

# The Independent

Weekend Edition & Free Press

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## Gutless decision

To say we are disappointed in the Halton Board of Education trustees who voted against closing two schools in Oakville and Burlington last week would be an understatement.

Irate and disillusioned would be more appropriate.

As expected, five trustees— all from Oakville and Burlington— chose to do the politically wise thing and vote against closing Fairfield (Burlington) and Oakwood (Oakville) schools but ignored what was clearly in the best interests of the Halton board as a whole. It apparently didn't matter that closing these two underused schools— one which will only be filled to 30 per cent capacity this fall— would allow the board to gain much-needed provincial funds, allow for the building of new schools (including one in Georgetown), and reduce the number of portables needed in coming years.

Instead, the trustees chose to appease the anger of a small number of parents who didn't want to see their local school closed— even if it meant only 84 students are enrolled for next year (as is the case with Fairfield).

As well, the actions (or inaction) of Trustees David Bird, Michael Ellis, Sheila Flook, Lynn Roberts and Marianne Hawthorne has wasted months of board staff time and money. The accommodation problem has been promptly knocked back to square one.

This fiasco makes us wonder if a school board is necessary. Since some trustees can't function without having one eye on re-election, perhaps decisions should be left to the province which doesn't have the vested interests to worry about.

## PUD



## Skate a success

Dear editor,

After having completed the second annual Skate in the Park at Dark: 1,000 Laps of Gage (Brampton), for the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, it is with sincere appreciation to our community and team that we are able to fulfil a child's wish to go to Disneyworld. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following businesses and individuals who, without their help this endeavor would not have been possible.

Georgetown and Brampton Tim Horton's, Al Tornatore at Georgetown Loblaws, The Edge Professional Skate Sharpening, Brampton Parks and Recreation, Beaver Foods, Forster Instruments, Fortinos Brampton, Brampton Goodyear/Firestone and teammates Mario Conway, Greg Sorrell, Paul Balant, Aldo Campitelli, Mark Hayward, Michael Campitelli. To my family and friends, thank you. To Wendy, Mark and Jamie for going the distance before we even skated.

See you all next year.

Tony Hayward,  
Georgetown

## Letter of the day

### JA: A win-win experience

Dear editor,

In today's world of take, take, take, it is especially gratifying to see an organization like the Kiwanis Club of Georgetown helping our youth.

I have been very fortunate to be part of a brand new organization in Georgetown called Junior Achievers.

The Kiwanis Club of Georgetown made a major donation to help get this organization off the ground. Without the Kiwanis donation and another donation made by Cercor of Georgetown, it might not have happened.

Junior Achievers is a national organization across Canada. Our organization is funded by clubs like Kiwanis and businesses like Cercor. We provide hands-on training regarding all aspects of running a business, taught by actual business people from our community. The program is provided free to schools across Canada, for students in Grades 6-13.

Getting involved in Junior Achievement can do a lot for employees of companies both today and tomorrow. By encouraging their employees to volunteer as teachers, it develops their own presentation skills, plus they're training the next generation of business people. For the students, it is an opportunity to learn all about business and the real money involved in running a business but without the risk. It's an opportunity for them to make mistakes and learn.

So, to the Kiwanis Club of Georgetown, Cercor and our dedicated advisors— a big thank you.

Our company JAG will be closing down for the summer months shortly. We will begin again in September of 1999. Please watch this newspaper for further details on how you can join or help us continue our first year of success.

Jim Egerton, advisor,  
Junior Achievement, Georgetown

## Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for content and length and can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com