

# Letters

## Exceptional children shouldn't be strapped, this reader states

As a resident of York Region, I was profoundly disappointed when I read that the York Region Board of Education had voted to retain the strap. While progressive boards throughout the province have rescinded this barbaric practice York Region has not only condoned it but has dug it out, dusted it off and imbued it with new vigour and dignity.

The whole issue of strapping came to light recently through an incident in which a young learning disabled child

was helping a friend carry a cumbersome project into a school before the bell rang which would permit such intrusion into this sacred enclave. The helping child had had two previous warnings about such outrageous behaviour, the owner of the project had not. The learning disabled child was strapped, the other child was not, and this is symptomatic. There is no need to "beat" normal children because they will learn in spite of our system and

will not be frustrated or discouraged or angry or despondent. They will have no need to act out. It's the borderline kids who will be the victims of the strap — the retarded, the gifted, the learning disabled, the behaviourally and emotionally disturbed. They are the children who are persecuted, abused and neglected by our school system. They are much more prone to punishable misdemeanors, therefore, they will become the scapegoats, the severed

heads displayed at the city gates to keep the populace in line. The psychological damage that is inflicted on exceptional children whose needs are not met in our school system can never be measured but there is ever growing opinion that this may be one of the most damaging forms of child abuse. To superimpose physical abuse on top of this psychological abuse could be the final coup de grace that turns the vulnerable child to mental illness or delinquent behaviour. Children lack reserves of self esteem to sustain them under humiliating conditions and the sophistication of adults to cope with an attack on their dignity. They will either acquiesce and succumb to depression and mental illness or they will fight back in ways unacceptable to the adult.

Schooling is society making a deliberate and highly organized intervention into the child's growth process during a time when that child is both most malleable and most vulnerable. Surely in a civilized society, if we are going to require by law that a child sit in school from ages six to 16, we have a responsibility to ensure that this is a positive kind of intervention. The knowledge is available now to allow us to meet the needs of exceptional children. We have a large surplus of teachers, many of whom are trained in special education. We have empty classrooms begging for small self-contained classes to meet the needs of the 20 per cent or more of our children who had the misfortune, through no fault of their own, to be born something other than our concept of "normal".



Hangover

Tamarack Drive residents can't get two cars on their driveways without blocking the sidewalk. All the cars sitting over the sidewalk were ticketed one morning this month.

## Trustee peeved at newspaper

I am dismayed that your newspaper with a tradition of 100 years of responsible journalism should find it necessary to permit a reporter to act as unethically as Mr. Steven Pearlstein did.

Because I don't like lying even to reporters, I answered him truthfully when he asked if I were running again for the York County Board of Education.

I asked him to regard my answer as confidential, saying that I did not wish to discuss my plans publicly until the end of the summer.

For him to then immediately phone the second trustee from Thornhill, tell him I wasn't running again and invite him to criticize me appears to me to go beyond the bound of decency.

In case anyone in Thornhill bothered to read Mr. McMonagle's

comments, I should like to assure the taxpayers that I am not, nor have I ever been anyone's "mouthpiece".

As a trustee I feel it's my duty to listen to anyone concerned about education — be they administrators, teachers, parents, students or other taxpayers — to consider carefully all their ideas and concerns and then decide for myself what I feel I can support.

For good or bad, any motion I have presented or supported has been one that I believed in.

As far as Mr. McMonagle's criticism of me visiting schools is concerned, I leave it up to the parents and other taxpayers of Thornhill as to whether they want a trustee who knows what is going on or whether they prefer their trustees obtain all their information in a boardroom some sixteen miles away.

**Doreen Quirk**  
11 St. Andrew Court  
Thornhill  
**She's upset by hospital abortions**

I was deeply concerned to read in a June edition of The Liberal that our local York Central Hospital is now engaged in performing a large number of abortions annually.

It is difficult to believe that an institution whose purpose I had naively thought was to protect and preserve human life, has now generated into an institution that deliberately destroys human life.

Also, on a personal level, how can anyone ever again have confidence that the hospital will treat other lives with care and respect when it apparently shows so little concern or respect for the smallest and most defenceless of human life.

**Wilma Klein**  
Richmond Hill  
ED. NOTE: While The Liberal has carried stories about abortions at York Central Hospital, at no time did it ever say "a large number" were being performed there. Information regarding the numbers of abortions at York Central has not been made public.

**Flowers adorned our table**

Just a note of thanks to Ann Piirto of Oak Ridges, who provided the flowers for our birthday table last week.

The roses, peonies and mock orange helped make the 100th anniversary of The Liberal an even more enjoyable celebration.

**Marilyn McDonald**  
THE LIBERAL

One additional danger in any policy condoning corporal punishment is that it leaves room for individual interpretation. A few years ago a principal in York Region threw a six year old child to the floor, kicked him and tore the sleeve from his shirt in the name of corporal punishment.

Certainly not what a "judicious parent" would do but one sick mind's interpretation of "corporal punishment". In any barrel of superb, dedicated teachers, there will always be a few rotten apples.

If the school is experiencing adverse behaviour that is endangering the safety of the child or other children they should report it to the parents and allow the parents to deal with it. To contemplate strapping a child without first informing his parents, as one Trustee suggested, is unthinkable. If the child's behaviour has deteriorated to the point where he merits this severe a disciplinary measure, the parents should have long since been involved.

Moreover, what of the epileptic child to whom a strap induced seizure might mean irreversible brain damage. I'm not suggesting that parents should never resort to physical punishment as long as it is dealt in an atmosphere of love and discipline and what is considered to be in the best interests of the safety of the child and others.

But there is a vast difference between a child being punished by parents who normally show him love and affection and the callous, calculated strapping by a

school official who to the child is only a symbol of societal authority. Schooling is society making a deliberate and highly organized intervention into the child's growth process during a time when that child is both most malleable and most vulnerable.

Approves more lots with reduced frontages or total area, so that they don't look like parking lots.

He was commenting on a letter received by council from Kenneth Kepler, 165 Tamarack Drive, requesting 'no parking' signs on one side of the street. The street is too narrow to allow two-way traffic when cars are parked opposite each other, Mr. Kepler said. "The problem is com-

pounded in early evenings and in winter."

There is room for only one car in the driveway of most houses on the street. A second visitor, or any visitor in the case of two car families, would have to park across the sidewalk.

Because of the way the lawns and hydrants are arranged, there are no parking spaces except beside a corner lot.

The cars parked there create a hazard at the corner.

Residents were angered when cars parked over the sidewalk were ticketed recently in the early hours of the morning.

## New Thornhill street has problem

Parking is a problem on one of Thornhill's newest streets. Councillor Stan Daurio suggested Monday that council take a serious look at what can be done about parking before it

approves more lots with reduced frontages or total area, so that they don't look like parking lots.

He was commenting on a letter received by council from Kenneth Kepler, 165 Tamarack

Drive, requesting 'no parking' signs on one side of the street. The street is too narrow to allow two-way traffic when cars are parked opposite each other, Mr. Kepler said. "The problem is com-

pounded in early evenings and in winter."

There is room for only one car in the driveway of most houses on the street. A second visitor, or any visitor in the case of two car families, would have to park across the sidewalk.

Because of the way the lawns and hydrants are arranged, there are no parking spaces except beside a corner lot.

The cars parked there create a hazard at the corner.

Residents were angered when cars parked over the sidewalk were ticketed recently in the early hours of the morning.

## Leos plan car wash, tickets now on sale

For those who like to plan ahead, advance tickets are now available for a car wash on August 19.

The Richmond Hill Leos, a newly formed group of teenagers associated with the Lions Club, have planned a car wash as their first fund raising venture.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Leos will be out in full force at Ilias Fina Service, Yonge Street one block south of Major Mackenzie Drive.

Advance tickets will cost 75 cents but if you wait until the nineteenth it will cost \$1.

Debbie Bakonyi, chairman of the committee in charge of the

car wash, said the group hoped they would get a lot of advance sales so they would have an idea how many people they needed to wash cars.

The Leos have not decided as yet where the proceeds from the car wash will go.

Debbie said the money will go to some community service and they are open for suggestions.

## Bylaw allows seniors to get 15% taxi fare reductions

Joan Kennedy, co-owner of Regional Taxi in Richmond Hill, has approached Town Council and supported a bylaw allowing Richmond Hill taxi companies to give senior citizens in town a 15 per cent reduction.

The bylaw has been passed, and the seniors will now pay 15 per cent less than the standard taxi fare, which is 70 cents to start and 10 cents for each seventh of a mile after that.

Richmond Hill's two taxi companies, Regional and Avenue, will be giving the reduction.

Taxi drivers will be meeting within the next two weeks to decide whether this reduction will be only on fares within the town proper or on out of town trips as well.

This will be a big boost to the seniors in the communities, especially to those living on a fixed income.

Mrs. Kennedy will be helping the senior citizens of Richmond Hill, Richvale and Oak Ridges in another way.

Beginning August 1, she will give \$10 from Regional Taxi every month to the senior citizen's clubs in these three communities.

This money is to be used as a prize for a euvre or a craft project, and it must be won by a senior citizen.

**ED. NOTE:** While The Liberal has carried stories about abortions at York Central Hospital, at no time did it ever say "a large number" were being performed there. Information regarding the numbers of abortions at York Central has not been made public.

**Flowers adorned our table**

Just a note of thanks to Ann Piirto of Oak Ridges, who provided the flowers for our birthday table last week.

The roses, peonies and mock orange helped make the 100th anniversary of The Liberal an even more enjoyable celebration.

**Marilyn McDonald**  
THE LIBERAL

## SHOP The Liberal

Bringing you Gifts and Greetings...



Welcome Wagon  
It's time to call your Welcome Wagon hostess.  
**RICHMOND HILL**  
884-6361  
**OAK RIDGES**  
773-4050  
**THORNHILL**  
889-0701

**93% 14**  
GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES  
5 years—Annual Interest  
For information call  
**macdonald-cartier trust company**  
(416) 276-2112  
165 Dundas Street West, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 2N6.  
Member of Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation.  
Rates subject to change.  
Agent inquiries invited.

**ATTENTION BUILDERS • JOBBERS HOMEOWNERS!**  
We're Moving - Must Clear Warehouse  
**SAVE 50% OR MORE**

- LADDERS
- ALUMINUM WINDOWS
- FIXTURES
- CASES OF GLASS (Double Diamond)
- ANTIQUe BRICKS
- ALUMINUM BRAKES
- ALUMINUM PRODUCTS
- EAVESTROUGH & ACCESS (Elbows, Downspouts, Etc.)
- ELECTRIC WIRE (Approx. 3,000)
- MOULDINGS
- SPEAKERS
- STEEL LINTELS
- COPPER PIPE
- SPACE HEATERS (Propane)
- FORMICA
- PAPER BOXES (Approx. 2,000)
- NEW 1/2 PINT CANS (Approx. 3,000)
- CAULKING
- URETHANE
- WIRE MESH For Concrete in 1200' Rolls
- SHINGLES

PLUS MANY OTHER ODDS 'N ENDS - TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION

**WED. JULY 19 - 6 PM - 8 PM • THURS. JULY 20 - 6 PM - 8 PM**  
**FRI. JULY 21 - 6 PM - 8 PM • SAT. JULY 22 - 1 PM - 5 PM**

DIRECTIONS:  
500 FT. WEST OF BATHURST ST.  
ON THE NORTH SIDE OF TESTON RD.  
(TWO METAL WAREHOUSES)

**CALL 884-9379**

EVENINGS ONLY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

TESTON RD. BATHURST ST. ELGIN MILLS YONGE ST. RICHMOND HILL

**Regional Taxi '77 Limited**  
10,225 YONGE STREET, RICHMOND HILL  
**NOTICE TO OUR SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL**

THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL HAS AMENDED THE BY LAW, ENABLING US TO GIVE A 15% REDUCTION TO ALL PERSONS HOLDING AN OLD AGE SECURITY IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. WE WILL BE VERY PLEASED TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. PLEASE PRESENT YOUR CARD TO OUR DRIVERS.

**REGIONAL TAXI '77 LIMITED** YOURS TRULY  
YOUR LOCAL BROKERAGE JAMES WEBB  
JOAN KENNEDY  
**884-6666 889-2121 884-9191 881-1717**

**WHY SUFFER EXCESS HEAT ANOTHER DAY? SAVE MONEY & CONSERVE ENERGY**

with **SUN-GARD WINDOW FILM**

- FAST-EASY INSTALLATION**
- CONTROL:** heat, glare & fading
- SAVE:** on summer & winter utility bills
- CLARITY:** will not distort view
- PRIVACY:** one way mirror effect with most film
- COLORS:** choose from any of our 5 reflective or 4 non-reflective films

**TECAN ENTERPRISES** (416) 889-1648  
Box 37 Thornhill, Ontario L3T 3N1

**JULY SALE**

AS LONG AS QUANTITIES LAST

**DON'T MISS OUR TRULY OLD FASHIONED SAVINGS**

COMPLETE LINE OF GIFTWARE AT LEAST **20% OFF**

MANY AT **1/2 PRICE**

**BORK JEWELLERS**  
10123 YONGE ST.  
RICHMOND HILL 884-1687

GOLD CHAINS, DIAMONDS WATCHES, EARRINGS, CUFF LINKS, BRACELETS, PINS, CAMEOS, GENUINE STONES, ETC.

**20% OFF**

WE CARRY A GREAT ASSORTMENT OF GENUINE CANADIAN MADE SOUVENIRS INCLUDING CHARLOTTETOWN POTTERY, HINTERLAND LEATHER CRAFT

CLOCKS, TRAYS, DECANTERS, CANDELABRA, CRYSTAL, SILVER, PEWTER, WOODEN WARE, CHINA, COFFEE SETS, PICTURES, PLAQUES, BRASS, COPPER, JEWEL BOXES, ETC., ETC.

COME IN AND BROWSE