



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Teaching assistant fears for future of the school system

Dear Editor:

As an instructional assistant and as a parent of children within the Halton public school board I am very fearful for our educational system. I am in perhaps a somewhat unique position in that I have children who have received extra support, and as an I.A. I deliver extra support daily to children with special needs. And yes, I have received my letter of termination.

I am not sure most people understand the role of the assistant in the classroom. We have a variety of jobs, depending on the needs of the students. We might assist a child with Downs Syndrome in learning to his or her potential. We may assist a child with physical disabilities. This child may need gross motor exercises, diapering or toileting, feeding or assistance dressing for the outdoors.

Personally I have dodged flying objects, furniture being shoved or thrown around a room and I have been punched; all in an effort to protect other children within a class. There are children with learning disabilities, Tourette's syndrome, autism, attention deficit disorder, and there are the children with family difficulties.

Every child benefits when an assistant deals with the specific requirements of special needs children in a class. Every child in this school board will suffer if the recently announced cuts are carried out. Imagine how the special needs of these children and the requirements of the other children will be met in large classrooms without an assistant.

As the saying goes ... it takes a village to raise a child. It takes parents, a community, a province, a country to raise a child. Perhaps the greatest tragedy of our present economic situation and the offered solutions is the burden we have rested upon our children.

C. Baron, Milton

Dance was great help appreciated

Dear Editor:

This year's Hockey Moms Sweetheart Dance was once again a great success, thanks to the hard working dance committee and our volunteers.

Special thanks is due to all the generous businesses in Milton that donated door prizes. We'd also like to thank Milton Minor Hockey for their continued support and help at the dance. Much appreciation goes to Tammy Parcels for all her help.

Londa Mitchell
Milton Hockey Moms

Harris is ruining us

Dear Editor:

I do hope that you may see fit to publish a few of my thoughts. With great sadness I watch the Mike Harris juggernaut in action. Mr. Harris is a mean-spirited politician and he is in the process of creating a like-minded province.

It was no accident that Harris' first victims were the poor and those on welfare. With strong support from the beleaguered, and I might add, rapidly declining middle class, Mr. Harris took the boot to welfare.

Next was the ill-conceived and all powerful Bill 26, which was rammed through Queen's Park. The ramifications of this

terrible bill will forever change our society.

His next target may be his own provincial employees. What will the 20,000 plus that he "retires" do? How will Ontario ever get through a government created recession? How will the \$9 million deficit be reduced if people are too afraid of losing

their jobs to spend any proposed tax cut?

It used to be that I only thought Lucien Bouchard was a danger to Canadians. I now know that Ralph Klein and Mike Harris are equally as dangerous.

Douglas Galsworthy
Georgetown

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JOY THORNTON B.Sc.Pharm.
Pharmacist

Don Bell, owner/operator of Shoppers Drug Mart, Carriage Square, is pleased to announce that Joy has joined his pharmacy staff.

Joy has been practicing pharmacy in Milton for the past 5 years at Shoppers Laurier and welcomes her customers and patients to join her at Carriage Square.

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