

Editorial

The better way

Remember those dandy stories you used to hear from your parents and grandparents about how, "When I was your age we had to walk five miles in a raging snowstorm to get to school"?

Well, times have changed...sort of.

Now, we often hear that if some of today's kids have to walk more than 3.2 kilometres to school, parents demand the school board provide busing for them.

Facetiousness aside, Halton Catholic District School Board trustees did the right thing Tuesday night when they ignored a staff report which denied busing for students living in Georgetown West who attend Christ the King (CTK).

Parents of 13 students argued their children faced an unsafe 55-minute walk to the new high school along busy Hwy. 7 (a portion which had no sidewalk), while lugging 20-30 lbs. of books. They asked that a stop be added along the CTB-bound Acton bus route to pick up the West students.

The board lent a sympathetic ear to similar pleas from parents of students living in Georgetown South earlier this year, so to deny one area and not the other seemed a bit unreasonable. The trustees obviously agreed and made the correct call—unanimously.

If there is one sour note in this case it's that the board will review the busing issue—for Georgetown South as well—in future years. For the time being though, local students won't be able to pass on any "when I was your age..." stories to their kids.



Letters to the editor...

Dog breeder rebuts reader's accusations

Dear editor,

As a breeder of purebred dogs for more than 30 years I find Mr. Colpitts' letter thrashing all dog

breeders objectionable and unfounded (Dog breeders need controls, Oct. 16.)

Contrary to Mr. Colpitts uninformed beliefs, the breeding of dogs, including show dogs, is not a highly profitable business. Breeders show their dogs, not for monetary returns, as cash prizes are almost non-existent, but for the pride in knowing they have produced a dog that is held in high esteem by their peers and judges, and exhibits the qualities that the breed standard requires.

Reputable breeders do their utmost to breed only dogs that adhere closely to the standard, are free from genetic problems and have sound temperaments.

Most breeders screen their buyers to make sure they make suitable caregivers, having the time and energy that a growing puppy requires. Breeders spend endless hours educating potential buyers in breed requirements including health problems, proper exercise, veterinary care and obedience training to ensure that each and every puppy is

welcome not only in their home, but also in the community. People often have to wait up to a year until a suitable puppy becomes available.

The Canadian Kennel Club does have a code of ethics and very strict guidelines as to the registration of all purebred puppies, but not all breeders belong to the Kennel Club.

Unfortunately there are some people who do breed dogs for a quick buck, with little concern for the physical and mental health of their dogs. These people are generally known as backyard breeders and puppy millers and should never be confused with bona fide breeders and I find it both insulting and hurtful to be placed in the same category. Perhaps Mr. Colpitts has his percentages reversed.

Mr. Colpitts portrays himself as a trainer of dogs yet I wonder, with such a biased and negative view of breeders, how he can possibly give his clients and their dogs a fair and professional evaluation.

Angie De Bruyn,
Acton

Sad day for Escarpment

Dear editor,

Oct 17, 2002 will be remembered as a low point at the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC).

I was stunned at testimony that the staff members of the NEC—the people who are hired for their scientific expertise—were pressured by their bosses (the director and the chair of the commission) to amend their recommendation for rejecting the Dufferin expansion application and instead to include an alternate recommendation in their report. What would be the point of pressuring staff to create alternatives to what they have initially scientifically concluded? It certainly makes you wonder.

We would all do well to remember what Commissioner Boraks said in his impassioned speech to turn down the motion. He pointed out that the Niagara Escarpment Plan is an environmental plan. It was put in place to protect a beautiful and unique land feature from just such goofy and untenable plans as put forward by Dufferin—to pump huge volumes of water within the area "in perpetuity".

What really appeared to have happened is that the 11 commissioners who voted in favour of expanding the licence are actually in the process of changing the NEC plan into a "development" plan. What a terrible performance on the part of people we expect to protect our Escarpment legacy.

L. Symmes, Terra Cotta

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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