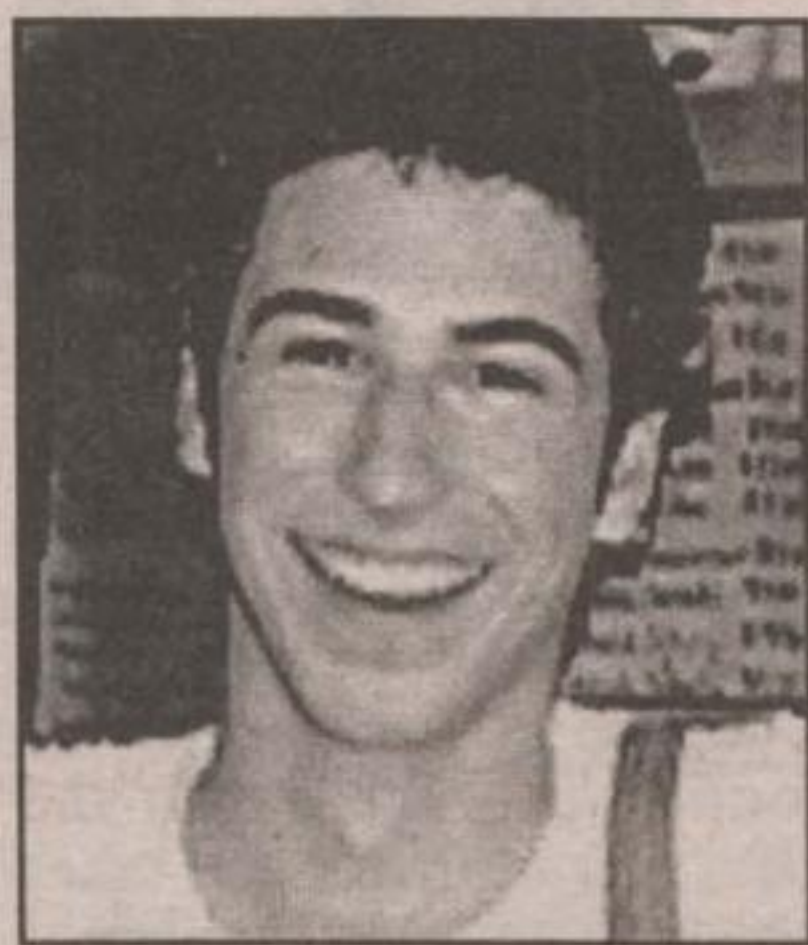


# Tell me, please, what can I do?

By SANDY COLERO  
Special to The Tanner



SANDY COLERO

What's the first thing we think of when we think of a family. It's love.

As human beings, we want to feel loved. We want to feel loved. We want to feel accepted and to be a valued part of the family, not a burden to it.

Is Quebec a burden to our family of Canada? Some say yes but I shout No.

I have been blessed with a little taste of Quebec, an experience that will last in my heart forever. I had the opportunity to take part in a week-long program in Ottawa with students from across Canada. We learned things about our country from the people who live it every day. I didn't learn it by reading a textbook or listening to a teacher. It was real. It was true.

There were 140 Canadians all at peace with one another. No hate, just love, pure love. And we all unique in our own ways. One night I was told while we singing O Canada that this was the first time one girl from Quebec

had ever heard it. She had never been allowed to hear it or sing it. Her father would not have his daughter take pride in Canada. But I remember seeing her cry after we had sung it. There had to have been some Canadian pride inside of her. You could sense that she had found it and was struggling with it.

*Au commencement de la semaine, mes amis et moi (que parlions toujours le francais avec les Quebecois), lui avons demande si elle est pour ou contre la separation du Quebec. Elle a dit, "Oui! Bien sur! San doute! Je suis pour le separation." (At the beginning of the week, my friends and I (who always*

spoke French with the Quebecers) had asked if she was for or against the separation of Quebec. She said, "Yes! Of course! Without a doubt! I am for separation.")

But at the end of the week, she wasn't sure. You could tell something had caused her to have a change of heart. I think it was a miracle.

I can see where the Quebec separatists are coming from. They have one of the most beautiful cultures and landscapes that I ever seen. Have you visited those Plains of Abraham or tasted Quebec's gourmet food? No wonder they want to maintain their heritage. So should we. We can't let something like that get away from us.

My brothers and sisters in Quebec, to whom I have grown so close, would become part of another country. We could never sing our national anthem together again with the same feeling. If you leave, I'd see my country fail. I'd see my brothers and sisters being taken away from me, right before my

eyes. Our bond would be broken, our passion shattered.

Canada is my home. I'm part of the family. But no more a part of the family than a beautiful baby girl born an hour ago in Quebec. She's my new baby sister. For my sake, for that newborn's, and all the other children in our country, please Quebec, remain with Canada.

We have a chance right now to solve this problem of separation. I don't want to look back in 20 years regretting the outcome. I don't want to have to tell my children that I grew up in a dysfunctional country in turmoil and continual frustration.

Let's get busy fixing this situation now. So tell me, please, what can I do? If I have to step in there and help, hey, I'm there!

*Sandy Colero is the son of the former Chris Brunelle of Acton. His essay won a \$1,000 prize in the Vancouver Sun's national unity essay contest. He has just completed Grade 11 at Delta Secondary School in B.C.*



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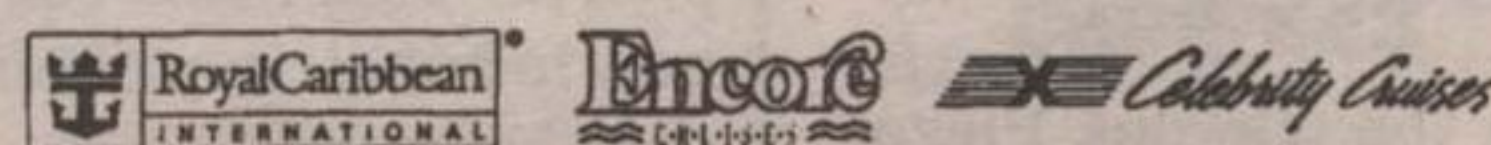
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## LETTERS

### Cutting Pegasus hurts

To the Editor:

It is with extreme disappointment I have found out that the Pegasus bus line is being shut down.

Pegasus is the only bus line that connects Georgetown to Acton to Milton to Oakville to Burlington and back. Does the public realize how much of a negative impact this will have on our communities? Why was this done without consultation of the public?

As a computer high school teacher in Milton, I have seen many adult and teenaged students use the bus line to get to school.

Many seniors feel safer using Pegasus because there are seat belts in the bus along with wheelchair access. The bus stops right at Milton Mall and Allendale, allowing convenience for seniors. I, myself was able to accept a teaching contract at General Brock High School during the summer because Pegasus could get me from Milton to Oakville to Burlington and back home.

Come September, many Sheridan College students from our community will not be able to have a safe, dependable bus line to the Oakville school.

Also, many adult students will not be able to attend classes with Halton District Catholic School Board at Hwy. 5 and Trafalgar Road.


If the council had consulted the public first (possibly a referendum) maybe the communities involved would not mind paying the extra tax dollars for this worthwhile service.

I think more people should speak out on this matter. Our communities should be able to make this decision to cut Pegasus or not. Do we want to maintain the quality of life in our communities versus cutting and slashing this service?

*Gina Sonsogno  
Adult Education Instructor*

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LOOK OUT! Elias Frechette gets his chance to throw the ball during a game of dodgeball at the Junior Activity Centre. - Ellen Piehl photo

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