

Letters to the editor

Headline on library queried

Dear Sir: Your choice of headlines regarding the library situation in the April 24 Tribune was unfortunate. According to the Public Library Act of Ontario, the library board, "shall endeavor to provide in co-operation with other boards a comprehensive and efficient library service." The purpose of the library board's recent activity has been to inform the public that library services and programs are directly related to the funds granted by the municipal council. The library board is merely making council aware of the public concern, which is continually evident at the library, and needs to be expressed at the council level. Surely, such issues can, and should be, dismissed rationally and openly.

The library board, after much consideration, over a period of several monthly meetings, stated its case. The council replied, the public is involved and there will be continuing discussions, as before. This can only be a healthy situation in a democratic community. Jim Sanders, Chairman W.S. Library Board

Smiley taken to task

Re: Bill Smiley column of May 8, 1975. Dear Bill: I would firstly like to apologize as a member of "Undermining everything white and right" for getting you upset. Unfortunately, changing values, for weights and measures, can not be undertaken without teaching old dogs new tricks. If you are personally satisfied with the "old" system and it works well for you, fine, but don't start criticizing and imposing 1984 values on those opting for something easier and more efficient. I've even got a better suggestion for you. Why don't you go back to measuring things by stones and rods, or even better from your thumb to your nose which is about as much foresight as you appear to possess. There are things occurring in this world that, from the sounds of your column, you couldn't even begin to comprehend. Things are dealt with on a world-wide basis now and, in doing so, we need common units of measure, weight and volume.

Metric is chosen over the old system because it is based on units of 10, making it not only easier to work with, but also easier to learn (think

about your children). Celsius is based on the temperature ranges of water, melting point being given the value 0 degrees and the boiling point 100 degrees. If all you are doing is boiling coffee in the morning or wondering whether or not to wear a sweater, Fahrenheit will do, but, unfortunately, the people, who do research or are involved in trade and commerce, are trying to better your way of life. They have need for a better and more efficient system.

Don't let this letter discourage you Bill. With your head in the sand, you'll have very little need for anything better than the "old" system. Also about your dream. I've heard of children being afraid of the unknown, but let's be reasonable.

The one thing about progress, and by that I mean genuine progress, is that you can refuse to change with it at any time. I personally promise not to drag you along, but at some point you'll have to look around and see that you're all alone, because anyone with any kind of understanding and foresight will have already changed.

William Gary Wharton R. R. 1, Unionville

Student seeking folklore

Dear Sir: I am presently doing research into sayings and folklore of different Ontario regions. This part of our culture has been neglected in the past. I am interested in recording what people say of such things, before it is forgotten. Everyone knows what a saying is, but folklore is so diverse it includes predictions on weather and ghost stories, all ranges between life and death, signs (omens) and bits of information on laughter. There are rural and urban folklores. Even the professions (e.g. medicine) have folklores of their own. Children's games and skipping rope rhymes are all part of this culture. I am sure some of your readers can be of assistance and I look forward to their co-operation.

Dale Williams 126 Collingwood St. Apt. 2 Kingston, Ontario

Tribune receives plaudit

Dear Sir: On behalf of the P.O.W.R. group, who, with the assistance of John Swaigen, of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, represented the concerned citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville in the long battle to preserve our water supply from the potential threat posed to it, by the continuation and expansion of York Sanitation, Landfill Site No. 4, I want to commend all staff members of the Tribune for their coverage and support regarding this very important matter.

The future of our water supply and its purity now rests with the members of the Environmental Hearing Board and the decision finally will be announced by William Newman,

Minister of the Environment. Some 12,000 residents anxiously await his decision! Surely common sense tells us, it must be easier to find a safe, new landfill area, than a totally new water supply for a whole town!

We truly appreciate the splendid coverage you gave this very controversial issue.

Frances Sainsbury Water Resources

Library beefs are sought

Dear Sir: It has been 10 years since the last major study into public libraries in Ontario. During that decade many important changes occurred. The needs of the francophone population in Ontario for library services have increased dramatically, the shift from rural areas has intensified the problems of the city library, and native

peoples have begun to demand a stronger voice in preserving and promoting their cultural heritage.

Under the aegis of the Ontario Provincial Library Council, The Ontario Public Library Study is seeking better ways to meet the information needs of the people of the province. In order to obtain the frank opinion of both users and non-users of public libraries, I would like to invite anyone to jot down comments of their local library and mail them to me at The Ontario Public Library Study, 214 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1R3.

Do you find what you want at your public library? Why don't you use the library? Are the open hours convenient? etc.

Your opinions will form a valuable input to the final report. Your participation is most welcome.

Albert Bowron Director, Ontario Public Library Study

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