



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Finally, sense prevails

At this stage it's difficult to know how effectively the terrible rift between Halton Catholic teachers and the school board has been repaired.

Welcome news that marathon bargaining had led to a three-year deal came Monday morning. This in and of itself is novel and refreshing. Usually, one-year deals are struck when a union is anxious to get back to the bargaining table in hopes of extracting more concessions.

The fact that a three-year agreement was reached may indicate that the teachers finally realized how serious the board was in its position.

Once the teachers were threatened with a lockout they immediately called for negotiations to resume, and wisely, since there was little to be gained with legislation stacked against them.

On top of that, if they had allowed further disruption to the school year for students, animosity among parents could have built up even higher. That was already affecting the board, as the flight of students to public high schools had begun in earnest.

Although no details of the proposed settlement have been released, we can only hope that it marks the beginning of a time of relative stability in Catholic schools -- a cooling off period.

Perhaps, if we're lucky, it will even mean the start of a new era in which both sides have a more clearly-defined understanding of each other's powers and limitations.



OUR READERS WRITE

Lots of support from community shown in recent snow storms

Dear Editor:

I have encountered many blessings this year as we whine and lament over the amount of snow recently.

The community spirit shown by people helping each other out has been tremendous -- from neighbour to neighbour and from friends, and overall there was a lot of genuine support that I experienced first hand.

At my office alone I heard repeatedly of others helping out single mothers, senior citizens and caregivers needing to

get out.

I live on Martin Street and I am grateful for my neighbours who pitched in and gave me a generous hand with snowblowing, getting rid of ice and even helping with ladders.

Thank you Milton and to all those who helped others, including myself.

A candle loses nothing by lighting another.

Angelika Koeth
Milton

Woman says she's willing to donate portion of sales to open baby ward

Dear Editor:

I recently was thrilled to find out my husband and I are expecting our second child. I'm not as nervous this time because I know a little more the second time around.

However, when you are pregnant anything can happen -- miscarriage, pre-mature labour or even pre-mature birth, and if you are living in Milton you must now go to Georgetown or Oakville in order to deliver your baby.

I can't tell you how nervous we were with my first baby. We live on Ontario Street and it took four minutes and two seconds to get to Milton District Hospital. You may laugh but with any pregnancy you just pray you'll get there on time, that the baby will be healthy and you both will be treated with the best care possible.

For myself it was the most wonderful time to share with my hus-

band. The Milton nurses and doctors set my mind at ease, which made my husband's life easier.

Now that four-minute ride has turned into at least 30 minutes or more, and much longer for the winter births. That's crazy!

In that half-hour anything could happen. I honestly think the Milton people are letting the hospital board of directors get away with a lot.

So I ask you Milton, are we willing to let others make such an important decision for us? I believe a Milton doctor stated he already had a doctor to fill the position needed to re-open the ward, but the board didn't want to pay the higher salary.

Let me ask you, are your family members and future members worth it? I think so. If Milton stays the same population or grows, the economy will benefit when couples

know they can depend on our health system and stay in Milton to raise their families.

I sell products for Regal Greetings and Gifts and I'm willing to donate 10 per cent of every sale to the re-opening of the Milton maternity ward, and I ask other retailers to step up to the challenge.

The hospital has fundraisers. Let's put pressure on them to raise funds for the re-opening, too.

The nurses everywhere including Oakville and Georgetown give their best but the added stress, I'm sure, is unnecessary and unfair to them as well as the new mom.

So please Milton, let's try our hardest to re-open the maternity ward in Milton and put our own nurses, doctors and money back to work.

Kim Harrison
Milton



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Pud

by Steve Nease

