

The North Halton Compass

Reach then a soaring quill,
that I may write
As with a Jacob's staff
to take a height

CLEVELAND

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The Barnyard Adventures of Nassagaweya Ned & Emmy Esquering



BRASS TACKS – Editorial

Take some time to remember

November 11. Sure we all know it's Remembrance Day, but do we really understand its significance? Until recently I think the importance of what thousands of men and women did for our country was tossed aside as a distant memory.

However, the events of September 11, 2001 and the current war on terrorism, have brought us all out of our cocoon of security. We no longer can go about our daily lives oblivious to the horror of terrorism and war that are constantly going on in other countries.

Our security blanket has been viciously pulled out of our grip.

This year's Remembrance Day should represent the mark of a new era where each and every one of us are truly aware of what the soldiers did during both World Wars. Their efforts should never be forgotten, nor should the efforts of the men and women who are fighting today.

Those who did not live through the gruesome effects of a World War are fortunate but that does not mean they should be any less grateful, for without those who sacrificed their lives, today's youth

may not be around.

It seems a small price to pay to commit two minutes of silence to those who fought on our behalf and who sacrificed the most precious gift - life. In comparison, two minutes is nothing for us to sacrifice from our life. I urge you all to remember the World War if you were around to endure it and if not to ask questions and learn about it so that you can truly appreciate what each and every soldier did for us. Our memories and our knowledge is what will keep us strong and keep Canada strong.

BLUE SPRINGS SOAPBOX

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Three weeks into the school year there has already been a reshuffling of teachers and students in several schools in the Halton Board of Education.

Our school in Kilbride lost a teacher because our enrollment was down ten students from last year. Losing a teacher for 30 students might be appropriate, depending on the existing class sizes, but for ten students? Not only has this abrupt reshuffling been disruptive to the students, but it has added to the teaching load of the other intermediate staff. Classroom sizes have now increased during a time when our government's commitment to better education included a goal for a maximum class size of 25 students. Even 25 is challenging in those classrooms where there are several children with behaviour,

learning, or social problems. There are children with special needs in every classroom that are not identified as such.

Now most of our classes have close to 30 or more students. This was common in my years at elementary school, but children have changed since then. Learning expectations and formats have changed and behavioural/management issues have increased. We are not meeting our students' present needs. Some parents are opting for private schools because of smaller class sizes and more individual attention. But not all of us can afford private education and do not want an elitist system. We are entitled to a public system that enables our children to learn without a lot of frustration.

This is only the latest funding issue in a series of cutbacks over the

last few years. We have lost a Vice-Principal, half a librarian, part of a resource teacher and teaching assistants. Some of these changes have been easier to accommodate than others. But teacher-student ratio and how it impacts on the quality of learning in a classroom is of major importance - that is where our children spend most of their time. The new curriculum is supposed to aim at higher achievement, but in a less optimum learning environment. Does this make any sense?

Most parents are too busy earning a living to call their trustees or write letters to the Board of Education and government officials about cutbacks or poor management of school funds. But where does that leave the rest of us that are discouraged with our educational system? If people at the

(Continued on next page)

HO! HO! HO!



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arrived

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