

Letters to the editor... letters to the editor... letters to the editor...

Cancer ad raises questions

Dear editor,

Re: Canadian Cancer Society advertisement, Sept. 6, Independent & Free Press.

This paid ad from the Canadian Cancer Society is signed by Ted Wheatley, Volunteer President.

My first question is, who is he? In my 10 years as volunteer transportation convenor, I have never heard of him, voted for him, or asked him to speak for me. He is obviously not a Halton Hills (as we know it) resident.

Answer: I just learned he is elected by a board of presidents (each regional president sits on this one). I also learned our representative voted against closing our office.

Second question: Does he get paid? Did he pay for this ad or did that come out of our donations?

Third question: How can closing the office improve the lives of people living with cancer? Is a telephone answering machine more personal and comforting than a real live person in an office? Does it have more answers?

Fourth and final question: How many of the people making the decisions at the Ontario Division level have actually lived through and with cancer? Do they know any more than the specialists?

Most of us who have lived through and with the various aspects of cancer know the most important aspect is being able to talk to someone who can say, "I've walked that path and this is what it is like." Our office provides that comfort to our patients immediately without punching phone keys and making choices.

Make no mistake— it is OUR office. Georgetown, Acton and Milton, and all the staff and volunteers have interacted over the years to keep it that way.

Ted Wheatley does not speak for me.

Pat Lane, Transportation Convenor, Acton

Detour simply a speed trap

Dear editor,

Re: Town, police to target speeders, trucks (Aug. 4 Independent & Free Press).

You really have to wonder about town engineer Bob Austin and the rest of the town council. They are working hard to make the term, town planning, an oxymoron.

Normally, before undertaking such a construction program, a study would be performed to establish traffic type and volume, then a diversionary route(s) would be planned and laid out to allow for such factors. Of course, having said information, the alternate routes would be brought up to standard to facilitate such increases. Surely this would have been an easier proposition where Sixth and Fifth Lines were concerned because they have just been resurfaced.

So, because of their collective lack of foresight and planning, they now wish to force the entire traffic volume onto Eighth Line/27 Sideroad (which was also not designed for such traffic) where they can now handily set up a major revenue-generating speed trap.

I'm sure this is a very necessary project, but the rest of us have lives too and basically just want to get from point A to B as quickly as possible with a minimum of inconvenience.

Bob Austin obviously didn't realize how foolish he must have seemed stating "the object is to try and protect our investment and try and keep the speed down with something that the police can enforce". Duh? Any speed limit is enforceable for the police. It's just that 50 km/h will generate more money. Why don't they just put a couple of booths at the beginning and end of the construction and they can charge a toll. Naturally it would be too difficult for police to target aggressive (impatient) drivers so let's just nail them for speeding 'cause it's easier and generates more dollars per hour anyway.

As for poor Dapne and Howard Shropshall whose tranquil lifestyle will be shattered at least until November, they will now be able to listen to the rattling trucks for a few seconds longer at 50 km/h or the wail of police sirens, and they can thank the planning department for not having more alternate routes to disperse the volume of traffic.

In case your wondering, no, I haven't received a ticket there, no, I'm not a truck driver and yes, I have used the road a couple of times since construction began.

Sean Quinn, Georgetown



Council isn't fighting for residents

Dear editor,

I often wonder if Georgetown council, elected by the people, have absolutely no say in what the people want.

Just in the last month we have been told, not asked, that our cancer office, which so many people have depended on, will be moved to Oakville.

Secondly, the wonderful, caring paramedics on the Georgetown ambulance service, who have taken such great care of the people of Georgetown for 43 years, will no longer be needed.

It's about time that our council began to fight for what the people, who put them in office, want and pay for.

Six generations of my family have lived here.

June Cook,
Georgetown

Students lucky to be attending school in Canada

Dear editor,

Re: John McGhie's Sept. 6 column, Welcome to the real world, kids.

While all things are relative, my take on the first day back to school provokes somewhat different thoughts on education and daily living. While sitting on a hot, wet, or, in Canada at least, freezing cold bus, nauseated by the smells of others' lunchboxes, one may want to reflect on the fact that education in Canada is, for the most part, equal and universal. It is a right given to you under provincial and federal laws and you are fortunate to be so enabled,

so protected.

You may be consoled that you are not hungry, sitting in the dirt sewing carpets in a not so far-off Third World nation, or that your parents have not yet sold you into physical servitude. You are probably healthy, inoculated, and not likely to die of AIDS before you are five. And food is available.

You could think about your parents/ grandparents/ great-grandparents who sacrificed their own dreams, lived a new life with a new language and culture, even fighting great wars, so you and your family might become educated, excel, and live a better life than

those in the old country.

Despite the barriers that exist for many people, opportunity is a reality for you, and above all, the time you spend at school provides you with the key element of time to study, learn and become. After you enter the paid working world, this privileged life of study will be more difficult to indulge in.

You may not realize this on your daily trek to school because you are, thankfully, innocent for now, but you are blessed— born into the cradle that is Canada.

Janet Kim,
Limehouse

Renaissance movement sounds scary to teacher

Dear editor,

Re: Kenneth Campbell's letter, It's time to break up school monopoly, (Aug. 30).

I can't help but wonder why you, sir, seem to be of the mindset that Ontario's parents are so irresponsible that they would entrust their precious children to unelected union "goons" each day from September to June.

I doubt that you speak for the majority of civilized Ontarians. Have you taken the time to visit the schools in Ontario and actually see what goes on?

You refer to the "walking out of a meeting while Ms. Ecker was speaking" as rude, rebellious barbarism on the part of the teachers. Are you for real? Did they carry baseball bats or weapons or act like barbarians? I think not.

Your Renaissance movement sounds pretty scary, given the fact that you believe the present system tyrannizes parents. Sounds to me like you want our children to be seen and not heard, behave like robots, stop thinking for themselves and you want the teachers to do the same, at your so-called Renaissance schools. Renaissance refers to the revival of the arts and learning; this undemocratic, dictatorial government is doing the exact opposite, by implementing policies that have failed in Britain and the U.S.

They constantly waste millions on false TV and radio ads aimed at

demoralizing teachers in the hope that we will become worn out and give up fighting for better education. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that all the funding cuts to education will have a long-term, detrimental effect on the students and teachers.

The commonsenseless revolution was drawn up by the unelected backroom social misfits that Mike Harris gathered together. Perhaps you should direct your message in their direction. The

policies they drew up have destroyed so much of the good stuff that makes Ontario a great place to live.

Mr. Campbell, take a holiday and get in touch with the meaning of democracy— there are a lot of good books out there. Better yet, contact a high school English teacher, I am sure they could teach you a thing or two. Have a nice day!

Glady Carter,
high school teacher 27 years,
Georgetown

Teachers teach because they love it

Dear editor,

This letter is written in response to the letter sent in by Marge Willis of Georgetown (Sept. 6)

After reading the diatribe and slowly swallowing the bile that had risen to my throat, I thought it incumbent upon me to inform Ms. Willis of my reason for teaching. I'm not too sure which teachers the educated reader has been speaking to, but for myself and almost all of the teachers that I have had the good fortune to come in contact with, it is, in fact, the students who provide us with our primary motivation to do what we do.

Despite no salary increases for nearly a decade, despite the aggressive and hostile attitude of the government of the day, and despite the steady increase in workload over the past few years, we continue to teach because of the dynamic relationship that exists

between student and teacher.

I am not the exception. I have had the good fortune of being a part of three educational communities and in each and every one I have met dedicated professionals sacrificing their time and energy for the benefit of the students. It is not the "belligerent, defiant, antagonistic attitudes of our students" that frustrates us. It is the pronouncements from ill-informed "couch teachers" who seem to be experts in the teaching profession.

But, I have a solution. I would like to invite the learned reader to walk the halls of my school or one in the Halton Hills community and see her tax dollars being put to good use. She may even visit me. I won't be hard to locate. I'll be the "spoiled, rowdy, irresponsible" one teaching my Grade 10 students and loving every minute of it.

Paul Alves, Acton