

COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Fax: 878-4943

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver *Publisher*

Neil Oliver *Associate Publisher*

David Bos *General Manager*

Rob Kelly *Editor*

Karen Cross *Circulation Manager*

Teri Casas *Office Manager*

Tim Coles *Production Manager*

The Canadian Champion, published twice weekly at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax / Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood / Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/ Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland / Penetanguishene Mirror, Mississauga News, Newmarket / Aurora Era Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Orillia Today, Oshawa / Whitby / Clarington This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill / Thornhill / Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Uxbridge / Stouffville Tribune, Today's Seniors, City of York Guardian. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Kids the ones getting hurt

Two ongoing labour disputes are turning uglier and sadly the victims are children.

The Halton Adolescent Support Services (HASS) strike has shut down the organization's teen crisis line, counselling services and Pilkey house -- the Burlington-based residential treatment centre.

Teens from that program were either re-located to one of three alternative residences in Milton, Oakville and Burlington, or sent home -- to places where they, for various reasons, have already found they couldn't live.

If fact, you could go as far as saying the youths are being treated like trash.

It was reported in Friday's Champion that the union has stopped or slowed waste pickup as well as mail delivery at all HASS facilities.

The youths have complained publicly that they are caught in the middle of a labour dispute -- one right outside their door -- and the replacement workers aren't cutting it when it comes to getting the help kids need. They are the innocent victims.

Hopefully, events surrounding the HASS strike are only temporary, however another ongoing dispute -- between teachers' and the Mike Harris government -- could prove detrimental to many active students.

Dire predictions that secondary school sports programs will be scaled back or scrapped due to a new requirement for school instructors to teach one extra 40-minute class per day are alarming.

In today's Our Readers Write section, teachers say their claim that they won't have time to volunteer as coaches or run other extra-curricular activities isn't a union tactic to protest the changes.

One writer says that in the corporate sector, "it would seem unlikely that an employer could demand and receive volunteer time from their workers" and "it would be even less likely to occur if the employer was self-serving and prone to dishonesty."

Really. We didn't know the teachers were staying after hours to please the boss. We thought they coached teams and ran clubs to better students' lives and for personal rewards.

Regardless, the bottom line is that children will suffer. Has everyone forgotten them?

In both cases, like domestic conflicts such as separation and divorce, children are the biggest victims.

It's sad to think that these two institutions created by adults for the betterment of youngsters and society as a whole are being compromised by the problems of adults.

Karen Smith



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Man 'wonders' if MPP informed

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the recent article 'Union probably behind push for school sports dispute: MPP'.

Not once in the comments attributed to Mr. Chudleigh did he indicate that he had any idea of the facts in this matter. He "wonders" and "thinks" that "probably" the unions "seem to be heading the charge" on the issue of voluntary activities.

Does this man actually know any of the facts surrounding this complex and inflammatory issue?

The diminished enthusiasm of teachers to commit to voluntary activities has little to do with the additional in-class time mandated by our employer and everything to do with a mistrust of politicians who cloud issues to serve no one but themselves.

Like any employee, teachers will adapt and adhere to the expectations of their employer. Whether the employee views these conditions of employment as prudent or well planned is moot.

This issue has not been presented to teachers as a negotiating tool as Mr. Chudleigh would have your readers believe.

A teacher has no fear of making a personal decision on the matter of voluntary time even if the union may be against the idea in principle. Nor is there any peer pressure by colleagues of the type faced by auto or postal workers to toe the line.

In the corporate sector, it would seem unlikely that an employer could demand and receive volunteer time from their workers. It would be even less likely to occur if the

employer was self-serving and prone to dishonesty.

*Ian McIntosh
Rockwood*

Stop guessing and start asking

Dear Editor:

As I read Ted Chudleigh's comments in your July 24 article, 'Union probably behind push for school sports dispute: MPP', I shuddered to think that a man so uninformed could be our representative in the legislature.

Instead of guessing -- incorrectly -- about how teachers are feeling regarding possibly not being involved with sports and other extra-curricular activities this coming school year, Chudleigh should try a novel approach: listening to what teachers are saying.

While teachers would prefer to continue to run extra-curricular activities, they're fed up with the lack of respect they get from the Harris government.

But more importantly, and what Chudleigh just doesn't seem to understand, is that a cut in teachers' prep time results in teachers being fired.

When a teacher leaves, so does the coach. Who will fill in -- the remaining teachers, who now have an extra class to prepare for, teach and evaluate?

Finally, our MPP's thoughts hardly rate a front-page headline. Your paper obviously feels differently. That's fine, but just to show how out of touch he was and still is, here's another Champion headline, this one from September 30, 1997, as the teachers opposition to Bill 160 was heating up: 'Chudleigh doesn't think they'll strike'.

*Dave Toderick
Wilson Drive*

Pud

by Steve Nease

