

Editorial

# Sugar and spice...

For her 11 years, Betsy Davitt has experienced a lot. We're hoping that some semblance of order can now be restored to her life.

Davitt is the young Acton girl who has been the subject of a cross-border custody battle between her father Bruce Davitt and mother Bonnie Murray. For nearly a year the international tug-of-war for Betsy has continued.

Actually, the battle for Betsy dates back to 1997 when an Ontario court granted custody of Betsy to Davitt. However, during summer vacation with her mother last year, Murray, without Davitt's knowledge, went to a Michigan court and was granted temporary custody of Betsy.

With the help of a Detroit lawyer, Davitt went to a Michigan court citing articles of the Hague Convention treaty on international child abduction in an effort to bring Betsy home.

Earlier this year the judge ruled in Davitt's favour but Murray filed an appeal and kept Betsy. Finally, last week a U.S. district court judge upheld the earlier judge's ruling and ordered Betsy returned home.

This past weekend, 10 months late, Betsy has come back to Acton and is now readjusting to her surroundings.

While Murray is now going to Ontario courts again to gain custody, we can only hope this little girl who has seen too much bickering, can somehow find peace and happiness.



## Letters to the editor....

# Society is unappreciative of teachers

Dear editor,

I am tired of hearing about how "bad" the teachers are. How people are tired of hearing them complain. How people blame them for the "current turmoil in the education system" as per the "What You Said" column on May 2.

I think the only people to blame are society. Yes, society. How much

did you pay that scalper to watch the Leafs play hockey or better yet, how much did you pay Ticketmaster?

I think society has their priorities all bass akwards! They supported Robert Downey Jr. for this long, have they not?

You pay the most important people in society the least amount of money while entertainment moguls are paid outrageous amounts of money....and when they cry about it (actor's strike, the demise of Napster, just to name a few) society gives into it all!

I am in the process of hosting an event, and in order for me to use recorded music, I have to pay what is called a SOCAN fee (a fee that goes to the recording artist for using their song so that they can add to their millions of dollars they already have).

Teachers raise your kids. They are the ones who educate and have an impact on their informative years. Yet society pays them the least amount of money. And when they,

the teachers, speak out against the unfair treatment, they become the bad guys. What is society coming to? Sure, they choose their vocation, not for the money, not for the fame, not for the fortune, but for the children. There is a passion bestowed in the hearts of the people who choose to educate. Not a dollar figure.

You will pay \$1 for a bottle of water, yet you won't pay the people who educate your children an extra dollar an hour. The people who are with them more waking hours of the day than you are?

By the way, who decided on the pay scale anyway? Who said, "Okay, entertain me, and I will reward you by paying you an outrageous amount of money to see you hit a ball with a stick. And you, who teach my children how to read and write, I will throw you my spare change."

You did, that's who. And you are society.

N. Person,  
Georgetown

## Local support for spinal cord research was overwhelming

Dear editor,

I would like to thank all those who participated in the first annual raffle held by the Halton Hills chapter for spinal cord research.

Your generosity raised more than \$3,500 that will go directly to cure research.

Since my injury over two years ago, I have experienced a major change in my life and have met many wonderful people along the way.

Being a new resident of Georgetown I was not prepared for the outpouring of support that I received in the three days the raffle was held at the Georgetown Marketplace Mall, and again I met some very warm and wonderful people.

Thank you.

Wayne MacDonald  
Halton Hills chapter head  
Spinal Cord Society

### Send us your letters

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor.

All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters requesting names be withheld will only be published pending a valid reason at the editor's discretion. Letters should be not exceed 300 words and may be edited for content or length.

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