

Parent, teacher looks at education

By **LYNDA WILLIAMS**
 Bye! See you later! These are familiar words to parents as their children head out for daily student "jobs" at area schools.
 All have something in common affecting their daily routines.
 This column will try to raise issues, provide suggestions, answer questions, and look at situations we, as parents, cope with on a day-to-day basis during the school year.

My name is Lynda Williams. I've been involved in the school system as both a teacher and a parent. We have three children, a boy in Grade 9 and two girls, one in Grades 7 and another in Grade 2.
 Jeff, in high school, brings a new twist to the same issues. Heather is in special programming at a facility other than our close neighbourhood school and Amy is enrolled in French Immersion.

Three children in three different schools means we attend many meet-the-teacher nights and concerts.
 I've always been involved in education, either in the classroom as a parent representative or as a volunteer. Writing a column on education has been something I've always wanted to do. I'll be interested in your responses, your questions, your suggestions and your criticisms. We all contribute hard-earned tax

dollars towards education and we all can become involved one way or another.
 Children have been back in school about seven weeks now. Have you filled in all the forms? You know the ones: name, address, home phone number, work phone number, neighbor's phone number, etc. They may seem rather repetitive if your son or daughter is in the same school as last year, but they're very important. If you have one (or two)

still lying on the counter, or stuck on the refrigerator door, please return it (them) without delay. They're needed.
 We've all had an opportunity to meet our child's teacher(s) by now. If your school has not yet held a meet-the-teacher night, I urge you to attend. If you were unable to attend a recent parents' night, you can send a note or make a phone call to the teacher(s) to see what you can do in co-operation with the school, to make your child's year enjoyable and enriching. Teachers actually like to hear from interested parents. It's nice to know there's support on the home front. Support and praise are positive steps to learning. Teachers, with the help of parents, can create a very stimulating learning atmosphere.

All students have received a newsletter or handbook with goals, policies and general items related to each school. If you have not received yours, ask your child if it's still in his/her school bag, (covered with cookie crumbs) or the locker, (you know, that crumpled piece of paper in the back of the top shelf). I'm sure the school office has two or three extras if the lost cannot be found.
 Showing an interest can make for a very successful parent-teacher relationship that will benefit your child.
 Let's all become more involved in education!



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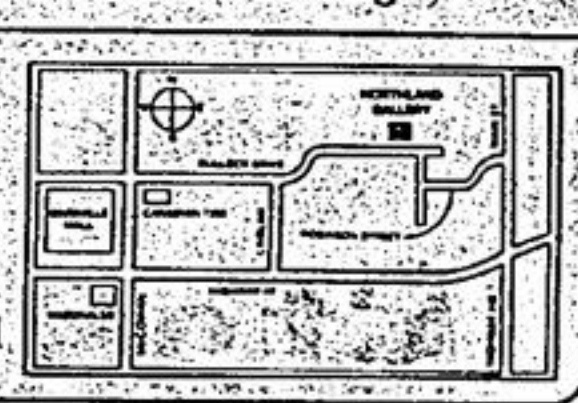
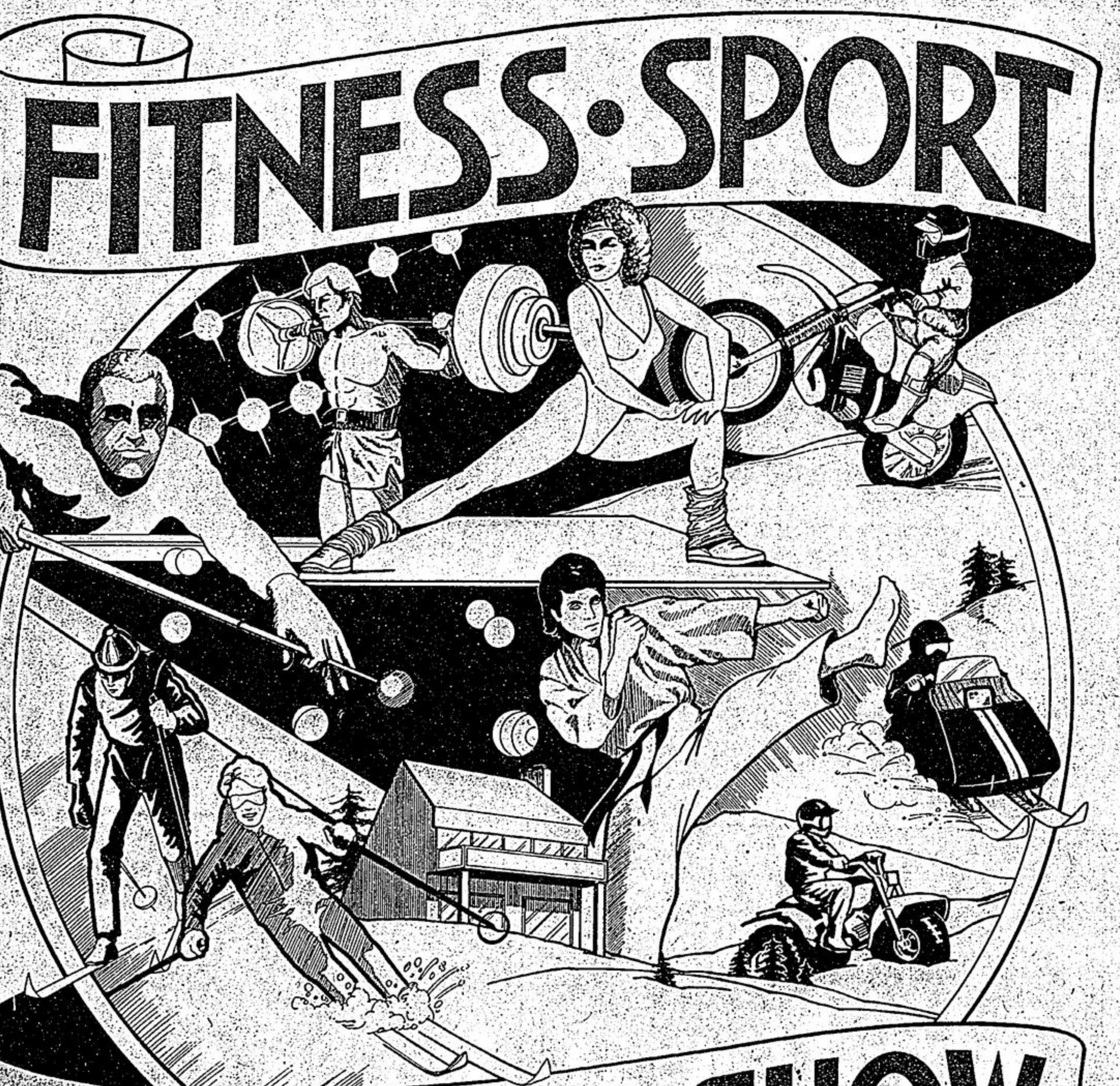
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