

OPINION

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Decide now

Isn't it ironic that three years ago Dalton McGuinty's Liberals were elected, in part, to settle the Conservatives vs. teachers chaos in the education system—and have now created their own chaos by simply doing nothing.

Under the Tories, school boards had to close schools to get provincial funding for new schools in other growing areas like Halton Hills. But two months after their election in 2003, the Liberals placed a moratorium on school closures, promising a new funding formula. Three years later, we still await that formula, and school boards like the Halton District School Board (HDSB) are going into debt to pay for desperately needed schools.

HDSB superintendent of business Steven Parfeniuk is calling the situation "untenable."

"I think we need to make sure the Ministry of Education solves the problems that it created for us and other school boards in the province," he said.

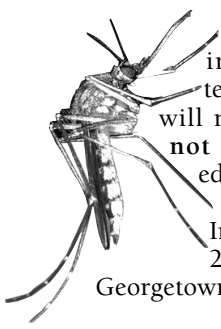
Here in Halton Hills, the board wants to build a school in Georgetown South, but is forced to add a 10-classroom portapak to Silver Creek instead. According to Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner, there are more than 300 children housed in portables at Silver Creek, whereas there are HDSB schools with less than 300 children in them. Renovations are desperately needed at Georgetown District High School—not including the hoped-for addition—but where will the money come from, and when?

The Province is more than willing to take tax dollars for education—about \$890 from each Halton resident—but yet seems unwilling to return that money to where it's needed—schools and classrooms HERE!

Already the Liberals are looking for votes for their re-election bid in 2007, so now is the time that taxpayers should be demanding decisions and action now. That's the only way Halton Hills' older schools are going to get renovations and new schools get built.

Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!



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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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

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Steve Nease



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sidewalk disrepair causes problems

Dear editor,

First, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the gentleman, who stopped and rescued me on Sunday, April 30.

You see, my power chair had become mired in the gravel that the Price Chopper calls a sidewalk and I couldn't move. Eight cars drove by and must have thought I found a new place to rest, because although they looked, they kept going. It took a major effort on the part of "my Good Samaritan" but he got me out.

Trustee thanks school volunteers

Dear editor,

Through your newspaper, I would like to express sincere gratitude to all volunteers who support our public schools in Halton Hills.

Their work at many levels in our schools truly enriches the lives of our students and staff. They give willingly of their time and talents and our schools are blessed by their presence.

Thank you sincerely to all volunteers for supporting our schools in so many tangible and profound ways. Our students are fortunate to be the recipients of your kindness and generosity.

Ethel Gardiner,
Halton Hills Trustee
Halton District School Board

Again, thanks.

Now, as to the Price Chopper. It is unbelievable that they have been able to take the use of that sidewalk away for over seven months. I like to shop at Home Hardware and since last October, the sidewalk on both the north and south side of Guelph St. has been unusable to me in my power chair. I have had two choices: run on the highway or go around by Armstrong Ave.—neither being appealing on the long term.

The SuperStore and Canadian Tire during construction, both returned the sidewalks to full usage within weeks. How can the Price Chopper get away with it?

Well, in an effort to help the Price Chopper understand how much of

Indoor soccer coaches and officials thanked for their volunteer service

Dear editor:

I wish to publicly acknowledge the contribution to our community made by the coaches and officials responsible for providing our son with an outstanding sporting experience.

Each Saturday morning, we would look forward to the game hosted by the Georgetown Indoor Soccer league at Christ the King High School. Alas, the championship went to the Teal Team this

an inconvenience they are causing me and other disabled in the community, I propose the following: Neither I, my friends, or anyone else who understands the frustration your barrier causes, will shop in your store for the same number of months you have blocked our free access to Home Hardware and beyond. It is now seven months and counting.

Bill Leslie, Georgetown

(Ed. Note: In response to Mr. Leslie's concerns, the Town of Halton Hills Engineering Department ordered Price Chopper and its contractor to fix the sidewalk by May 9, otherwise the Town public works would do it from pre-posted securities. As of this printing, a temporary sidewalk has been installed.)

past weekend, but the game was close and exciting from start to finish! A heartfelt thanks to the Lime Team's coaches Kim and Lewis, for all their support and generosity over the season.

Without the dedication of volunteers like these kind folks, our children would not have the wide array of choices for recreation, culture and athletics available in this great community. Thanks.

Tim Dixon, Georgetown

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