

# Editorial

## Working for students

We are quite literally awash - some might say drowning - in political rhetoric these days.

The provincial NDPs are tossing out a new phrase - "Social contract" - to cover-up for their initial blunders upon taking office in 1990, while the reigning federal head honchos, the PCs, are desperately seeking solace and giving new meaning to the expression "empty words" as they realize their leadership cupboard is bare.

Combined, these politicians could set stage and screen afire with a joint production of (with full apology to Kevin Costner) "Dancing with Words."

In the meantime, Ontario's future and of more importance, Canada's future, is left swaying in the winds of political partisanship.

We are referring to our young people. More specifically, students, our supposed investment in the future.

Education cuts and the increasing questioning of the value of our education system, has even those young people wanting to stay in school wondering if it really is worth all the hassle, dedication and self-discipline which seem to go hand-in-hand with wanting to better oneself intellectually.

The Rae government, with its chopping of education transfer funds (thus bumping-up the cost of getting a post-secondary school education) and the elimination of the grant program isn't helping any.

Still, those desiring a higher education are willing to work for it - in the quite literal sense. Unfortunately, far too many are stymied in this regard as well.

According to Statistics Canada, youth unemployment jumped to 18.2% in May, from 17.8% in April. The increase was mainly attributed to the influx of students joining the work force, many, unfortunately, unable to find jobs to help pay for their education.

For students planning on returning to school this fall, the jobless rate was 19.7%, up from 17.7% in May of 1992.

In real human figures, this translates into 189,000 students unable to find work to help fund their education costs, according to the Canadian Federation of Students.

Students looking for work in Halton Hills, however, are finding things a bit better, thanks to the combination of the competence of the four young people manning the Canada Employment Centre for Students, located in Georgetown, and a caring and conscientious business community.

Located at 232 Guelph Street, (Guelphview Square) Unit 4, in Georgetown, the centre is operated by Bill Keay, Kathryn Marshall, Karen Allin and Angela James.

Marshall, who will be attending Teacher's College at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay this fall (after graduating from Western University with an Honors BA in Psychology) has words of praise both for those high school and post-secondary school students seeking work and for local employers who are doing their best to find work for the students.

She says those looking for work are "not picky at all, even jumping at part-time jobs if a full-time job is not available" and that the local business community has been "very cooperative, we've been getting along with them very well."

More students have been placed in full-time and part-time jobs this year as compared to last May and the centre is confident it will exceed last year's summer job placement numbers of roughly 200, in 1993.

The centre also provides other services for students and today (Wednesday) and tomorrow, from 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. seminars have been scheduled on creative job search techniques.

Students don't have to register at the centre to avail themselves of job opportunities or services and further information can be obtained by phoning 877-7797 between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Young people, as with many others, are tired of all the talk and the word wizards' empty promises.

They are more than willing, with a little help, to earn their own way.

Too bad the poobahs in Queen's Park and Ottawa aren't listening.

Colin Gibson

## Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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## The People's Corner

# IWA process is outrageous

To the Editor:

Re: IWA Site Selection Procedure

I read your June 5 front page article about the decision-making process which the Interim Waste Authority, IWA, is planning to use in choosing a landfill site, with a mixture of disbelief and dismay. It is unbelievable that such an important decision will be made in a completely arbitrary and utterly secret fashion, behind closed doors.

By way of comparison, I note the activities of the Public Liaison Committee, set up by the Region to consider the various construction options available for the new trunk sewer for Georgetown.

The Committee was faced with an almost identical task to the IWA. It was to evaluate a number of possible alternatives and decide upon a preferred option. The first thing that the Committee did was to specify the decision-making process and evaluation procedures which would be used to compare the various options. The Committee recognized the need to establish these procedures before

the evaluation of the options began. Setting out the criteria in advance ensured that the same considerations and evaluations could be applied to each option. This allowed the process to differentiate among the options based solely upon the merits of each, as determined by the established criteria.

It is outrageous that a public body such as the IWA would propose to make its decision and only release the evaluation criteria after that decision has been announced, as reported in the article. If the process is not specified, in complete detail, before it is applied, then it is a totally useless exercise and a complete waste of time and money. At the very least, the process as it now stands, is seen as being open to manipulation during its application, in order to select

any site the IWA chooses. At worst, the process actually will be altered, assuming it has ever been fixed, or equally as bad, will be initially set up during the evaluations, in such a way that the ranking system is selected to ensure a particular outcome. The legitimate way for this type of decision to be made is for the process, procedures and criteria to be clearly established and published before the evaluation begins. Indeed, it would seem reasonable that the procedure contain a set of minimum acceptance criteria which any site selected would be required to meet.

Speculation as to why the IWA has chosen to do business in this way does not lead to any comfortable conclusions.

Ken Thorn  
Georgetown

## Escarpment not our concern

To the Editor:

Recently your editorials have seemed to be based on logical arguments and a certain amount of fact. Although I have not always agreed with your viewpoint, they have been thought-provoking. However, your editorial of June 2, 1993 took a complete turn into misleading facts and insinuations, the very thing of which you accuse Michelle Landsberg. Your accusation "A review of the implementation of the NEP (which took five years)" is incorrect. The provincial legislation requires that the previous five years of activity be reviewed.

Your insinuation that the Niagara Escarpment Commission is politically appointed is unusual of governments, is also unfairly degrading. All levels of government appoint boards to work on the behalf of the public. In the case of

the NEC, half the commissioners are locally elected to regional or municipal governments, the remainder are from the public at large with a dedication to the protection of the Niagara Escarpment for future generations of all Ontarians to enjoy.

Had your editorial stated the "inaccuracies and innuendo" of Landsberg, it could have led to a more constructive discussion. Perhaps you might provide a future editorial to clarify these points.

Halton Hills This Week has provided a forum on the editorial page for local politics. The provincial scene is well covered by newspapers who have the dedicated staff to that forum. We need editorial comment on the activities of both Regional and Local government.

George Reid  
Georgetown

## Remove fuel tanks

Editor's note: The following letter was released for publication

To Mr. Jack Wallage

Regional Manager, Fuels Safety Branch, West Central Region  
Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Re: Removal of United Co-op Fuel Tanks in Georgetown, Ontario.

The United Co-op fuel depot in Georgetown has now been in a "downed condition" for a one-year period. We encourage the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to press United Co-op for the removal of the fuel tanks under the regulatory requirements governing the removal of fuel tanks following the one-year "downed condition".

The undersigned residents, whose property borders the fuel depot, are eager to see the removal of the fuel tanks because they remain an eyesore in the community and continue to block meaningful enjoyment of the green space along the banks of Silver Creek by local residents and residents throughout Georgetown. In order to help with clean-up of the Silver Creek valley we are holding a community

garbage pick-up on June 19 along the course of Silver Creek from Highway #7 (Guelph St.) to the CNR tracks.

The local community is also very interested in the soil remediation measures for the fuel depot. We would like to know the results of the soil tests within the security berm and in the former loading area, and the extent of soil excavation that United Co-ops are ordered to undertake. Our goal is to have the entire fuel depot returned to a naturalized state.

For years, local residents have been impacted by noxious fumes from the depot and been cut off from the valley's green space. In addition, Silver Creek has been threatened by the potential of a fuel spill into its watercourse. We believe that after years of profitable operation of this site, the United Co-op has a responsibility to return it to a naturalized state that is safe for local residents and the natural environment.

Please keep us informed of the progress of United Co-ops closure of their fuel depot.

Lawson Oates  
(for the undersigned)  
Georgetown

## All Libertarians allowed to vote

To the Editor:

Further to your editorial re holding a Libertarian convention in a phone booth - the reality is that we could.

How could we do this? Simple. Every paid-up member who has been a member for at least 90 days is entitled to vote.

A vote can be cast two ways - by attending the convention, or by sending in a proxy for the candidate of choice.

We are the only party, as far as I know, that allows EVERY member to vote. It is called freedom for the individual.

So the reality is - yes, we could hold our convention in a phone booth - by proxy.

For your information, we will be holding a convention in the Milton/Georgetown area in October. Come see for yourself.

John Shadbolt  
Leader, OLP  
Acton

## Kudos for homecoming

To the Editor:

On Saturday past, I attended the Wartime Homecoming in Acton and would like to say how I truly enjoyed rekindling old friendships and awakening past and fond memories. What a super job the organization committee did in making the day such a huge success.

Dave Braida  
Ballinafad

## GOT A BEEF OR A COMMENT?

Send your letters to  
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or fax them to 416-873-3918