

# Some things are just too personal to criticize — like parenting skills

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get down about it, while others are determined to show the person that they're wrong.

In my experience, as a father or coach, you have to leave the person with a positive feeling if you're going to criticize them. They're doing something well, but they have to work at something else to get better, something they can surely do. Even when somebody is an abject failure at something, the positive is that they

tried. I'm a big believer in that, especially with kids who are often too timid to try new things. Sometimes, though, you just criticize out of anger. When somebody cuts you off in the car, you don't particularly care if they feel good about themselves. You call them nasty names and show them one particular finger.

Some things are too personal for people to criticize. For example, parenting skills. Nobody takes that criticism kindly, especially when it comes from another parent. Nobody has that skill down to an exact science, and we all make mistakes.

I think that some successful people often have an arrogant attitude about criticism. "You're criticizing me? I know better than you, anyway." Other successful people listen carefully to criticism and think about making changes to improve. When you think about it, though, non-successful people do the same thing.

I'm my own worst critic when it comes to writing or anything for that matter. I criticize myself more often in this space than I've ever criticized others. If I was going to criticize this column, for example, I'd say that it wasn't amusing, even though it wasn't meant to be. I should have found a way, anyway.

In fact, I was going to try and rectify it with a joke about how many politicians it takes to change a light bulb. But I couldn't think of a good punch line. That in itself deserves criticism.

# Public meeting on policy June 10

• from TOWN on page 12

want it and therefore I'm against it," he told The Champion.

Policy revisions further propose bringing distance requirements in line with the Milton official plan — stating group homes must be at least 500 metres apart. The current policy distance is 300 metres.

The group home policy review was originally inspired by Victoria Street residents concerned about a then-proposed group home for troubled youth on their street.

Notification of the land purchaser's intent to construct a group home wasn't given until after the property sale was completed.

Reacting to the residents' concerns, a proposal to town council was made in November to restrict the location of group homes, requiring site-specific zoning amendments to permit the homes — which would require a public process.

But after hearing significant opposition from local group home operators, the issue was sent to Town staff to review and compare with other municipalities. It's from this work that the currently proposals are based.

Proposed group home policy revisions will be discussed June 10 during a public meeting at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

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