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EDITORIAL:

ADVERTISING:

AL: News: Mike Boyle, Lisa Tallyn, Rob Kelly. Sports: Jim David. Photographer: John Warren.

IG: Sales: Debbie Pells, Lise Dufresne, Peter Allen.

Sales: Debbie Pells, Lise Dufresne, Peter Allen.
Classified: Sheena Cameron. National Rep.: Dal Browne
(416) 493-1300.

BUSINESS: Shirley Dyc, Belinda Beasley.

DISTRIBUTION: Rob Crowther.

Jane Muller
Lorne Beechener
Neil Oliver
Dennis Willis
Marion Hill

Publisher
Editor
Advertising Manager
Director of Marketing
Distribution Manager

Office Manager





Phone 878-2341
Toronto Line 821-3837
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Lesson in cost cuts

Thank goodness someone in a position of responsibility is finally crying foul.

While municipal governments are shaving hundreds of dollars from their budget requests, the boards of education are adding millions to theirs, all at the expense of the local taxpayer.

The local government is upset. Not so much for the common good, mind you. But it's town hall which sends out the tax bills and they don't like hearing too much about the great increases in taxes, especially when they have no control over education spending.

Clearly, our educational system needs a tremendous reshaping. We all expected to pay more, given the equal funding for the separate school boards, but not this much more.

Granted, the province is reducing its share of the contribution while at the same time giving school boards more responsibilities, all at an added cost. That's one culprit.

However, when 83 per cent of the school budget goes toward salaries, stuff which is chiselled in stone, perhaps the time has come to say no more.

We still find the salaries of teachers — especially secondary school teachers — excessive. There is no such thing as supply and demand. There's merely demand and this has led to three negatives.

First, teachers don't leave the system. They're in it for the long haul. With a salary of \$50,000 beckoning, it's hard to turn it down. Secondly, there are fewer young teachers entering the system, because of declining enrolment as well as the lifers hanging on.

Finally, when push comes to shove and university professors complain that students are ill-mannered and poorly trained in the basics, the secondary school teachers merely throw up their hands and blame the breakdown in the family system.

Perhaps the time has come for one strong school board to hold the line on teachers' salaries or even start rolling them back. We're sure there are many qualified young teachers who would gladly apply for positions which pay \$35,000 per year.

Buckle-up boaters

Floatation vests are the equivalent of seatbelts in boats. We are not legislated to wear them but, like seatbelts, they are proven life savers. The law states there must be enough floatation vests aboard to provide for each boater.

The logic must be that if the craft gets into trouble, the passengers will have time to grab a vest. That theory doesn't work in reality.

Legislation which made it mandatory to wear seatbelts has forced us to buckle up. Some argue the safety devices are uncomfortable, and so the same argument holds in the wearing of floatation vests. The point is we must sacrifice comfort for safety.

Enforcing seatbelt laws is not easy but the possibility of a \$53 fine for breaking that law has helped convince the majority of drivers to buckle up. Even with Halton Regional Police's new cruiser on Lake Ontario, officers would have a hard time catching up with boaters not wearing vests if laws enforcing their use were in place. Besides, many small waterways are not policed.

However, police can lay impaired driving charges against boaters. That particular legislation was brought about after alcohol-related boating accidents began to increase. Why not introduce laws which would make boating even safer? Make boaters wear floatation vests.

The 26-year-old Puslinch man who drowned at Kelso Lake this weekend would have survived after his canoe tipped over had he been wearing a vest. How many more such accidents will occur before boaters are made to "buckle up"?

Looking Back



They weren't pulling fish like this out of the Mill Pond on Saturday morning during the annual children's fishing derby but when fishing season opened in 1965, Cameron Deforest caught two big pike. The one the 16-year-old

displayed for The Champion photographer was 22 inches long and weighed four pounds. In recent years the pond has been stocked with rainbow trout to feed the appetites of local anglers.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the May 6, 1987 issue

*Attorney General Ian Scott announced late last week the Crown will launch an appeal of the sentence handed down to Arthur J. Jeffery, the man charged with criminal negligence causing death, on March 27, 1986. Mr. Jefffery was charged in connection with the fiery accident which destroyed the James Snow Parkway overpass, and killed a Sarnia man, on Highway 401 March 24, 1986.

• A group of Second Line (Nassagaweya) residents left Milton Council chambers Monday angry and fustrated that little is being done to bring their road up to standards. The residents, who live between No. 20 and 25 Sideroads, sent three speakers to the podium in a last ditch effort to persuade councillors to provide some concrete proposals for a new road. However, their efforts were in vain.

20 Years Ago

From the April 28, 1968 issue

• A mill rate increase ranging from 10 to 18 mills—depending on location of properties and services provided—will mean a hefty increase in taxes for residents of Nassagaweya Township this year. Residential and farm mill rates will rise anywhere from 10 to 16 mills, while commercial and industrial rates will be hiked from 11 to 18 mills. Council on Monday reviewed the finance committee's rate forecast and adopted it without change.

• Alert thinking and a courageous act by Constable Bob Pearson of the Milton OPP force saved a 21-year-old Moffat man from what may have been a tragic death early Friday morning. The car broke into flames after driver Don Haggart lost contol and hit a tree on the Guelph Line just south of No. 10 Sideroad. Const. Pearson made his way into the wrecked car and pressed the roof up with his back, just high enough to allow haggart to be removed.

50 Years Ago

From the May 5, 1938 issue

• Answering cries for help, two men found the body of George P. Burke, aged 70, floating in 10 feet in water in a cistern on the property of Litner's summer hotel, Erindale. It is believed that Burke, who had not been in good health for some years, may have tripped and fallen into the well while walking late at night, as was his custom.

• Next Sunday will be Mother's Day.

• We learned on good authority last weekend that Murry Ezeard, formerly of the Milton and Acton hockey teams, and this winter playing with Toronto Stockyards, has turned professional with the Montreal Maroons. Murry has proven himself a great hockey player and we are sure he will give a good account of himself with the Maroons on their farm team this season.

Seeding is finished in this district, and, with proper weather good crops are expected.







