

OPINION

www.independentfreepress.com

Phone: 905-873-0301
Fax: 905-873-0398

No reason to boast

The fact that one-in-three Ontario Grades 3 and 6 students are not achieving the provincial standard in reading, writing and math seems like something more parents and educators should be concerned about.

More disturbing is that nearly 66 per cent of Ontario Grade 9 students tested for Applied Mathematics did not achieve the provincial standard.

Halton Catholic students fared only slightly better with 59 per cent of those tested last May failing to attain or surpass the provincial standard.

Each time the provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) releases results for the province's publicly-funded school boards the emphasis seems to be on what's right with our education system rather than what's not.

The EQAO's own website— www.eqao.com— offers the bold statement that “40 per cent of students who did not meet the (provincial) reading standard when in Grade 3 did in Grade 6.”

However, that means that 60 per cent of those same underachieving students continued to score lower than the standard for reading.

A news release issued this week by Halton's public board emphasizes how the board's results continue to exceed the provincial average. What isn't given much attention is the significant percentage of Halton students tested last spring, who did not achieve the provincial standard.

While we certainly understand why there might be a tendency by school boards and the province to accentuate the positive results of these tests, we wonder what is to become of the students who seem to be struggling to make the grade?

While its true that the Halton District School Board results exceeded the provincial average for all three grades, between 18-59 per cent of Halton public school students tested are not achieving the provincial standard, which is equivalent to a B grade.

The latest EQAO results leave us arriving at one of two conclusions— either the provincial standard has been set unreasonably high, or an alarmingly high number of Ontario students are not learning what they should be.

What do you think?

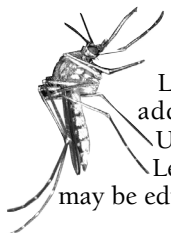
Below are the results of our most recent online poll. For the current poll go to www.independentfreepress.com

The Town is considering a budget hike of 7.5 per cent which would mean, on average, an \$81 increase on next year's tax bill for local homeowners. Is this increase....

- Too high (57%)
- About right (29%)
- Too low (14%)

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.

E-mail:

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Mail or drop off:

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, ON., L7G 4B1

THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

The Independent & Free Press is published Wednesday and Friday and is one of several Metroland Media Group Ltd. community newspapers. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.



Steve Nease



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Traffic on Princess Anne Dr. 'unacceptable'

Dear editor,

I would just like to respond to Rob Allison's August 27 letter regarding cutting the truck traffic on Maple Avenue in Georgetown, now that it has been resurfaced.

Rob, where do you think all the truck traffic has been going prior to and since they have started resurfacing? It has been on Princess Anne Drive. The amount of large trucks, including a large volume of Halton Region trucks, I see going down Princess Anne Drive is completely unacceptable.

Princess Anne Drive, unlike Maple Avenue is a largely residential street, including the site of a seniors' residence, the hospital and the future site of a seniors' community. During the winter, especially following any of the major winter storms we had this last winter, there was a constant flow of Halton Region dump trucks filled with snow going down Princess Anne Drive. There are a lot of small children on this

Thanks for sharing pears

Dear editor,

God blessed us with an abundance this year. I would like to thank all the people who stopped on Tenth Line and were able to “share my pears”.

A special thank you to those who left a donation for Cancer Assistance Services-Halton Hills. Your donations will be forwarded this week.

Thank you again.

Jennifer Barnett, Georgetown

street that are more prone to having an accident with any of these trucks barreling down the road at any given hour of the day.

Sure there has been a lot of money put into the repairing of Maple Avenue, but there is a higher risk of human casualty with the high truck traffic on Princess Anne Drive than on Maple Avenue. If it were not for the

Farming community has become too fragmented

Dear editor,

Debbie McClure (August 22 letter Future of dairy farmers a cause for concern) makes valuable points. However as a 'townie' who does not carry 'milk prices at the farm gate' in my back pocket, but has put time into the Georgetown Fall Fair, and whose daughter happily 'farms' 24/365 I offer the following:

1. The Halton Dairy Farmers have always had a wonderful display at The Georgetown Fall Fair, there have been milking demonstrations and butter making and the 'public' interest and appreciation has been unquestionable.

2. At an economic development convention during Mr. Harris's government the then Minister of Agriculture declared, “The best crop any farmer can grow is houses”.

3. Ontario dairy farming is bolstered and protected by “a quota system” (which our U.S. cousins and other at the World Trade Organization would love to eliminate) and is saleable for thousands of

hospital, I would go as far as suggesting making Princess Anne Drive a traffic calming zone, as there is also a high frequency of people not following the posted 50 km/h speed limit.

What is more important here, the money put into the repairing of a road or the loss of life due to high speed and high truck traffic?

Jeremy Malanchuk, Georgetown.

dollars (\$13,000/ Kg.)

4. There are many jobs that are not work but 'vocations'. If that is Debbie's 'lot in life' then enjoy and be happy.

5. Personally I am more disturbed by the closing of our only canning factory, of the glass producers and of many small local slaughterhouses.

6. The farming community has allowed itself to become too fragmented and needs to get its act together— should we really have to import 'automated milking machines' from Holland? There is the talent and experience within the industry— so look internationally and use it. There is more sheep milk produced, worldwide, than cattle milk and the 'value added' is greater.

7. Anytime Debbie wants to fit in some time with the Georgetown Agricultural Society for the Georgetown Fall Fair, I'm certain she will be warmly welcomed.

John Owen, Georgetown

STAFF DIRECTORY

Publisher

Ken Nugent

General manager

Steve Foreman

(sforeman@independentfreepress.com)

Retail advertising manager

Cindi Campbell

(ccampbell@independentfreepress.com)

Managing editor

John McGhie

(jmcghie@independentfreepress.com)

Distribution manager

Nancy Geissler

(distribution@independentfreepress.com)

ADVERTISING

Advertising co-ordinator

Jennifer Christie (jchristie@independentfreepress.com)

Retail Sales:

Jennifer Spencer (jspencer@independentfreepress.com)

Brendan Louth (blouth@independentfreepress.com)

Amy Sykes (features@independentfreepress.com)

Andrea Lefebvre (alefebvre@independentfreepress.com)

Brendon Stevenson (bstevenson@independentfreepress.com)

Real estate:

Sue Spizziri (realestate@independentfreepress.com)

Classifieds:

Kristie Pells (classified@independentfreepress.com)

ACCOUNTING

Rose Marie Gauthier, Michelle McEachern

EDITORIAL

Cynthia Gamble: News editor

(cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

Ted Brown: Photography

(tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

Lisa Tallyn: Staff writer

(ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/sports

(emaher@independentfreepress.com)

PRODUCTION:

Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell,

Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

More letters page 7