



**Happy 9th
EVAN!**



*Love Gran, Dee
& All The Family*



Reg Swain
graduated on February 20, 2002
from the University of Guelph with a
Master of Business Administration

Letters to the editor

Tories 'incompetent' when it comes to education

Dear editor,

In two recent issues of your paper you reported on the lack of attendance at the meeting regarding an apparent crisis in education funding.

I do not believe that the poor attendance reflects lack of interest. It is important that the provincial government is not allowed to draw the conclusion that no one cares or that everyone is satisfied with their policies. The truth is that this is one of a number of significant policy areas where MPP Ted Chudleigh's party is totally out of touch with reality.

I have no idea if the powers that be in Queen's Park are intentionally trying to destroy public education (John Snobelen's crisis?) or are simply out of touch with reality. At best, if the road to education hell is paved with good intentions, the Ontario PC party continues to build a high-speed multi-lane version (probably to be sold off for chicken feed to speculators and charged back on a fee-for-service basis).

The public high school is in poor condition, the text book situation is pathetic and teachers are being demoralized to the point where we are losing good ones. I challenge Ted Chudleigh or anyone at Queen's Park who can speak for the government to sit down with our school board and administrators in public and specifically tell them where they're supposed to make cuts to balance the budget without further destroying education quality.

By the way, I believe that a successful school experience must be attractive to the student. This means more than a no-frills environment. There must be extra-curricular

activities including sports, music and arts to generate the level of social involvement that results in motivated students and teachers. My only major wish for a change of attitude on the part of boards and unions in the system is to see teachers financially rewarded based on quality of performance with less emphasis on time served and less job security for poor teachers who are either unable or unwilling to improve.


Unfortunately, the government has chosen to tinker with funding and has not tried to deal with this very difficult issue.

As someone who does a bit of community organizing, I know how difficult it is to get parents to any kind of a meeting. It requires more than notices. In my case, I had to work that evening. My wife was also unavailable.


I am sure that many parents also were unable to attend who strongly care and share concerns about the incompetent way our children's education is being administered by the PC Ontario government.

In truth, I don't blame the dogmatic and insensitive provincial government for the school systems woes. I do hold the voters of Ontario who have twice voted to slash their own children's educational opportunities to put a few more dollars in their own pockets (and many more in those who need it least) by voting for the Ontario PC party in the first place. It is unfortunate that neither other political party has effectively offered a responsible vision of how things should be done to promote excellence in education, but at least either alternative would not be so energetically destructive as the present government.

Phil Lewin, Georgetown



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Covered bridge is 'unnecessary'

(This letter was originally sent to Councillor John Day and a copy was made available for publication.)

Dear Councillor Day,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our objection to the proposed spending of taxpayers' dollars (without input of council) on a covered bridge for Cedarvale Park.

I was under the impression that any new programs or initiatives were to be approved by council before they were acted upon. It is a great system when utilized; it prevents any one person from spending taxpayers' dollars without the support of our elected members.

We are short of recreation facilities and space in the existing programs that our kids' names go into a lottery for the few spaces available. If \$100,000 can be made

available, let's put it into our kids, not an unnecessary bridge.

B. Porter, Norval

Community spirit shown

Dear editor,

Patients from different areas of U.S. are staying at the Best Western Inn on the Hill each week while receiving treatment from Dr. Cleary, who received an award for his success of The Ontario Migraine Clinic in Georgetown. As a charitable contribution to their health and welfare the newly renovated hotel is charging them only one night for a two day stay.

It is generosity such as this as exhibited by Best Western Inn on the Hill that helps promote our community and keeps the spirit of helping alive.

Theresa Ball, Georgetown

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