



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Good call by council

Milton council was right not to take sides with Percy Merry parents as the latter attempt to block any moves aimed at closing their school.

Granted, Percy Merry is probably a fine institution and is a hub of activity in rural Hornby, an area that does not benefit from many municipal facilities.

But councillors are correct in saying that backing Percy Merry parents is in effect pulling the rug out from underneath somebody else, given that many schools are on the chopping block -- two in Milton.

Council has no jurisdiction in this question and could only be seen as meddling in school board affairs.

The school boards have enough problems at present without other politicians grandstanding to appease voters.

Local guy makes good

There hasn't been a local police chief at the helm of the Halton force since the late 1970s, so we're pleased to see that Ean Algar was promoted from within to take command.

The Halton Regional Police Service has changed a lot in two decades, grown in scope, responsibility and, despite a few bumps in the road, professionalism. It's time that they went to one of their own for leadership. Good luck to Ean Algar. He's going to need it.



OUR READERS WRITE

Looking for their ancestors

Dear Editor:

I am trying to trace the descendants of my great uncles and wondered if any of your readers could help.

They were William Arthur Hooper, born December 2, 1881; Ernest Augustus Hooper, born December 23, 1886; Herbert Robert Hooper, born October 1, 1886.

They came to Canada through the Dr. Stephenson's Children's Home in 1896-97. Their sister Olive Maud (my grandmother) remained in England and I believe they lost touch.

William (who was know as Arthur) and Ernest were working on farms in

Freeman in 1904. Herbert was working at Oustic, Wellington County, in 1903, but I think he may have moved to Halton County at a later date.

I would very much like to find their descendants and wondered if they might still be living in the same area? Perhaps if they or anyone else who has knowledge of my great uncles could contact me I would be very grateful. I will reply to any letters.

Mrs. P. Dawes
21 Sycamore Close,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire CV37 0DZ,
England

Alternative schools the answer

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my opinion regarding the cost of public education in Ontario.

The government currently spends approximately \$14 billion annually on education, of which I believe 80 per cent funds salaries and benefits.

In the real world, if 80 per cent of your revenue goes to salaries and benefits you will quickly learn what bankruptcy is.

Is it therefore any wonder why teacher unions blast the government for taking money out of the education system. The unions continue to preach to the public "less money in the system means less money for your child" i.e. poorer education. What hogwash.

Ontario has one of the highest cost per student in the world, but we score low on international tests. It's a fallacy that paying educators more money means a better education for your child. Of course teachers, directors, superintendents and educational consultants want to be paid more money, who doesn't?

However, contrary to what the teacher unions want you to believe, studies have shown that high cost often buys low quality.

In addition, public education in this province is a monopoly. We all know that monopolies are inefficient and expensive while not caring for the people who actually pay their salaries.

This province must create alternatives for education

competition that is long overdue. Other provinces in this country and other countries have tried alternatives to the current system with some success. They include the following: charter schools, magnet schools and voucher systems.

Parents must have a choice as to which system and school to educate their children in. Not until other choices exist will the cost of education be controlled (reduced) and the quality significantly improved.

N. Mele
Burlington

Thanks for helping us to help others

Dear Editor:

I want to thank you so very much for the two articles printed recently in The Champion highlighting our need for volunteers.

They were in an excellent position in the paper, and have generated considerable interest for us.

I have received a number of phone calls in response to the publicity, and have already signed up a couple of new volunteers.

Again, thank you very much for such great help.

Anthea Hoare, co-ordinator
Volunteer Resource

by Steve Nease

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