

Letters

Faith lacking between teachers, parents, too, this reader maintains

I feel I must comment on I. Worrell's letter of November 21 regarding lack of respect between teachers and trustees. I would go one step further and say this lack of faith and un-

derstanding now exists between teachers and parents. I heartily concur with the suggestion that Home and School Associations be reactivated.

Unfortunately, most school principals are not only loathe to have any parent participation in school matters, but many actively discourage it, so that interested parents are eventually dissuaded

from taking any part at all. The loss is to the school and eventually the children. There are, of course, exceptions, notably in the high schools, where in one

Thornhill school, the principal himself has instigated an "Advisory Council". Needless to say, at this school the rapport among teachers, parents and students is excellent.

However, this example is a dying breed. Historically, I believe resentment played an important role in this lack of understanding. While few professions have received salaries and benefits in keeping with the cost of living, the militant teacher unions continued to cry "strike" if their every need was not met; this, in spite of 12 weeks paid vacation, together with nine "P.A." days when more than one parent had encountered teachers skiing, in taverns, or shopping. Although these cases were rare, it helped to make parents more aware of where their tax money was going. They demanded full value for their children's education. Understandably, this in turn caused resentment on the part of the teachers and so yet another vicious circle was born.

As responsible citizens and concerned parents, the time is ripe for a return to better communication between teachers and parents. A forum is needed where subjects of concern to all can be discussed openly and freely, while at the same time, enabling taxpayers to have some input into the Board.

The CAG (Citizens Advisory Group) of Richmond Hill is aware of the need for such a "voice" in education and have agreed to sponsor the Richmond Hill Education Committee with view to keeping the public aware of such issues as curriculum changes, teachers' strikes, bussing, sex education in school, and educational dollar spending. The more the public is aware, the more we can all work together with the teachers and the Board to the greater benefit of our children.

Anyone who wishes more information regarding the education committee should contact Jim Monkman at 884-5603, Stewart Roberts, 884-7217, or Tony Voutsinos at 884-8787. Marion R. Hohener 216 Duncan Road, Thornhill.

Four-way stops waste gasoline, reader says

A week ago you reported that one more four-way stop intersection was being introduced into Richmond Hill, this time, at Lake Wilcox. This was done in spite of professional advice to the contrary. While the political ideas of soothing residents in the immediate area, or providing an opportunity for increased revenue from fines for ignoring

foolishly placed stop signs may have some rather doubtful merit, practically, they are a waste of time and the taxpayers' money. There is even the point that should four vehicles approach the intersection simultaneously, none may drive through, since each has a car on its right, which of course has the right of way. If two vehicles should move forward and

collide, it would take the wisdom of Solomon to untangle the legal mess and establish responsibility. When stop signs are erected to control vehicle speed rather than right of way, they fail to serve their purpose. Studies in Metro Toronto have shown that, rather than slow down traffic, drivers tend to speed more between the stop signs to make up for

the time being lost at them. The average speed in any such block increases rather than decreases. No traffic engineer in his right mind ever recommends such a practice. About two years ago, when the old town first became infested with four-way stops, it was reported that the Works Commissioner had

calculated that approximately \$5,000 worth of gasoline would be wasted in unnecessary starting and stopping per year. On the other hand, our Town Council has just made several thousand dollars available for an energy conservation program which is intended, among other things, to educate the general public to the necessity of conserving petroleum, a non-renewable resource. This type of flip-flopping seems rather inconsistent to me and surely gives a very poor example to the general public.

Congratulations, baton twirlers

After an exciting weekend in Montreal to participate in the Grey Cup Parade, we would like to congratulate the

Richvale Lions Baton Twirling Corps for winning the third place trophy. This is a big

achievement for the Corps since this is their first time in a parade of this calibre. Our thanks are given to

our sponsor, the Richvale Lions Club for all the support they have given us.

Eric George
413 N. Taylor Mills
Richmond Hill

Also to the following whose financial assistance helped make this trip possible:

Geoff Cross, Dominion Life; Richvale Lions Drum Corps; Richvale Lionesses Club; Kinross Pontiac; Brandie Rose School of Dance; Bruce Wark; Bob Surgeoner; Harry Elkins Travel Agency; Hillcrest Merchants Association.

In addition, thank you to all the parents, friends of the Corps and chaperones, who have helped in so many ways especially through the sale of raffle tickets.

Last but hardly least, congratulations and thank you to the girls of the Corps and their instructor, Sylvia Kernohan, for all the hard work and dedication that have brought them this far.

Marty Kaszuba,
president
Richvale Lions
Majorettes
Parents Association.

Need more justification before widening Bayview

This week you published a report on another proposal to widen Bayview Avenue. It was only last year (at election time) that the same idea to spend millions of dollars of taxpayers' money was brought forth.

when another was available with no stops, no cross traffic, and a speed limit of 100 km-hr? The argument presented is that some four or five people have died on Bayview during the past 20 years. Does this call for the spending of millions of taxpayers' dollars?

to pay taxes for a street within our Town boundaries, every other municipality is equally justified in demanding better roads. After all, Bayview is already paved and the majority of roads in the northern part of York are only gravel. In times of high unemployment, inflation, the erosion of income for those on pensions and fixed incomes, etc., it seems unreasonable to spend taxpayers' hard earned dollars without much greater justification than has been shown to the present.

The Regional Engineer then felt that it would be an unnecessary expense. It was stated that approximately two years would be spent on field work, road design, expropriation of property, etc.

If we follow this line of reasoning, then every human life is worth millions. How many of this paper's readers have even ONE million dollars of insurance on their lives. We have been told that the Region will pay for this. Who is the Region, other than us?

When we get all the residents of York Region

Before contracts could be let, Highway 404 would be open to the Stouffville (Gormley) Road and traffic density on Bayview would drop. After all, who would travel down a road with a speed limit of 60 km-hr

When we get all the residents of York Region

Wave at 'B' Bus, he says

Will all you people walking north from Major Mackenzie on Yonge Street after paying 50 cents on the Heights "C" bus to get to Lorne, Centre and Dunlop, give a great big wave to the "B" bus as it roars through town.

I guess common sense is relative to whoever is dispensing it.

Ron Mitchell
16 Lorne Avenue,
Richmond Hill

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- If you can't wait, please use only one major appliance at a time (eg. stove, television, clothes washer/dryer, etc.)
- Don't use large quantities of hot water from your electric water heater.
- Keep decorative and Christmas lights off until after 7 p.m.
- Turn off the unwatched TV and lights in empty rooms.
- Load the dishwasher but don't turn it on until after 7 p.m.
- Between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., please make sure your electrical appliances are only on when they're needed.

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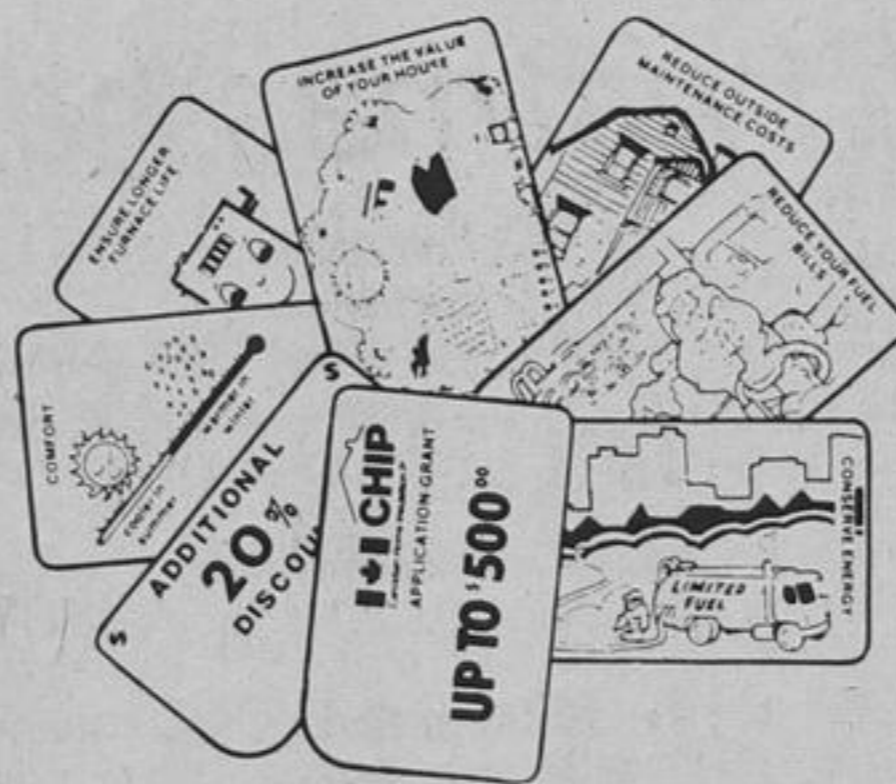
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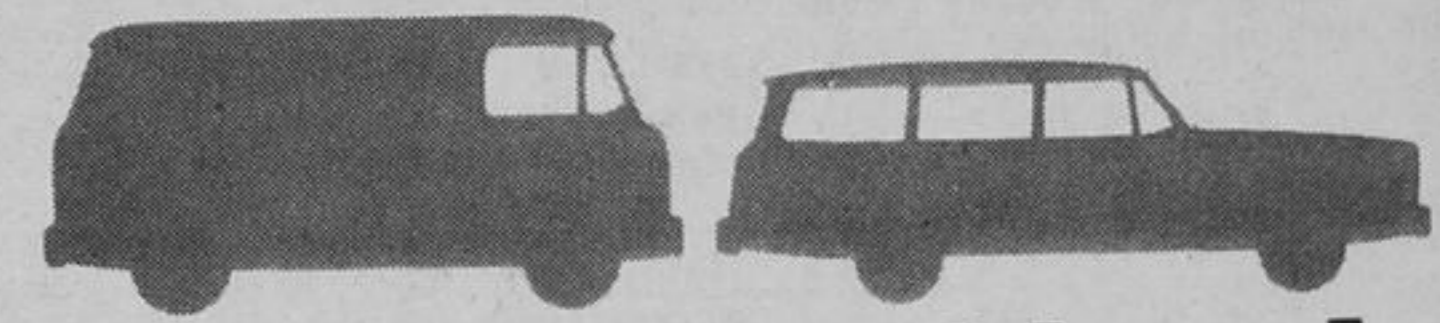
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