



# COMMENT

## We already knew it

Now that the long-awaited Rozanski Report has finally been tabled we have to ask, what will happen next?

The report by Dr. Mordechai Rozanski on the Province's education funding formula has confirmed what most outside the government have known for a long time — the formula is inadequate and has resulted in a grossly-underfunded education system.

The report by the University of Guelph president has recommended 33 sweeping changes that would see government spending on education increased by \$1.8 billion over the next three years.

Much of what was said in his report wasn't new. For example, Rozanski told the Province to put \$1.1 billion back into education to keep in line with inflation and increased salaries. Coincidentally, that was the exact figure the Ontario Public School Boards Association claimed the system was underfunded by a year ago. In addition, the report has recommended an additional \$689 million for programs such as special education and English as a second language.

The report has also condemned the one-size-fits-all aspect of the formula and recognizes the rural school boards need more money for student transportation than a school board like Toronto, and that the Toronto school board must spend more money on English-as-a-second-language instructors than a rural board.

But now the question remains whether the provincial government will act on the recommendations. So far the Ontario government has quickly ponied up \$250 million for special education funding and an extra \$350 million for local school boards to settle their labour contracts.

The saddest part about this is that it took the Rozanski Report to prompt action from the government.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Nativity Pageant was inspiring: minister

Dear Editor:

I have pulled together some thoughts about a community event held recently.

As a minister serving St. Paul's United Church, I was profoundly moved by the efforts of lay people all across Milton and the surrounding area who followed a vision. My comments reflect my heart-felt thanks for the everyday people who came together to produce something beautiful for all to enjoy.

Something beautiful happened December 6, 7, 8 and 9 at Country Heritage Park. Seventeen churches along with the business community united to

produce 'On the Way to Bethlehem'. The Nativity Pageant attracted about 3,600 visitors from all over Ontario. Our children simply wanted to keep going back night after night for more fun.

Special thanks to the group called Christian Churches Working Together and the phenomenal leadership of Dr. Andrea Rowbottom. Your vision and hard work blessed countless visitors and our family of five give thanks for the joy of participating, and especially for the new-formed friendships.

**Rev. John Benham**  
St. Paul's United Church

### Governments have become hypocritical regarding chemical addiction: says reader

Dear Editor:

Recently the Toronto Sun reported that the federal government is in the process of approving public funding for safe injection sites for drug users.

This differs from the needle exchange program in that trained medical professionals will monitor the injection of drugs. Estimates vary but millions of dollars are spent on the apprehension, education and medical treatment of drug addicts.

On the other hand the federal and provincial governments take in some \$7 to 8 billion in taxes from cigarette smokers and won't even pay for modest methods for reducing nicotine dependency. Methadone is okay but not

Nicorette Gum. Go figure!

As was proven in the days of prohibition, prohibition doesn't work and it's not going to work with the 100 per cent smoking ban council has forced on private-area business and some 25 per cent of the voting public. It hasn't worked anywhere else so why will it work in Milton?

Milton citizens didn't and haven't been asking for this 100 per cent ban despite anecdotal evidence to the contrary.

A variety of types of businesses and their employees are suffering significant financial loss.

Most Miltonians agreed with the need for improved ventilation systems and clearly-defined smoking and non-smoking establishments or areas within establishments.

Banning children and limiting the minimum age to 19 for entry was also a recommendation.

Nobody I can find defends or extols the benefits of smoking. Like it or not, nicotine is considered one of, if not the most addictive of drugs.

The hell with smokers, say councillors Rich Malboeuf and John Challinor.

Council should let the feds and the provinces make the decisions on health matters and get themselves back to the more mundane matters of cleaning our roads and picking up garbage.

That's why we pay municipal taxes.

**Pat Kelly**  
Milton



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

**Ian Oliver** Publisher  
**Neil Oliver** Associate Publisher  
**Jill Davis** Editor-in-Chief  
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### Pud

by Steve Nease

