

STUDENT TAKES STAND FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD SPENCER LIPPA IS ENTERING THE THIRD MONTH OF HIS ONCE-A-WEEK SCHOOL STRIKE

HERB GARBUTT
hgarbutt@metroland.com

On a day where the temperature will not climb above zero, Spencer Lipa sits huddled in a chair on the boulevard next to Ethel Gardiner Public School. He wears a trapper hat, snow pants and a parka that make him look twice as big as he actually is, and thick gloves with hand warmers inside. He holds a sign that says "School Strike for Climate" and some of the cars driving by on Danby Road honk as they pass.

Occasionally, one or two students will sit with him for part or all of the day, but most days he sits alone for hours at a time. He's been doing this every Friday since the school year began. Now with the temperatures turning frigid, Lipa makes it clear that he's not just trying to get a day off school.

"I do not find this very fun," the Grade 7 student says. "I'd much rather be in a warm school."

So why does he do it? Lipa was already interested in the effects of climate change, having joined the Green party when he was 10. Inspired by Greta Thunberg, who staged a school strike protest outside the Swedish legislature in 2018, Lipa decided to stage a similar protest.

He needed his parents to sign him out of school each Friday, and though he said it took a little more work to



Herb Garbutt/Torstar

Spencer Lipa addresses those who gathered for a climate rally. The Grade 7 student at Ethel Gardiner Public School has been staging a school strike each Friday since the beginning of the school year in order to draw attention for the need to act on climate change.

convince his dad, he said parents are both on board with the idea now.

"I wanted to spread the message and take a stand," he said. "Nothing, not even my education, is as impor-

tant as climate change."

Ethel Gardiner Public School principal Debbie de Chastelain said Lipa's teachers have been helping with the classes he misses, just as they would for stu-

dents who miss class because of illness or to play sports.

Last week a climate rally was held to support Lipa in his efforts. Lipa was joined by students from his class and the school's Eco Team who were given permission to join in his protest.

"We should not think of this as a strike, but as a learning field trip," said Jane Fogal, one of the organizers of the rally.

Members of community groups concerned about the environment also joined in to show their support.

"I'm pretty upset with what's going on," said Linda Middaugh, a member of GASP (Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet). "We need to follow the lead of the youth in spreading the word."

"It's important for us to all do our part," said Betty Cunningham. "There are

so many small things we can do. We have to rethink how we do things. These kids deserve it."

About 70 people took part in the rally. Among them was Grade 8 student Joanna Mazier, who has joined Lipa a couple of times on his Friday school strike.

She said it was great to see the community show support for action on climate change. However, she said it is even more important to get politicians to take action.

"Not to sound harsh, but they're not going to be here," said Mazier. "They need to fix it while they can."

That's Lipa's goal. Though he may not have as many supporters this Friday, he will continue his school strike.

What would it take for his strike to be deemed successful?

"Proof that our political leaders are listening," he says, "hearing us and making changes."

Movers and Shakers Marketplace



BIN RENTALS



Locally Owned & Operated

Your Best Choice For Bin Rentals
6 - 40 cu. yd, sizes available

ANY BINS & Waste Services Inc.
905-877-9185

60 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown
www.anybins.com

Advertise Here



CARPET, HARDWOOD, RUGS & TILE

CARPET BARN & CARPET ONE
Floor and Home

The One Store For Your Perfect Floor

26 Guelph St., Downtown Georgetown
www.carpetone.ca
http://carpetonegeorgetown.goldbook.ca

905-877-9896

THREE EASY WAYS TO SHOP. 

CHIMNEYS

KEN'S PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTORS



Chimney Repairs/Rebuilds
Tuckpointing

Ken Lahey klahey@cogeco.ca
416-837-6866
Serving Georgetown for over 10 years

waste disposal containers



DISPOSAL CONTAINER RENTALS
Locally Owned & Operated Since 1982

ACTON 519.853.3332
GEORGETOWN 905.702.2339
info@wwminc.ca
www.wwminc.ca

BINS IDEAL FOR:

- Renovations • Shingles • Dirt
- House & Yard Clean-Up • Concrete
- Asphalt • Driveway Friendly • Junk Removal



FULL JUNK REMOVAL SERVICES

To advertise in this full colour directory delivered to every home in Halton Hills every Thursday, please call Kelli 905-234-1018 or email kkosonic@theifp.ca

WINDOWS & SIDING



Since 1985

WINDOWS • DOORS • SIDING
EAVESTROUGH • PATIO DOORS

873-0841
www.winside.ca

