



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Not much downside for JK in our schools

The relationship between the Halton District School Board and the issue of junior kindergarten (JK) has been on and off. At this point, it looks like it's on again.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, board trustees started getting down to specifics at a meeting last week about what it would take to get JK back in Halton public schools, at least on a limited basis, by the start of the next school year.

The proposal calls for three classes in Milton (two at J.M. Denyes and one at Percy Merry), 13 in Burlington, 10 in Oakville and four in Halton Hills.

Nobody seems to disagree with the fact that the earlier education starts, the better it is -- long-term -- for students. That thinking is mainly backed up by the 'Early Years Study'.

The cost would be about \$324,000, most of which would be a one-time, start-up outlay. The only on-going cost would be \$37,500 per year for supplies like paper and crayons.

Trustees seem to think the start-up cost could be absorbed in one of several ways in the current budget, while shuffling of staff would prevent any new salaries from being taken on.

Frankly, we're not sure there's a downside. And if there is one, we feel the increased education level of younger students far outweighs any possible negative side effects.



OUR READERS WRITE

Postcards and CD player stolen

Thief despicable, says Legion president

Dear Editor:

My letter is directed to the unknown person who stole items from branch 136 of the Royal Canadian Legion on Charles Street November 11 after we left the hall for our Remembrance Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery.

Between 10:40 and 11:30 a.m., my compact disc (CD) player was taken along with a stack of postcards.

It was my fault the thief had free access. I had left the hall door unlocked to save our ladies from waiting out in

the cold until our return.

I understand why the thief would want the CD player, but why would he take the postcards written by grade 7 students thanking our vets for their life today?

**Sharon McKeown, president
Branch 136**

Royal Canadian Legion

(Editor's note: Since this letter was sent to us, the postcards were found dumped outside the Royal Canadian Legion hall. The CD player remains missing.)

Volunteers make a difference, says thankful Cancer Society

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Milton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, I would like to thank the many volunteers who canvassed homes, captained areas, sold daffodils, participated in 'Dress Down Days' and organized golf tournaments, the annual curling bonspiel and dinner dances.

As usual, you made a big difference.

Our 1999 revenue from all these events totalled \$203,051.52, up 24 per cent over 1998, and established a new record high.

Of this total approximately \$60,000 was designated for Children's Camp Trillium, \$36,000 for patient services and transportation, and 18,000 for breast cancer research.

A special thanks to the residents of Milton who, through their generosity, achieved this result giving Milton one of the highest contribu-

tion rates per capita in the province.

The Canadian Cancer Society is an organization of volunteers, which is totally supported by public donations and doesn't receive any government funding.

Ninety cents of every dollar donated goes to patient services, health promotion and cancer research.

Our mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life for people living with cancer through funding research and volunteer-delivered programs with the principle of the efficient use of donated funds.

Again, we sincerely thank everyone who made the year a success because without you, we wouldn't have made the progress we have.

**John A. Perrott, president
Milton branch,
Canadian Cancer Society**

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor.

We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters.

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included.

Mail letters to:

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or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E.



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Pud

by Steve Nease

