

All-Inclusive Vacations - 'The Way to Go!'

Canadians have an insatiable appetite for all-inclusive vacations and the suppliers are scrambling to meet the demand.

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Signature Vacations, one of the longest serving vacation supply houses, best known for their quality (originally known as Adventure Tours, and one of our favourite companies to work with) is probably the best example of the move to all-inclusive packages for your vacation. Signature features 73 all-inclusive resorts in Mexico, 13 islands of the Caribbean, and Costa Rica, all in a separate all-inclusive brochure.

Seniors, 60 plus, that is, have been given special consideration in the pricing to a number of these resorts, well worth looking at! There is quite a variety of choices including three, four, and ten and eleven night stays! All suppliers have gotten onto the bandwagon from the early days when Jack Tar Village Beach Resorts were one of the few offering such a service (remember Grand Bahamas - West End!)

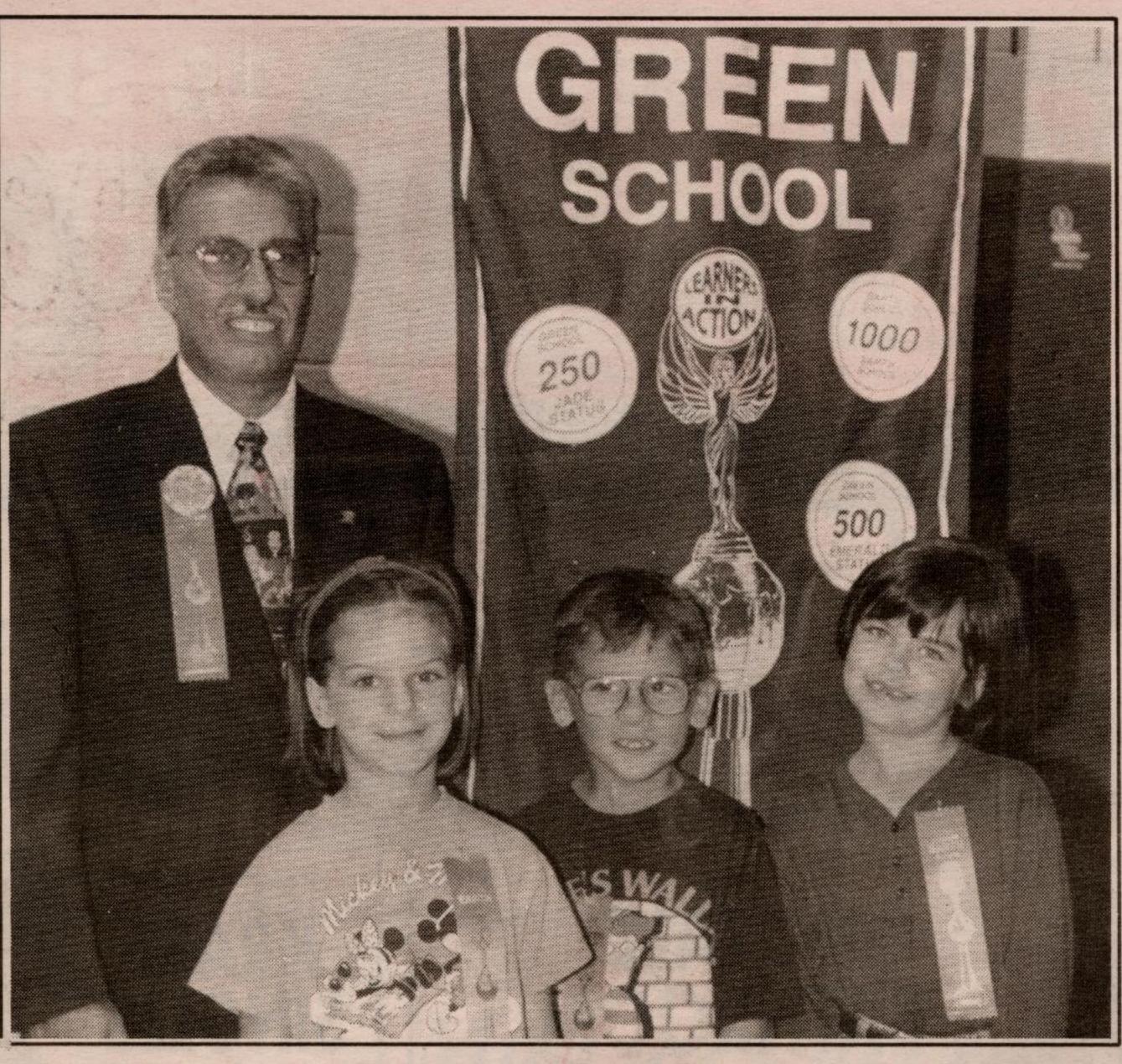
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Sunquest Vacations, another longtimer in supplying destinations for you and I to vacation, also boasts 73 all-inclusives in it's 'Winter Magic' brochure. This is an increase of some 30 properties over the last year - a sure indication of the popularity of all-inclusives. Golf green fees, unlimited tennis, nonmotorized watersports, plus all the usual inclusions are offered at their newest location, Diamond Eden Resort in the Mexican Baja on the Sea of Cortez. They offer a good lead-in price - looks like a real winner.

Did you know: There will be 5000 new hotel rooms available in Cuba this winter which should more than handle the problem encountered last winter of overbooking!

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EARTH STATUS: St. Joseph officially reached the impressive level of Earth status, for completing 1,000 environemtal projects. In a special assembly last Friday, principal Robert Maggio was joined with Hilary Seilhar, Brian McClellan and Melissa Ferguson, all 6, with the school's environmental banner. (Karen Wetmore photo)

More bylaw staff needed: Elliott

NORM ELLIOTT

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

The latest status report from the Town's Building, Zoning and Enforcement Services, showing that there are 559 outstanding complaints to be investigated, prompted Acton Councillor Norm Elliott to suggest the Town should look at hiring more enforcement staff.

Noting that the Acton councillors had recently taken a lot of pressure and criticism from some Acton residents who complained about how long it took to have the Town deal with bylaw infractions. Elliott said the

tions, Elliott said the Town needs to do more than just give a cursory review to the monthly reports.

"Obviously our staff can't cope with this thing," Elliott said, reminding councillors

that a whole list of infractions was wiped off the books last year to try to bring the outstanding complaints down to a more reasonable level.

"Maybe I'm whistling in the dark, but at some point I'd like to have the department comment on how they feel this problem can be addressed, because it doesn't get any better," Elliott said.

Councillor
Gerald Rennie asked
that staff break down
the complaints into
categories to determine how many are
neighbourhood disputes and how many
are serious public
safety complaints.

Henry Tse, Director of Building, Zoning and Enforcement Services agreed a lot of the complaints are local disputes with neighbours "squealing" on each other.

When it was suggested more staff be hired, Town Administrator Ray King pointed out the Town was looking at hundreds of thousands of dollars less in transfer payments from the province and he "strongly urged" Council not to look at bylaw enforcement in isolation but in competition with some very basic things like clearing roads and putting out fires.

Tse told councillors staff can only attend health and safety issues and don't have time for much else. He said one bylaw enforcement officer can handle 200 cases a year and that the Town would need 2.5 people a year just to clean up the backlog.

Ward 2 Councillor Kevin Kuiack ended the discussion saying the Town must be able to enforce its bylaws.



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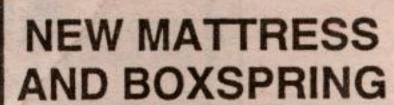
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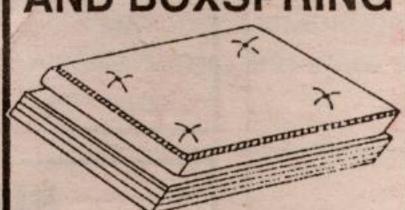
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