

Here's to youth!

The school year is officially over, in Halton Hills, with high school students in both Acton and Georgetown having finished exams, middle schools planning, or having had, graduation ceremonies and public school students laughingly singing, "No more pencils, no more books"

For public school students, the summer break represents a chance to run free, play with pals, scuff clothes and bodies and just generally have fun until the school bell rings once again in September.

Middle school graduates view the summer break as possibly a last chance to act and frolic "like a kid" with high school and added responsibility - including the maturing process - looming ahead.

The end of exam time for high school students, as a harbinger of summer days to come, can also represent a time fraught with fear.

It's decision-making time, not just concerning possible future school plans, but also concerning future life plans.

Will the marks be good enough to gain entry into a university of choice with courses offered that will dovetail with career plans? Or will the marks merely gain a student entry into any university willing to accept him, or her?

Is another year in high school called for, in order to upgrade marks or obtain extra credits?

Is it time to face bitter reality and join the workforce where the only personal satisfaction is opening the pay packet every week?

More and more, responsibilities are being thrust upon young people nowadays and some are unable to handle the pressure.

Those unable to handle the pressures of our modern-day society strike-out, rebel, become defensive or - in the worst case scenario - give up.

Somewhere along the line, our society has lost one very important priority. And that is, let the young enjoy their youth.

Be they public schoolers, middle schoolers, high schoolers, high school graduates or those making the tentative step into adulthood with their first 'real' job.

To be young means making mistakes, flaunting authority (or attempting to), rebelling, learning hard lessons and finding the person that is oneself.

It happens - and is allowed - in the animal kingdom and should pertain to homo sapiens as well.

It's called growing up, learning about life, maturing.

Don't deny the young their youth, don't make the young suffer for your long-lost or unhappy youth and especially, don't look for self-aggrandizement in your children.

You will not only be fooling yourself, you will be robbing your children of a vital part of their life.

NDP policy reversal

Dear Sir:

We're all interested in conserving Ontario's natural environment. But an apparent policy reversal by Ontario Environment Minister Ruth Grier will inevitably lead to more garbage in our local fields, streams and trails.

Last October, Mrs. Grier promised us that the soft drink industry would have to produce more refillable containers, so that less of their throw-away bottles and cans would be strewn across the province. Starting April 1, all soft drink manufacturers who didn't provide at least 30 per cent of their product in refillable containers were to be charged, with fines ranging to

\$10,000, Mrs. Grier said.

But now, she has reneged. Although the industry is only marketing about 15 per cent of its total product in refillable containers, the ministry still hasn't laid charges - and there's no indication they plan to enforce their own policy.

Instead, we will have to tolerate floating pop cans on our treasured lakes and streams, and plastic bottles littering our favorite hiking trails.

The soft drink industry certainly doesn't bear the entire waste crisis on its shoulders, but the promised 30-per-cent quote would set an example for all other packagers. There has to be a starting point to put an end to unnecessary packaging, and this is it.

We at the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters have written to Mrs. Grier, reminding her that our natural heritage must take precedence over consumer convenience and corporate profit.

But without public outrage, Ontario's Environmental Ministry is likely to be quite happy with the wasteful status quo.

Yours in Conservation,
R.G. Morgan,
Executive Vice President,
Ontario Federation
of Anglers and Hunters.

Open letter

The Editor,

Open letter to Mr. Garth Turner:

Dear Mr. Turner,

You support a tax revolt - from a safe seat?

Show us the way, Mr. Turner. Walk two yards - across the floor. We might believe you.

Yours truly,
Frank Baker,
Erin.

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... Americans mistakenly try Sunday shopping in Halton ...



People's Forum Women's Institute Month

Dear Sir:

June is Women's Institute Month in Ontario. During this month you will find that the local WI Branches and Districts are having special functions to let the public know a little about this organization. Too many Ontario citizens think that as an organization it only serves those members who belong to it. Wrong. The lives of all who live in Ontario are better because there is an organization who cares about the well-being of the community.

Just imagine a person standing with a glass of pasteurized milk in hand, and a loaf of wrapped bread; after attending Brock University, probably on a WI scholarship because of work in a 4H club; wearing a Bruce County tartan; watching a school bus with flashing lights on it; reading a sign for some upcoming leadership course; after having visited the Elgin County Museum, Grey County Museum, Southwold Earth Works (home of the Neutral Indians) Forge and Anvil in Sparta, the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, the Adelaide Hoodless Home, the WI hall in the Agriculture Museum, Milton, and numerous museums throughout Ontario; hummed the song "When you and I were Young Maggie" while looking at the historical marker; noticed that the local township now had recycling, and that some of the trash had been picked up; noticed that there were some more trees planted; traced their ancestry through a WI Tweedsmuir History Book; taken a farm tour; looked at the latest Ross Butler Farm Animal prints in the local school; when visiting a nursing home noticed that there was a volunteer serving tea and cookies; purchased a pie at a

local fundraising bake sale; appreciated the lunch served after a funeral; admired the new quilts that a fire victim had received and listened to a speaker at a local WI meeting and lots more.

Whether you live in rural or urban Ontario your life has been improved because one WI member, a WI Branch or FWIO as a whole saw a need, or had an idea, researched it and made all the necessary contacts, did all the work, maybe raised the money and often after great obstacles improved Ontario for all and not just themselves. Look

around you, in your home and in your community and then think what life would be like if FWIO was not there.

June is Women's Institute Month, a time for the province of Ontario to celebrate this quiet organization founded in Stoney Creek, Ontario in 1897 and spread throughout the world. The motto of WI "For Home and Country" is as relevant in today's high tech world as it was when the organization was first started.

Yours truly,
Geraldine Campbell,
FWIO Public Relations Officer.

Be proud of scholars

Dear Editor:

Unfortunately Ontario's government has decided to cancel Ontario Scholarships which were awarded to honor high school graduates receiving 80 per cent or higher.

The Ontario Scholarship (\$100) was not a large sum. However, it certainly would help when buying text books, etc. More important, I feel, is the message it conveys.

Let's be proud of those who achieve and strive for excellence. Surely they should be a priority with any government.

I would like to ask for community support in recognizing Georgetown High School achievers. A committee to recognize excellence at the O.A.C. level could continue this tradition in our town.

If you would lend support or be willing to contribute please contact me. Our committed students are our future. Let's be proud of them

Sincerely,
Ron Chatten,
Georgetown.

Editor's note: The Herald has already featured an editorial

chastising the NDP government for doing away with the \$100 awarded to Ontario Scholars - budgetary nit-picking at best. A committee such as you suggest would have to work through the Halton Board of Education.

Appreciative students

Dear Herald Staff,
I would like to thank you for taking time to teach Kelly and I the career of journalism.

I have decided now more than ever I would like to become one.

I enjoyed my day there and learned a lot. Thank you for putting the picture I took in the newspaper, I was surprised when I saw it.

A special thank you to Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot for letting us "Shadow Her". I'm sorry if we took too much of your time.

Thanks a lot
Allison MacFarlane
Georgetown