

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

## Parents must reinforce message of acceptance: board

Dear editor,

(The following letter was sent to all Halton District School Board (HDSB) parents.)

On Tuesday, Sept. 11 the world changed as a result of events in the United States. We join in condemning those who carried out these contemptible terrorist acts against innocent civilians. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of the victims of this tragedy.

As a school system, student safety remains our primary concern. We will remain diligent in watching for any signs of racial, religious or cultural tensions emerging within our school community.

The HDSB's guiding principles state we are committed to providing a caring and safe environment that also recognizes the rights and dignity of all. This commitment is echoed in the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Ministry of

Education's Safe School Policy and our own Code of Behaviour. We want to assure parents we will be vigilant in guarding against inappropriate behaviour, and determined in our efforts to provide a safe environment for all students and staff.

We offer the following to assist parents in reinforcing a message of acceptance, understanding and respect:

- Continue to be vigilant for any sign of inappropriate behaviour and reprisals against others based on faith and/or ethnicity. Actions based on hate, whether they are verbal or physical harassment, insults, name-calling, celebratory behaviour, intimidation, hate-based graffiti, or mischief cannot be tolerated.

- Remind your child to report any such incidents immediately to the principal. Principals will investigate all allegations.

- Encourage students to talk to

a teacher or administrator if they have concerns about the behaviour of a fellow student or if they know of a student who is being harassed or intimidated. Explain their co-operation is important for everyone's safety.

- Be aware of your conversations and your choice of words and expressions when you are near children/students

- When talking with your child, emphasize how tragic it is that hate exists and the negative impact that hate-related activity and dissension can have on all of us. Encourage acceptance and understanding. Let your child talk about how he/she feels.

- Stress that the acts of a few do not reflect or speak for the beliefs or behaviour of a religious or ethnic group.

Ethel Gardiner, chair,  
D.L. Papke, director of education  
Halton District School Board

## La Leche fund-raiser a hit

Dear editor,

We had a fantastic fund-raising yard sale recently and we would like to thank everyone who helped make it such a great event.

We would like to thank *The Independent & Free Press* for placing our announcement in the community calendar and the members of the community who took the time to support us, the members of our group who worked together to prepare their home for our use, who cleaned out their closets and garages for items to sell, and who took time out of their long weekend to see that everything ran smoothly. They all deserve a big thank you and congratulations on a job well done.

All community groups run efficiently due to the volunteer work of their members and we are blessed to have many families who believe strongly in what we are about.

As an organization we are here to help pregnant and new moms get breastfeeding off to a smooth start and everyone has banded together to help continue to achieve this goal. Thank you once again to all involved and to the community members who love to "yard sale," keep your eyes open for next year's notice as I suspect this will become an annual event.

Samantha Leeson-Gardiner,  
La Leche League Canada,  
Acton/Georgetown

## Fair ambassador looks forward to challenge

Dear editor,

As 2001 Georgetown Fair Ambassador I would like to reflect on the fair weekend. This fall's 155th anniversary of the fair was filled with exciting events and attractions. There was so much to see and do and I hope everyone was able to experience the well-planned event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved with the fair over the weekend. On the Friday evening the ambassador competition took place on the centre stage. This competition would not have been possible without the hard work of Kenda Nurse who spent lots of time organizing the event. I would also like to congratulate the other candidates who did an outstanding job at

the competition. Their hard efforts made the judges' decisions very difficult.

As well, I would like to thank all the sponsors of the competition, which donated many gifts and prizes. But, most of all, I would like to thank the Georgetown Agricultural Society for giving me this opportunity to represent our fair this year.

I am very thrilled to have earned this title as fair ambassador and I plan to do as much as possible for the fair in my term this year. I know Kate Sparling, 2000 ambassador, has given me lot to look forward to, but I am up to the challenge.

Tonya Butler, 2001 Georgetown  
Fall Fair Ambassador

## Planes should be remote controlled

Dear editor,

Recently I wrote to you about the idea of isolating the cockpit from the cabin on airplanes.

The thought of shooting down our own civilian planes for fear of terrorism still troubles me. To kill innocent human beings, even for a greater purpose, is very hard to justify.

This option is also very expensive, as it would require extensive deployment of air personnel in a constant state of alert and military airports close to all possible civilian and military targets including major cities, hydro dams, nuclear power stations, stadiums, etc.

There is a better option. With today's technology we can include as part of every plane a bypass system, controlled from the ground. In case of hijacking or other serious problem, the main commands of the airplane would be switched to ground control and the plane could be remotely guided and landed.

For terrorists to blow up a plane in the air, they would have to bypass ground security and board the plane heavily armed. This hopefully can be avoided with the tighter airport security.

Giuseppe Gori, Acton

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