

Editor's Mail Snubbed

Dear Editor:

Last week, while driving on Hwy. 404, I observed a damsel in distress.

She had pulled her car off on the shoulder and appeared to be looking all around the vehicle as though something was wrong.

Ordinarily, I never offer assistance, but since I was in no particular hurry and the motorist was a woman, I decided to stop.

I had walked only a few feet in her direction when she "lit into me" with words I never expected to hear from a lady.

In short, what she said was: "I don't need any help from you!"

Her response made me feel as small as a peanut. I turned and drove off.

I'm wondering if other male drivers have had similar experiences. For me, once is enough. I'll never take the Good Samaritan approach again, regardless of circumstances.

Sincerely,
Bernard (Bernie) Hamilton,
R.R. 2, Claremont

Restraint

Dear Mr Thomas:

Is the hiring of a chief administrative officer in Whitechurch-Stouffville, the penalty we must pay for progress? It would seem so.

I'm not opposed to growth. The Town MUST grow. Our council should temper justice with mercy, however, and have mercy on our pocketbooks.

With a small industrial base, the municipality must watch its spending closely. Acquiring a \$45,000-a-year office manager is not, in my opinion, a sign of fiscal restraint.

Sincerely,
Katherine Lalonde,
Rupert Avenue,
Stouffville

NEWS ITEM: Election fight looms for Board of Education



"Get off, get off, I'm a manager not a fighter!"

ROAMING AROUND



Spelling not important?

BY JIM THOMAS

Ordinarily, I'm not a quitter. And I have no patience with people who are quitters, only hurt themselves. Their absence is seldom felt, more often accepted with relief.

Four weeks ago, I fell into the category of a quitter. I walked out of a meeting in disgust. And, strange as it may seem, I'm not sorry. In fact, I'm still seething, seething at what I heard and observed. I couldn't believe my eyes and ears.

It was a public meeting at Orchard Park School in Stouffville. I was looking forward to it with great anticipation, for two reasons. First, as a parent, I was anticipating up-to-date information on the direction the educational system is taking with respect to English and that old-fashioned subject called Grammar.

Second, I was looking forward to a news story. After all, most Moms and Dads should be interested in "Language and Learning," the subject of the seminar.

The guest speaker was a consultant with the York Region Board of Education.

This lady was quite obviously learned, at least she gave me that impression—middle-aged, immaculate, fluent, a really gung-ho kind of gal. "This should be a real learning experience," I said to myself.

—What a disappointment. Most of what she said went right over my head. I honestly didn't know what she was talking about. But this I accepted. After all, she was speaking in terms of the 80's. My association with reading, writing and arithmetic goes back to the 30's. Times have surely changed, I kept telling myself.

—When it came to the question and answer period, one father, obviously just as confused as I, wondered why his daughter, an "A-plus" student in all subjects, had so much trouble with spelling. He stated, quite honestly, that if her English mark was based solely on the ability to spell, she would fail.

The speaker had no explanation, suggesting that hers was a particular problem deserving study and research.

The reply started an itch in the seat of my pants that worsened as the evening wore on. By the time she was close to a conclusion, the agony was unbearable. I thought I should leave before I infected the entire crowd.

Believe me, dear frustrated father, your daughter's inability to spell isn't rare. It's common. And the predicament, that has parents everywhere wringing their hands in disbelief, will worsen if school's follow this learned lady's advice.

Don't attach too much significance to the spelling of a word, she recommended, it's the meaning that counts.

She advised, (in so many words), that if a child concentrates on the correctness of his spelling, it will cramp his style and he'll lose the desire to experiment with new words for fear of making mistakes.

That's like a mother encouraging her baby to walk when he hasn't yet learned to crawl. Unfortunately, when he falls

and fractures his skull, the correct approach is taken, too late.

I give you examples of the point, I feel, the learned lady was trying to make, in these two sentences. Which, in your opinion is best?

"Thanks for the good meal, Mom. I'll need nothing more until night" or "I'm extremely appreciative of the bountiful repast, Mother. I'll require nothing additional until evening."

Because I'm from, what's commonly referred to as "the old school", I choose the former. I've seen too much of the latter, not just in Grades 6, 7 and 8, but in Grades 11, 12 and 13.

What do you think?

Many parents attending the meeting appeared to agree with the speaker. At least they were nodding their heads. I didn't, and I left, even before the discussion concluded.

Was I wrong. Is spelling archaic? Is word "discovery" of prime importance? I'd like to know, and so, undoubtedly, would many Moms and Dads, just as frustrated as I.

Slams party solidarity

Dear Editor:

I wish to make comment concerning the success of Greg Sorbara, (Liberal), and the defeat of Bill Hodgson, (Conservative), in the May 2 provincial election.

I agree with your summation. Mr Hodgson indeed defeated himself. He elected to hang on to office one term too long.

However, with respect to Whitechurch-Stouffville, the "wound" went deeper than that. His handling of the landfill site problem was terribly inept and brought the "true" Bill Hodgson to the surface. Not only did he not understand the seriousness of the situation but he

elected not to come to grips with the problem for fear of embarrassing his government.

This is the thing I find so irritating about provincial and federal politics—party solidarity. Because of this desire to walk the "party line", constituents are sacrificed. Thank God for elections where the ordinary person who's continually ignored, can make his mark on a ballot.

Whitechurch-Stouffville spoke its mind May 2. I hope Mr Hodgson's successor and other candidates to follow, were listening.

Elizabeth Carter,
Vandorf Road

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Editorials

Education in spotlight

A ding-dong election battle for Board of Education? You better believe it! Daphne Goldman, Elm Road, Stouffville, has given notice she'll contest the lone Whitechurch-Stouffville seat Nov. 12.

The present office-holder is Harry Bowes.

The Goldman decision should come as no surprise. She's long been interested in education at the grass roots level. However, since ratepayer interest usually bypasses the board that spends 65 percent of our money, we were concentrating on would-be candidates for Council. Not any more. The pendulum, by virtue of the Goldman announcement, has swung in the other direction. And it's about time.

Daphne Goldman's a fighter, a fighter for quality education. While most parents seem content to sit on their hands, she stands up and shouts, sometimes irritating the people she's shouting at. Regardless, she makes herself heard.

Although the wife of a school teacher, Mrs Goldman is by no means married to

the profession. Dedication is what she respects and expects, nothing less.

One of the things that bothers her greatly is, the fact more and more parents are choosing private schools for their children over public schools. Something's obviously wrong with the system, she says. She wants these wrongs corrected and she's promised to do what she can, (if elected), to correct them.

But the bureaucracy of education is a far cry from the grass roots. Goldman admits this. She stresses, however, that Whitechurch-Stouffville must come first; all else is secondary. And this is the way it has to be, otherwise, she's only one small voice crying in the wilderness.

We appreciate the Goldman announcement—at this time. It indicates thoughtful consideration rather than a snap decision. It indicates a personal desire to "get involved"—where it counts. We trust it will spark interest among a cross-section of the electorate, interest that's been lacking all too long.

Need own garbage site

Despite the fact garbage has been the source of major problems in Whitechurch-Stouffville, this municipality needs its own refuse site, for Whitechurch-Stouffville residents only.

The cost of transporting waste to Maple, the proposal as of August 1, is economically unthinkable. We can't afford it. Even under the present arrangement, the price has gone sky-high. And the contract is effective only to the end of July. We're not suggesting the Spademan charge is out of line. Garbage trucks don't come cheap. Mr Spademan knows his expenses better than we. He's also aware of the cost factor related to travelling from Whitechurch-Stouffville to Maple Road, miles plus time, equals dollars, thousands of dollars.

While the Hwy 48 landfill site was an abomination to our Town, (due to uncontrolled dumping back in the '60's and '70's), we can't believe there isn't a safe disposal place somewhere in the municipality. Council, we believe, should be open to offers and at least investigate whatever recommendations are placed before it.

Receive Chief Scout awards



Ten Stouffville boys received Chief Scout awards, May 15, at a Parent and Son Banquet in Stouffville United Church. Honored for outstanding achievement in Scouting were (left to right): David Enderwick, Ron McConnell, Chris Watters, Ron Ormson, Ken Richards, Andrew Green, Stewart Richards, Chris Simons, and John Watters. Absent from the photo is Darren McCool. The boys also received engraved Scout rings and sterling silver lapel pins containing the Town Crest, presented by Mayor Tom Wood.