

# LETTERS

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## Family is hometown proud

To the Editor,

This was the first time that we chose our own hometown, Prospect Park on Fairy Lake, for our annual family picnic. It was a spectacular day. The beautiful setting along with the many activities at the park made our choice a perfect place for a family gathering.

We had also rented the boathouse in the park from the Town of Halton Hills

with the assistance of the friendly obliging Amy. This spotless facility—thank you, Pauline—with its large windows and sturdy balcony at the back provided us privacy and a great scenic view of the lake. During the busy day we celebrated Ross's happy return again from the hospital, the summer birthdays, our granddaughter's bridal shower and Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Each family

member honoured Canada with either a cap or insulated backpack bearing a 150-year logo badge.

Ross and Marjorie Britton are thankful for our loving family, this endearing community and are very proud of this magnificent country Canada that we call home.

Shirley Dyc



Britton Family - Submitted photo

## JUST A THOUGHT

### More propaganda than you might think?

Kids have been back to school for only four short weeks and already we are amid our second Professional Activity Day—another day for teachers, staff and administration to do the things they simply can't do with a classroom, or school, full of students. Yet, regardless of how many of us 'ordinary people' must scramble to accommodate these numerous—there is a total of seven altogether—days off, it appears some traditions of our school system remain unchanged. Now, that's not to say some parts aren't pliable; I mean as an ideal, school has most certainly changed. Many professionals tout schools as more inclusive, more reactive and more productive, positive spaces that are getting through to more students and producing more capable, caring members of our society. And frankly that scares me. Because, regardless of how wonderful and righteous some teachers might be, and despite what they might believe are good intentions, schools as a whole continue to produce the same thinking, albeit with much less tolerance for difference than before. No longer places of skills and drills, lessons and lunchboxes, today's schools appear to be more and more establishments of what to do and what to think, instead of how to do and how to decide for oneself. These are not little differences, nor, as I am becoming ever more aware, are they accidental in nature. Many argue it is liberal idealism that has truly taken hold in our school system, and regrettably I am inclined to agree.

Unconvinced? Let's first, put this hypothesis (thanks science) to the test. Take all these days where students are asked to wear colours to bring awareness to a cause or belief: orange for reconciliation, green for mental health, rainbow for autism and my personal favourite, pink for bullying. They wear the shirt and show their "solidarity as a school" but does wearing a colour and talking about it really mean that students understand? Better yet do they



By  
Trish Bell

care? Schools talk about bullying as an evil to be purged in the moral quest for equality but at school the bullying continues. Kids are not free to think differently. It is about conformity—conformity somehow deemed "morally superiority"—i.e. educators; they themselves simply "holding views which they were told were virtuous" at—yep, you guessed it—school. As James Bartholomew puts it, "this is not teaching children to challenge ideas and think for themselves. This is anti-education."

The pink shirt campaign illustrates this disconnect between liberal idealism and the "ordinary" man's reality beautifully. While everyone wears pink and talks up bullying, more kids admit to feeling victimized by it than ever before. In fact, this new obsession with bullying is, in itself, a form of bullying. Kids are afraid to be labelled bullies, so they wear the pink, hold back from disagreeing in discussions, and refrain from offering help for fear they will be mislabelled at the hands of moral inflexibility. Even worse are the stories of kids so vehemently afraid to be labelled bully they refuse to fight back or stand up. Seems outrageous but this is what brainwashing looks like and our youth, just like millions before them, are learning the lessons we impose upon them. It appears today "educated means taught by people who are injected with the views and assumptions of their teachers." Some of these ideals may sound familiar: capitalism is bad, equality is good—despite direct evidence that free markets have helped bring more people out of poverty than social programs; governments make things better—despite continued examples that "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely;" and

women and minority groups must be appeased for the oppressions we have caused them—because above all else one should never be suspected of racism or sexism or gender inequality or... unless it is against white working men. Then it appears okay, because after all they have white privilege for which to atone.

Despite popular belief, the difference between the "virtuous" and non-liberal agendas isn't some inability to recognize the ills of our world nor some profound desire for democracy to succeed or fail; it appears simply less time being told what to think and do versus more time taking risks, questioning ideas and making decisions based on experiences. As many suggest, it is not surprising that so many original ideas come from people who never had formal education and even less surprising governments are spending billions getting more of us into the education system. With more of the masses on board to the thinking they crave, our society becomes filled with people who are afraid to say different than the status quo and therefore go along with ideas they once might have opposed. Such decisions are dangerous, reminiscent of the Nazi, Fascist and Socialist uprisings of our past. And for our kids, this intolerance and dictation is growing into a poisonous cloud infecting every aspect of their childhood. When kids can't hit back, cartwheel, read Dr. Seuss, make mistakes, get hurt, be told no or feel the sting of punishment, they grow up in a bubble. We are filling their minds with ideals without the foundations necessary to question and test such ideals. One can't form one's own opinion without experience or research to back it up. Just as one cannot learn respect if one does not have it. And fear is not respect. We used to tell our children that mistakes are part of learning and then shamed ourselves for making them. Now, we teach our kids not to make choices by following the status quo. I fear that will prove to be a mistake in our history, too.

## Fill this space...

For almost 20 years this space has been home to Grapevine.

The original intent of Grapevine was to be little snippets or tidbits of information about happenings and people in our community... however, as they say, times are changing.

The New Tanner has been changing to meet the needs of our community and our readers. Included in our growth was moving upcoming events into their own dedicated space in the classified section.

Grapevine has run its course and we now look forward to a new venture with our Editorial page by adding another columnist.

We've listened to our readers. You told us you want a sports columnist, therefore we are on the search.

Are you that person?

Our requirements are simple:

- To be able to write without slander and factually
- To be able to commit on a regular schedule
- Be versed in a range of sports \*type of sports and areas-local/national\*

For more information contact Angela Tyler -:

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