I feel if a child loses interest it is only because of too much pressure and expectations from others and the thinking their knowledge is better than dedicated volunteers that spend hours upon hours creating a better environment for the youth of today.

As for our volunteers receiving

small momentums for all their time which is year round for most of us, not just hockey season, your registration fees would probably triple as your fees now don't even cover the cost of ice and referees. As for my aware, my nephew purchased it to show his appreciation for my dedication with respect to my involvement with the tournament teams. People like yourself had better thank back about 3 or 4 years ago when players only received crests and look at what is done for them today.

If people like yourself are that concerned, our 3 year term of office is up after this season and we welcome you to spend the number of hours we spend to teach and develop not only our own children but also every child that is in House League hockey. We all enjoy what we do and do not look for a pat on the back, but we do get a little angry when we get a slap in the face. This is why volunteers are hard to find.

Dedicated to Players, Not Parents,  
A.H.H.A. 2nd Vice-President,  
Dave NaKeff.

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