

'We're still fighting the fight,' says Trillium school parent

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Education Minister Liz Sandals announced last week that she's reopening enrolment for the Province's demonstration schools for students with learning disabilities, including Milton's Trillium School.

But the perceived victory has done little to allay the fears of parents, who still think the Liberal government may ultimately shut the facilities down in an effort to save money.

"We were anticipating something like this. Unfortunately it doesn't guarantee they're keeping the schools open," said Trillium school council chair Ruth Bourachot. "They did this to throw a wrench to see if we'll back off, but we're not."

Sandals and the Province have been under fire since recently initiating a consultation process on the future of the schools for pupils with severe dyslexia. During the consultations the Province suspended enrolment at the schools, which fed into parents' fears that the facilities would soon close their doors for good.

In Sandals' statement released April 13, she said, "The admission process was put on hold while we focused on consultations. However, I committed to looking at the admission process again towards the end of the consultations. We are now resuming the 2016-2017 admissions process for all four demonstration schools. Enrolment at Robarts and CJL Schools for the Deaf will also continue for 2016-2017."

The statement goes on to say, "I want to thank everyone who participated in the consultation process. While no other decisions have been made, the Ministry of

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VIEWING OBSTACLES AS OPPORTUNITIES

One early morning, in ancient times, a king had a large boulder placed in the middle of a well-travelled roadway. Afterwards, he hid himself in the dense foliage which flanked the roadside to watch what would happen. He wanted to see if anyone would remove the huge rock.

The first ones to encounter the obstacle were among the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers - but they did not remove the blockage, they simply walked around it. Others came by, cursing and loudly blaming the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way. Finally, a weary peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the pauper laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After pushing and straining for what seemed like an eternity, he succeeded in his quest to remove the obstacle that had been blocking every traveller's pathway.

As the out of breath peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. In an act of service, the peasant learned a valuable lesson that many others never understand: Every obstacle represents an opportunity to improve one's condition.

The Bible encourages us: "But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"

Many of us have obstacles that hinder us on the roadway of life. I urge you to put your efforts towards clearing the path. You will find a reward in your accomplishment. That benefit will not only gratify you, it will help every individual who follows in your footsteps. A spouse, a child, a friend or a co-worker can be blessed by the fruit of your labours.

So, how do you do it? What if life's obstacle is too large? What if the mountain is too big?

Simply stated: Don't quit!

Any obstacle, any mountain, can be moved - one small piece, one stone at a time! Enlist assistance! Partner with God and experience His power at work within you! Persevere! Let determination arise within, supplying the drive necessary to succeed! Be patient! Find faith to move the obstacle on your path through believing in the God who believes in you! Who knows what unexpected rewards may be waiting for you!

To learn more about faith and its positive application into your life, consider visiting a local house of worship this week! Consult the directory below for directions and service times.

Submitted by Rev. Dan Rogge, Lead Pastor of Milton's New Life Church

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