

What's the deal?

The teachers are back...well, sort of. Well, maybe some of them.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), through president Ken Coran, announced late last week that his union executive decided to lift the ban on teachers providing extracurriculars to Ontario public high school students.

What made the union executive change their minds about extracurricular activities is the "development of a process, and the process led to problems in the beginning," Coran said. That's clear as mud.

But wait! Not all teachers will be helping out with the school bands, coaching hockey teams and organizing school plays.

Coran says about 20 per cent of teachers will refuse to help with extracurriculars because they are still too upset with the provincial government for bringing in Bill 115.

At Queen's Park, Premier Kathleen Wynne ducked questions about what concessions the Liberals gave the OSSTF to reach a deal.

So, Ontarians are left to wonder what, if anything, was promised by the Liberals to the OSSTF to get extracurriculars back on track (well, partially on track).

Was the OSSTF making a peace offering to the Liberal government or was it giving up something now for something later?

Apparently even OSSTF members were upset with the move, taking to Twitter over the weekend to say they were upset with their union over the lack of information about what the government had offered in exchange for extracurricular activities.

There are plenty of questions surrounding this matter and far too few answers forthcoming.

If transparency is to be one of the pillars of Wynne's premiership, she's failed miserably with the extracurriculars issue.

WEB POLL RESULTS (Go to www.theifp.ca)

The Province is considering planning to have Halton's population reach over 1 million people by 2041. Do you...

1. Agree with Mayor Bonnette that it's ridiculous and premature (86%)
2. Immigrants will be needed for the workforce and we should be planning for them now (14%)

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Steve Nease

Letters to the editor

Town traffic will only get worse

Dear editor and Mayor Bonnette, Regarding Hall Road, yes this town is not keeping up with the volume of traffic that has moved here in the past decade.

If we are trying to encourage people to visit our town, then we'd best get our roads ready to welcome them.

When I first moved here about 15 years ago, getting off Hall Road was easy, now you can sit there for a long time trying to access Guelph Street and it's only going to get worse when the new subdivision on McFarlane Drive is completed.

I have also noticed a big problem with the intersection of Delrex Blvd. and Mountainview Rd. and have phoned the Town in regards to this.

In the mornings those of us who are coming from the east along Delrex and are trying to turn south onto Mountainview are lucky if one or two cars can make it though the lights in the morning.

Some mornings we are in the left turn lane backed up past Lewis Street. I was told there would be

a "study" in January, but haven't seen anything yet. They put in an advance green light so people in the mornings and evenings can turn onto Delrex east and west. Well, we need that in the mornings to go south, to get to our out-of-town jobs.

Like I said, if you are lucky two drivers might make it though the light.

If this town continues to add more homes but does not keep up with the roads, there are many accidents waiting to happen and a lot of taxpaying commuters who are getting very frustrated. I would like to see this addressed in the near future by our Town planners.

Debra Hayes, Georgetown

'Thanks'— Sally Ann

Dear editor, The Salvation Army Georgetown Community Church would like to thank the people of Georgetown for all their support during the past Christmas season.

Both our fund-raising appeal, through kettles and letters and our toy drive were a great success. A big thank you to Toys for Tots, various community groups, churches, schools, local business and the many individuals who supported us. Once again

the generosity of this community has overwhelmed us. Your generosity enables us to continue to serve the community throughout the year.

Once again we say thank you.

Darrell Jackson, Major
Corps Officer

Georgetown Community Church
Ontario Great Lakes Division

Horses need protection

Dear editor,

Winter in Canada as we know could be long, very cold and unpleasant.

My thoughts particularly in a winter are about our domestic animals. Many times they are left outside with no shelters or blankets.

I am talking specifically about horses. Somehow your newspaper, or any other, has never posted any reminder to the owners about providing the basics for their animals.

In the wilderness horses could find shelter, but being locked in a farm area with no trees around and just open field they have no chance to hide anywhere. I think this is very cruel and abusive and should be reported to the authorities.

Even in a summer I've seen horses and cows walking in mud up to their knees. This is also very wrong. We should raise our voices for them.

Krystyna Szymanski, Halton Hills

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