



COMMENT

Who will guarantee no harm to citizens?

As Maplehurst Correctional Centre slowly turns into a super jail, the safety of local residents must be paramount.

That means a second look has to be taken at the current inmate release policy.

Currently, jail employees escort prisoners who have duly served their sentence onto a bus, where they're driven out of town.

But no such policy is in place for remanded prisoners -- those released on bail while awaiting court proceedings.

What's more, it doesn't seem as though putting a policy in place for those inmates is feasible -- not now, and not when the jail expands.

That's bad news for residents, as the majority of inmates in the mega jail will be on remand. And at least some of them will be released back into society through bail.

So, the Province decides to plunk a super jail here, one of only three in Ontario.

Then the court system decides who's to be released on bail.

Which of them will now step up to the plate and guarantee no harm will come to Milton residents from either of these decisions?



OUR READERS WRITE

Why not give casino funds to taxpayers?

(The following letter was addressed to the Town of Milton and a copy was filed with the Champion.)

Dear Editor:

Millions of dollars are now flowing in from the Mohawk casino and council has asked staff to suggest on June 12 how to spend it. Why spend it?

We paid 2000 taxes for a budget that didn't include this revenue. Council is now setting taxes for 2001 based on budgets that, I understand, don't include these revenues.

Since the casino revenue will now be there, it just means we are paying that

much more in excess taxes. Give it back.

At the end of each year, council should write a cheque to each taxpayer representing the extra tax they paid due to casino revenue. Better yet, put a 'casino credit' line just before the bottom line on each year's tax bill. That would allow us to track increases in Town spending separate from the casino revenue.

The casino revenue shouldn't be considered an ongoing windfall for extra spending at least until it equals total taxes and we become a tax-free zone.

Gary Ellis
Milton

Bill 74 debate

Teachers getting taste of own medicine

Dear Editor:

Parents should be hugely disappointed with Al Bero's letter of January 6 (Tories pursuing too much control: teacher) and Brian Charbonneau's letter of June 9 (Education needs stability, not Bill 74).

Teachers and their unions have worked hard to use our government's power to force their educational principles on our children.

Unions rely on anti-scab labour laws so that strikes are more effective.

Because employers will be prosecuted if they hire scabs, they will acquiesce more readily to union demands.

The agreements these unions obtain are coerced.

The employer agrees to new contracts in the same way a victim agrees with his mugger.

His right to freedom of contract and to buy the services he needs is

taken away.

Mr. Charbonneau doesn't like to have rights taken away. He says, "Does anyone really think teachers will be able to perform... when they have no rights (sic) to make personal decision (sic)..."

The present government is less socialist (tending to favour the workers) and more fascist, so teachers are horrified to find they're on the receiving end of the very force they believed they had a right to use.

The teacher unions snared in this contradiction, fear that their members will be forced to do volunteer work.

At some level, they know that forced volunteers are just slaves. Mr. Bero plainly reveals this understanding when he asks that he "not be enslaved to my school 24 hours a day."

It didn't matter to teachers if the slaves were employers forced not

to hire scabs, or students forced to do 'volunteer' work to complete their diploma, so long as teachers were not forced to do extra-curricular activities.

When any union member supports collective coercive bargaining they secretly hope to get something they cannot get by honest negotiation. They want to have their cake and eat it too, regardless of who pays.

Bill 74 is certainly wrong, but now teachers are getting 'their own' back.

Education is about training the young to use their minds properly in whatever field they may choose. People who want to establish their contracts by coerced agreement, and who think forced volunteerism is okay for students but not for them, should not be allowed to teach our kids.

The issue of contracted extra-
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Pud

by Steve Nease

