

Letters

Get involved, she tells parents

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on recent letters and/or articles that have appeared in your, and other, newspapers, concerning the status of education and the "lack of faith" being exhibited by parents, teachers and administrators.

I have deliberately excluded "taxpayers", because regardless of your "slot" in the system, we all pay taxes to ensure the best education possible for our children.

I cannot agree with the statement that most school principals discourage the formation of "home and school" groups.

It has been my ex-

perience that such organizations are, in most instances, welcomed into the school.

However, it is also important to recognize that each school has its own expectations and unique requirements of such groups.

It therefore becomes necessary to define, on an individual school basis, the criteria upon which "home and school" groups will operate.

Having been an active member and supporter of school-community organizations for many years, I have usually found that there has been a growing reluctance on the part of parents to actively assume a

position of responsibility on a home and school executive.

The mother or father who actively provides her or his services to a specific program or project within the school is of vital importance.

However, in order to most effectively coordinate, activate and evaluate such programs, positions of responsibility on a higher level must be assumed, and must be conducive to the requirements within any given school.

We live in a changing society. Priorities for many have shifted. "Spare time" is becoming a limited and precious commodity. A

frightening number of people have assumed the negative attitude of: "Well, there's nothing I can do about it."

The same people tend to complain to their neighbors, hold a grudge, or shrug their shoulders.

The solution to apathy and being uninformed (or worse — misinformed) is INVOLVEMENT. Awareness, understanding and action breed change, if change is found to be necessary.

Aside from good health, what can possibly be more important to our children than the opportunity to reach their potential?

We provide them with warm houses, food, clothing, and many "luxury" items they probably don't need.

But one of our greatest responsibilities is in preparing them to "make it on their own" one day, and to provide them with the necessary "tools" to get there.

Our educational system is one of our most effective "tools", but it can only be as effective and productive as finances, support, interaction and communication allow.

Everyone has the opportunity to become involved at many levels. It may begin in your child's class. It can expand to your volunteering to serve on whatever form of liaison committee his school has adopted. You can participate in public forums or your own community organizations that act as sounding boards for your concerns.

An open invitation is extended to all to attend public sessions of School Board meetings in Aurora, which are conducted each second and fourth Monday evening every month of the year.

You are also invited to participate in discussion at meetings of Board Standing Committees, which also meet regularly each month. Public comment is always welcomed, and can in fact be very instrumental in determining the "but-what-if-possible" outcome of many a decision.

I urge everyone not to take the attitude that capacity time allows; there's nothing that you can do to "change the system"! As long as

we're paying the bills, there's a lot that we can and should be doing.

Would you complain to your neighbor if your television cable broke down — or would you immediately be on the phone to the cable company? Would you accept a telephone reception that was less than perfect? What would you do if the garbage collectors missed your house? Or if the police neglected to answer your call?

We are not prepared to accept less than adequate service from any of the above public agencies. And we certainly have as big a stake in our educational system (bigger!), because it involves the future of all of us, and the present of all our children.

"Sitting in judgement" is always a much easier task than accepting responsibility. Many of you would just as soon sit back and leave the job to your elected representatives, and this is okay — provided you feel they are doing the best job on your behalf.

But if this is not the case, it becomes your responsibility to let them know that you are dissatisfied, or that you have questions you would like answered.

If your child's teacher is doing a marvelous job — let him know that! Praise is a wonderful, therapeutic incentive to do even better. Everyone likes to receive "warm fuzzies" for a job well done, and it makes for much better communication and co-operation. And best of all — it doesn't cost a penny! But it does reap invaluable rewards.

I guess what I'm saying is — DO SOMETHING! Don't accept what you feel you can't change. If your particular "something" is a complaint, then complain to the right party.

Follow it through, until you are certain you have explored every channel available. Become involved in your child's school in whatever way you can. Take the attitude that capacity time allows; there's nothing that you can do to "change the system"! As long as

rewarding and self-satisfying experience. If you feel your educational taxes are too high, find out how the money is being spent.

Education is an investment, and all of us are responsible for assuring that we are receiving the best value for the dollars being invested, regardless of whether or not we have children in school.

Don't allow yourself to fall into the trap of "blaming the system, the school, an individual, or our 'permissive society'". If you don't like what you see, then blame yourself for allowing it to continue without trying to do anything to change it.

And if you do like what's happening — don't be stingy with those "warm fuzzies".

Our marijuana laws interest most people

Of the nearly 2,800 who responded to a survey conducted by York-North MP John Gamble, more showed interest in the country's marijuana laws than any other subject in the survey.

Mr. Gamble revealed the results of his survey at a press conference in his Box Grove home late Friday afternoon.

Sixty per cent of the 2,751 respondents said the Criminal Code should not be amended to remove penalties for the possession of personal use of small quantities of marijuana.

Another 36 per cent said the Code should be changed, and nearly four per cent weren't sure.

Mr. Gamble said he made a pledge to his constituents that he would seek their opinions, then "act in accordance with the majority".

- Federal Civil Servants in essential services should not have the right to strike (88.15 per cent);
 - There should be a windfall-profit-like tax on oil companies with respect to supplies discovered before rising prices (72.8 per cent);
 - The Canadian Embassy in Israel should not be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (72.46 per cent);
 - Canada should restrict foreign aid to those countries which practice the principles of democracy and grant universal human rights to their citizens (74.21 per cent);
 - Dramatic reductions should be made in Canada's aid program (68.92 per cent);
 - Therapeutic abortions should be granted by a hospital board if the health of the mother is in danger (81.03 per cent);
 - Capital punishment should be reinstated for those who commit pre-meditated murder or take a life during the commission of an indictable offence (82.54 per cent).
- Mr. Gamble said he had already sponsored a Private Member's Bill dealing with capital punishment, "but I'm certain there's one Liberal who will do everything he can to stop the bill".

He thanks councillor for free publicity

As an executive member of the Citizens' Advisory Group of Richmond Hill, I would like to express my thanks to Councillor Dave Amos for the effort he has put forth on behalf of C.A.G. to publicize our General Meeting of Thursday, November 29, in the Town Council Chambers.

C.A.G. is a non-profit public organization, and thus, limited funds are available for advertising. Help such as Mr. Amos's is appreciated.

However, I feel Councillor Amos is somewhat misinformed on a number of points, as quoted in the November 28th edition of the Liberal. Allow me to clarify these oversights.

If trying to keep the populace of Richmond Hill informed on issues relevant to the town is "trying to gain credibility", then I would suspect we are not alone in this endeavor.

One could assume that Mr. Amos would consider the Recreation Department's slide presentation on the Town Parks is an attempt to "gain credibility".

For that matter, any effort on behalf of a public-minded group to benefit Richmond Hill would be considered an effort to gain credibility.

Councillor Amos has tried to imply that C.A.G.'s using the Council Chambers was politically motivated. I would reply that necessity, not political motivation, was the reason.

Our organization had explored the possibility of

using other "halls" used in the past for our meetings, but because of the time of year, none were available.

Councillor Amos should check with the civil servants of Richmond Hill as to arrangements for, and use of, Council Chambers.

Our President, Mrs. Fayle, pointed out in this same article that the arrangements for use of the Chambers were coordinated through the Town Clerk, in good faith!

At no time was the organization informed that we must also get Council's full approval for the use of the Chambers.

It must be stated that C.A.G. is NOT a political force or party. Over the years, C.A.G. has presented a course on local government for the citizens of Richmond Hill.

A number of "graduates" of these courses have been so enthused by the insight they received into civic politics that they have run in the municipal elections.

If this is why Councillor Amos considers C.A.G. as a "political organization", I would suggest Mr. Amos must be informed as to the difference between a "public service" and a "political party".

C.A.G., as an organization, does not "run" candidates, nor does it actively campaign or publicly support any candidate.

Mr. Amos's statement of "no-growth stand is not popular in the next (election) campaign — they know their can-

didates are in trouble", and the further statement "a complete about face" (regarding no-growth versus wide-open municipal growth) indicate a political campaign is underway.

I would suggest it is Mr. Amos who is campaigning.

As stated, C.A.G. is not a politically motivated organization.

As a councillor, I would hope Mr. Amos would recognize that there may be more than one side to any issue.

For C.A.G. to bring in developers to give their side of the planning picture is just that — an attempt to present both sides of the issue.

I would draw Councillor Amos's attention to what C.A.G., the Citizens' Advisory Group, stands for, and what is so prominently displayed at the top of all our Newsletters and correspondence:

"To provide a vehicle for individual citizens or citizen groups to participate effectively in the planning and policy functions of the Town of Richmond Hill."

Stewart Roberts
118 Avenue Road
Richmond Hill

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Council allows land credit

Members of Richmond Hill Council have decided to allow a land credit to a developer building in Richvale.

Heritage Willow Estates Limited plans to build 35 residential homes on 13.3 acres in Richvale, the property bounded by Walmer, Pemberton and Weldrick Roads.

Town policy is to require a five per cent dedication of park land for each development.

Five per cent of 13.3 is 6.65 acres but Heritage Willow have designed a park to be dedicated to the municipality consisting of 1.27 acres.

The park, to be known as Grist Mill Park will be landscaped with trees and sod, will have an equipped tot area and teen area, will be enclosed by a split rail fence and will cost the developer about \$30,000.

Harvey Nirenberg, representing Heritage Willow Estates asked council for a land credit to be applied to future adjoining development, because of the access contribution.

Discussion in council

centred around the principle of the credit and the precedent it would set in Richvale, but Councillor Al Duffy swayed his colleagues by pointing out the town had been looking to put a park in that area for a long time.

Council finally agreed on a credit of land rather than a credit of money, and such credit to be applied to any park dedication that would be required by the municipality in the future.

Attention skiers

Bruce's Mill Ski Area will hold an Open House Sunday December 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Activities and demonstrations will include, cross-country ski films, ski waxing demonstrations, hayrides as well as exhibits of ski retailers and manufacturers showing what is available for the 1980 season.

Admission is free and you are encouraged to bring the whole family and start the season off on the right ski.

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CORRECTION

The Collection Advertisement in the Nov. 28 Homemaker of \$86,900 was incorrect and should have read \$88,900. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Then too, you've got a better chance of winning one of the smaller prizes. Because now there are thousands more prizes to be won every week — \$5,000 prizes, \$1,000 prizes, \$100 prizes, \$10 prizes and Win fall prizes. In fact your chances of winning a prize in the new Wintario are now 1 in 18*. And a Wintario ticket is still just \$1.00.

It's a great new game. With nine draws instead of six every Thursday night live on TV. Get a ticket and get in the game this Thursday. You'll love it — and you could be a winner.

* Now every week for every 3 million tickets issued there are:

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In the same way, you could win \$100 by matching any four consecutive digits of your ticket number with the winning 4-digit number drawn. Match the 5-digit winning number and win \$1,000.

And if your ticket number matches one of the five 6-digit numbers drawn, you'll win one of the three \$100,000 First Grand Prizes or one of the 12 Grand Prizes of \$25,000.

And then, there's Win fall. Match any two consecutive digits of your ticket number with the Win fall number drawn and you've won a book of tickets on the next draw worth \$5.00.

** Wintario tickets are issued every week in blocks of one million tickets, and each block is numbered from 000000 to 999999, and no series number! For each weekly draw at least 3 million tickets will be issued. So there will be at least three winning ticket numbers issued (1 in each block) that match the 6-digit \$100,000 First Grand Prize number drawn, and at least three winning ticket numbers issued that match each of the four \$25,000 Grand Prize numbers drawn — twelve \$25,000 prizes in all. That's at least 15 Grand Prizes in all.



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