

Letters

'Would trustees close schools on own kids?'

The following is an open letter to the York County Board of Education, which has been received by *The Liberal*:

Trustees:
Your decision to close M. L. McConaghy Public School really came as no surprise.

It would have been nice to think that the decision would have favored the school remaining open, but it was not to be. One year ago the staff decided that the school would close and in one year this did not change.

This was not due to lack of trying, because the McConaghy Association and the expanded Richmond Hill Study Committee did try very hard to present reasons to the Board to keep the school open. When you are very dependant on getting information from the very staff members who had decided to close the school one tends to get the feeling that all information is not correct.

It would appear to me that few years ago, when this Board of Education, like all others in this

province, was building schools at great speed someone in the Board's planning department erred. There were two large capacity schools (approximately 900 students each) built about five blocks from each other in the same subdivision—namely Crosby Heights Public School and Beverly Acres Public School.

These schools, no doubt, were costly enough to build even then. Several years later at also some expense Crosby Heights received renovations in order to change it to a Senior Public School, as even then there were not enough students to keep it open as a K-8 school. Once again costly renovations will be required to turn Crosby back into a K-8 school. How many more schools, like McConaghy, are going to be closed in order to keep this apparent WHITE ELEPHANT of the York County Board of Education alive?

It must hang like an albatross around the necks of the members of

the Board. You know that the day will come, and probably in the not too distant future when there will be no justification to keep this school open and the Board will be forced to close this expensive mistake. How much more will it cost us as taxpayers before this happens? How many more times will it be necessary to renovate this school property to accommodate a new situation? Would it not be better for this Board to stop the wasteful spending now?

By closing McConaghy the costs of the renovations are not the only costs involved. At the cost of \$149. per student per year (figure given the McConaghy Association by board staff) for busing, what is the ongoing cost going to be?

The Board has now posted the "intent" to close Jefferson Public School. This means that on June 30, 1980 this school will also close its doors no matter what happens because Board staff have decided this

to be. Jefferson parents — DON'T GIVE UP — FIGHT — but be prepared for the closing so that you too can support the White Elephant of the Board.

What school is next, Pleasantville, Sixteenth Avenue, MacKillop or Walter Scott? If this keeps up, within the next five years all children in the Richmond Hill area, being bused at great expense, will all be attending Crosby Heights

Public School. The cry will then be from the Board that new schools will have to be built to accommodate the overflow at Crosby.

What is to become of the property on Yonge Street that M. L. McConaghy presently occupies? Is it being mothballed or sold? If sold, where does all that money go? After June 1980 will the sale of the Jefferson Property also

fill the coffers of York County Board of Education? We, as taxpayers, are being told to pay an extra \$27. to support the York County Board of Education. Does not the saving obtained from closing schools permit budgets to stand without the increase in taxes? If not, why close schools?

It is most upsetting to a neighbourhood to find that the school that is

whether it be Boards of Education or a Municipal Government, that you can not get the correct information from those hired to work in government offices

I wonder what the decision will be from the same staff and trustees when it is determined that

the school their children attend is to be closed. Will it be the same disinterest or will they demand and obtain complete and accurate reports before their schools are allowed to close their doors.

Mrs. Dianne Bott
66 Centre Street East
Richmond Hill, Ontario

In mite hockey

Mother frowns on violence

Your article "This girl's no lady on the ice", Wednesday, March 14, coupled with the sports item on a Toronto TV station about an inquiry into violence in minor hockey has keyed this letter.

The mite level of hockey is a developing point for children in sportsmanship, compatibility with others, and hockey skills.

"Boys toying like 10 pins" has no place at this level of hockey. Most players have a tough enough time maintaining their balance without watching out for some "terror".

It is obvious from the article that the father is proud of his child's devastation.

It is also clear that the writer of the article has never seen the child on the ice or else he/she condones violence in hockey.

It is my contention that a seven-year-old player is not capable of perpetrating every infraction

in the book unless they are instructed to do so.

In my 30-odd years of hockey involvement, I have yet to hear a coach at a lower level teach players to foul the opposition.

I have two boys, aged four and six, in the mite division in Richmond Hill, which the article refers to.

I expect my boys to accept their bumps and bruises as part of the game and their learning process.

I will not, however, tolerate them to be speared, slashed, cross checked, deliberately tripped, butt ended, unnecessarily boarded, or intentionally elbowed by anyone.

I also contend that a major contributing factor to hockey violence is parents.

It starts at the mite level and carries on up the ranks.

Too often, one hears parents calling for their offspring to "take his head off, run him through

the boards and punch him out".

Foster Hewitt says that the Americans love their blood too much.

I suggest that he go to local arenas and hear parents goad their youngsters into horrendous acts of violence.

Don't get me wrong, I wholeheartedly support and believe that we need parental participation in minor hockey from the stands.

But let's get this energy coming in the right direction.

We need to applaud the youngsters for fine playmaking, deft stickhandling, accurate passing and shooting, and smooth graceful skating.

These skills are exposed to the Richmond Hill mites, and as I see it, they are given games in order to allow the players to apply these skills — each player at his own level.

G. Olmstead,
Muirhead Cres.,
Richmond Hill

Sorority fashion show

The International Year of the Child has prompted the Thornhill Xi Delta Chi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority to contribute all proceeds from their upcoming Spring Fashion Show to the York Centre for Children with Learning Disabilities.

Members of the chapter will all participate in the fashion show to be held Tuesday, April 17, at 8 p.m. in Simpson's Delft Room at Hillcrest Mall. Some will model the

clothes supplied by Simpsons along with the models provided by the company while others will serve refreshments afterwards.

Admission will be \$3 including refreshments.

New Metrospan executives named

D. Ross McCrimmon, president of Metrospan Printing and Publishing Ltd.,

has announced the following appointments, effective March 19:

Newspapers, as part of the Metrospan management team.



D. ROSS McCRIMMON

Hub J. Foley, previously publisher of the Oakville Journal Record, is appointed vice-president and director of publishing for Metrospan's new West Division. In his new position, Foley will be responsible for co-ordinating the publishing policies of Metrospan publications in Etobicoke, Mississauga and Oakville.



HUB J. FOLEY

John C. Fergus, previously publisher of Metrospan North Division, is appointed director of publishing for the North Division.



JOHN C. FERGUS

Bob C. Maxwell is appointed vice-president and director of publishing of the Mirror Division.



BOB C. MAXWELL

George A. Lyn is appointed vice-president of finance and administration for Metrospan Printing and Publishing Ltd. He was previously director of finance and administration.



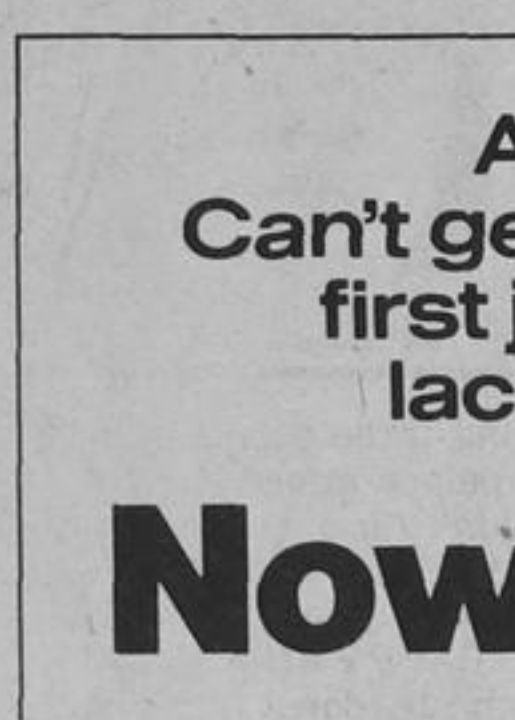
GEORGE A. LYN

Rick A. Wilkinson, previously director of commercial printing operations, is appointed vice-president of commercial printing operations.



RICK A. WILKINSON

The new appointments join R. Richard Fish, vice-president of marketing for Metrospan Community



R. RICHARD FISH



R. RICHARD FISH

Barrie train shows its need

The Barrie commuter train continues to boom even after GO service started to Richmond Hill.

Barrie, 48 (42); Lefroy, 26 (21); Bradford, 33 (20); Newmarket, 126 (88); Aurora, 79 (55); King, 50 (29); Maple, 17 (26).

When the Canadian Transport Commission ordered CN to start the Barrie service in 1974, it directed a review six months after the Richmond Hill service began.

Instead of reducing business, every station but Maple shows an increase with Newmarket and Aurora showing the biggest gains.

For the last three months of 1978, traffic was up 33 per cent over 1976, and the number of passengers per year is now running at a rate of over 185,000.

Even at Maple the only change has been an average reduction of nine passengers per day, while GO is running three new trains morning and evening to Richmond Hill.

The following list shows the average number of passengers on Train 168 Barrie to Toronto in November of 1978 with November, 1976, figures in Brackets.

The need for continued and improved service on both lines is clearly shown.

John C. Medcof
Mount Albert

Dear Sir:

The Boys' Brigade in Canada is celebrating its 90th year of working with Boys in many Churches across Canada.

Over these years, many Boys have been involved in the programme conducted in their local Church.

Former members, referred to as "Old Boys" have entered many walks of life and have moved to many parts of our country. There are also many Old Boys now living in Canada who were members in some of the 63 other countries around the world where Boys' Brigade Companies are operating.

In this special year, we are therefore trying to locate as many of these Old Boys, (former Boys, and Officers) as possible and enter into communication with them.

We would like to get many of them together if possible.

We would appreciate your assistance in reaching these Old Boys by asking your readers to write to us at Brigade Headquarters, 115 St. Andrew's Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1P 4N2.

Yours sincerely,
C.D. Danny Reesor
Executive Director

Thanks for all-star success

On behalf of the Richmond Hill Town Hockey League, I would like to thank all the different associations for making our annual all-star game such a success.

To the good merchants in our town who continually donate prizes you have our warm-hearted thanks.

To all the generous people who purchased tickets or attended the game, it would be nothing without you.

Yours sincerely,
J. J. Major.

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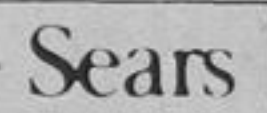
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RHL

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