

# Daycare woes frustrating

Editor's Note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills herald for publication.

Ministry Of Community and Social Services  
1140 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W.  
Suite 212  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5C 4E9

Attention: Sue Stephen

Dear Ms. Stephen:

As a mother, I would like nothing better than to be able to stay at home with my two sons. Unfortunately, as with most families today, my husband and I must rely on two incomes to make ends meet.

A major problem is finding good reliable daycare, which offers a loving, nurturing environment as well as being affordable.

I have been fortunate enough to have had a private caregiver for my sons since my oldest was 9 months old, now 3½ years old. She is a former neighbour of 3 years and I can honestly say she is more than competent. Before we knew each other I would watch her in the backyard playing with the children, this was prior to her caring for my son. Also, noise levels were never a problem.

I was extremely upset today when my caregiver advised me that she had had a visit from you, the "authorities", and you had

notified her that she was caring for too many children and must let some go.

If you are going to limit the number of children a private daycare operator can care for, you, together with the town must give us affordable alternatives. There are very few daycare centres in town and I doubt any of them would be willing to care for my youngest son (11 months old).

I don't believe it is fair of you to just walk in blindly and enforce your rules when you have no idea how efficiently the caregiver operates. In my case she is a very organized, qualified and loving woman who spends as much time with each child as any parent able to stay at home would, in fact in some cases, probably more. In my opinion, I would rather have my children watched by somebody who looks after them well, and has a number of other children for mine to interact with, than with someone who cares for one or two others, but doesn't give them the attention they require.

As a result of your "rules", I am forced to look for a new caregiver who offers all the attributes of my present caregiver and is also affordable.

The hardest thing by far will be trying to tell my son that he can't go there any longer. He has grown very attached to his pre-

sent caregiver and all of the playmates he has grown up with there. He is so used to seeing them everyday, and talks to us about them each night. Try to explain to a 3½ year old, how the "authorities" arbitrarily decided to up-root him from the daily schedule he is so used to.

I would also like to say something to the person responsible for calling the authorities. I would really like to know who this person is first of all. But, the next time you consider reporting something like this, take a minute and think about what you really know about the situation. Consider how you are turning a child's world upside-down. If children are obviously being neglected, then by all means report that person, but, if you have no valid reason, except maybe spite or being a disgruntled neighbor, leave it alone. Don't disrupt another families life as you have done to mine.

To you, the "authorities", a suggestion. Instead of automatically enforcing your rules on private caregivers you know nothing about, maybe you should do several "spot checks" and base your decision on facts, instead of your strict guidelines.

I would appreciate a response from you in regards to this letter.

Yours  
Mrs. Cathy Graham-Smith  
Georgetown

# Youth alternative

Dear Editor:

With the recent influx of crimes and violence with today's youth, it appears that there is a lack of activities for this group. Frightening, but true, this violence is not just in the big cities like Toronto, but is appearing in our own quiet little town. Georgetown was most recently shown this as a youth with his lacerated as he, along with his friends, were walking downtown.

What a scary thought, I thought events like this only occurred in other places and never in Halton Hills. Where can youth go to enjoy activities with friends, without a worry for personal safety?

At this time, the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department is offering a program every Wednesday night, until Dec. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. Our Youth Activity Night is an evening where youths in grades 6, 7

and 8 can enjoy many different activities like volleyball, basketball, movie nights, swimming, bowling and dinners out with their peers.

It is located at Ecole Sacre Coeur in Georgetown and our reasonable price of \$3.00 per night makes this program both accessible and affordable to almost everyone.

Our reliable leaders Sarah Hobbs and Ryan Brain, make each evening fun and entertaining.

For more information about this program, parents or children can call the Recreation and Parks Department at 873-2600, ext. 268.

Doing our part to make Halton Hills a bit safer for everyone...

Sincerely,  
Dee Haynes  
Youth Activity Night Coordinator  
Recreation and Parks Department.

# A grandmother's sad lament

Dear Editor:

A grandmother sits in tears as she hears her granddaughter crying. The parents have told her not console her for she has to learn this lesson. The child has been

taken from a room she felt secure in and a bed which was safe to her. This new, strange place is a terror for her. What most adults don't realize is that everyday moves for us are very fearful for children in some cases. And this was one.

The child is 1½ years old, the cry has changed to a scream. The parents and grandmother go into the room to finally console her. Her naps during the day are the same. She is fine if someone is in her sight. As her mother moves about during the day the child tags close behind for fear of losing sight of her. I get to observe a traditional night in putting her to bed. She screams for about 10 minutes 'till your nerves are at the end. Her father and I enter the room and she turns down the cry. When grandma enters the cry stops, the eyes light up, and the face says here comes love and comfort. The child stands up and nestles her head into grandma's chest.

The grandmother turns to me

with her eyes filled with tears and with feelings of the past in her voice she says "You know, they just don't understand why it hurts me so to hear this child cry like that. She is in sheer terror and I see her mother through her tears. When her mother came to us she was four years old. The welfare office came into the hotel room holding her hand, she then let go and turned around walking out the door. Not so much as even introducing me to the child. She dumped her! We had never seen each other before. I feel and remember what she was going through every time I hear her daughter cry. She went from foster home to foster home long before she came into our love. The tears she must have cried, the fear she must have felt. She had no one to console her with love and security until my husband and I came along."

To all parents, think and feel when your child cries for help.

Judy Larocque

# What is free trade?

Dear Editor,

Free trade is free trade, isn't it? Not when one compares free trade in the European Community, and Canada and The USA.

In December of 1992 all internal trade barriers will be destroyed in the EC countries. This means that ALL GOODS will move freely between countries.

Services will also move freely, such as banking etc. This could result in cheaper loans in some countries.

The WIDE DIFFERENCES in INDIRECT TAXES between member states will be eliminated.

Putting savings into other countries, to maximize return will be less expensive.

Once a product has met the standards set down in any country, the product will be freely moved into any country.

Compare this with Canada and the USA.

Trade barriers are coming down for some products. This may take many years.

Customs here are strengthened to STOP the free flow of goods.

NO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT will even admit that tax is distorting purchasing patterns. Everyone knows it is.

Standards in the USA and ours are jealously guarded, as each country wants the job creation caused by this, and the fees charged for approval.

Banking services - no way does the banking community want free competition between countries. If they did, the government would want to control it.

Indirect taxes, as seen by our government should have no effect on the cost of a product. We can all dream.

So like I said, free trade - what free trade - when you compare what goes on in the real world.

John Shadbolt,  
Libertarian.

# Error acknowledged

Dear Editor:

Bill Hyde acknowledges an error in my campaign literature distributed in Moore Park and Ewing Street. The situation calls for an explanation because the error was blown out of all proportion by an incensed Council on Tuesday night.

Council were infuriated that Hyde's campaign literature criticized the process of government in Town. The main issue hinged around a mistake Hyde made in calculating the average 1991 General Municipal Mill Rate. The average is a blending of the Urban and Rural rates according to the household mix. Hyde missed the blending completely and, as a result, Tables 1 and 2 of his literature are incorrect for the 1991 data. This in turn, meant much of the comparative data was wrong.

Hyde had submitted his Tables to Treasurer Ray King on September 26 and acknowledged his error on being so informed by the Treasurer, October 11. Hyde corrected the tables according to the main objections raised. He acknowledged his er-

ror to Council, October 15, but they would have none of it. The focal point was the 1991 Municipal Rate which Hyde quoted as 16.1 per cent instead of the correct 5.2 per cent. Hyde maintained the 5.2 per cent begged the question since the average rate increase since 1985 has been 9.7 per cent. Hyde was accused of maligning the good Treasurer and it was resolved to send his Tables to the auditor, presumably to decide on a suitable penance.

In 1985 the rate \$/Mil was 59.99, 1986 - 62.56; 1987 - 67.83; 1988 - 73.83; 1989 - 81.51; 1990 - 89.18 and 1991 - 94.01 - Error Line - 103.58.

The Error Line represents the unblended number paid by 60 per cent of the Town. Calculate the average increase per year since 1985 and the increase 1991 over 1985. Don't be surprised by the results.

Hyde is committed to managing by managing the information, not to frame, emote over or defy it. This remains his quest. Thank you for the opportunity of setting the record straight.

Yours very truly,  
Bill Hyde

# Overwhelmed by support

To the Editor:

I wish to thank all of you who, during the Thanksgiving Week donated over 880 pounds of food to the Acton Foodshare.

The need is great throughout the year but it is especially felt during the holiday times.

Once more, with your help, we

were able to fulfill the needs of those who did require the Foodshare.

We have been overwhelmed by the support of our communities. Again, our sincere thanks!

Joan Waldie,  
Acton Foodshare

# Construction association expresses delight

Dear Editor:

Re: "Greening" of Georgetown Marketplace.

We would like to join R.A.I.D.D. in expressing delight with the "greening" of Guelph Street. The trees and landscaping in front of Loblaw's Plaza are certainly a major step in creating an attractive streetscape.

We understand that these improvements are part of a long-term program initiated three years ago by the Town of Halton Hills Site Plan Committee. The Committee members, Mayor Russ Miller and Regional Councillors Rick Bonnette, Joe Hewitt, Pam Johnston and Marilyn Sergeantson, specifically re-

quired these improvements before any further development would be permitted on this property. The Site Plan Committee is an important part of the Town's stringent planning requirements.

R.A.I.D.D. is right in highlighting this as an example of development which benefits all of Halton Hills. We wish to join them with our congratulations to the developer, the Town of Halton Hills and the members of the Town's Site Plan Committee for a job well done.

Yours truly,  
Don Ricciuto,  
President, Halton Hills Construction Association.

# Serious misconceptions are addressed

Dear Sir:

Recently, Colin, the editor of this paper, and I had a discussion about the upcoming election. We, like most people did not agree on all issues, however, some serious misconceptions that are probably shared by others were drawn to light.

As an active member of several ratepayer groups, I can state there is no organized slate of ratepayer candidates. This was considered, but, abandoned for the same reason that party politics has not taken hold in most municipalities.

First time candidates are not necessarily inexperienced. Many bring qualifications from the private sector that may even exceed the demands of the elected post. Likewise, 27 years in office does not necessarily mean quality. It could be at the other extreme; just one year's experience 27 times.

Local interest groups often form when there is a degree of dissatisfaction in the perception of the way a town is being run. To my knowledge there could be as many as 20 ratepayer groups in Halton Hills.

Hearsay associates some new candidates as having only one

issue. The same logic may place an incumbent too close to a single sector of the community such as the development industry. All those now in office are not tainted just as the current crop of hopefuls are not all saints.

The current police investigation into possible wrongdoing by elected officials exists. It cannot be ignored. Smoke does not always mean open flames. It could be smoldering manure. No charges have been laid. There have been no convictions. This investigation has placed a cloud of suspicion over some of the incumbents. To say this is right or wrong, fair or unfair is rhetoric and does not change the situation. The investigation into the Land Division Committee two years ago did not provide all the answers and neither will this one. Mr. Pomeroy stated with regard to the LDC investigation that some bad decisions were made and some may not appear ethical despite being legal.

The best vote is an informed vote. If you have a question, ask your candidate. He/she is coming to your door. There are public meetings and they do have phones. Make up your own mind.

Kit Woode.