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Education the key to futures

Another long, hot summer is past and the school bells have rung in a new academic year in Stouffville and Uxbridge.

The 1989-90 school year brings a promise of fresh challenges, new horizons and, ultimately, exam preparations.

A new crop of high school students enter Grade 9 as seniors prepare for a final year of secondary education.

But let us not forget the importance of education. Indeed it is a time for friendship, social gatherings and sportsmanship. But today's students are tomorrow's business men and women, artists and skilled trade workers.

It's a cliché, but the possibilities are endless. And though many young people often find it hard to think in terms of the future three, five or 10 years away, that is the time they will enter the work force with new skills, ideas and philosophies.

Students mustn't scorn teachers who have years of experience in the so-called real world. Conversely, teachers should keep an open and receptive mind to the new values and ideals today's youth offers.

A balance struck between the two generations — teacher and student — will provide rich soil for the cultivation of future leaders.

Silence just isn't golden these days

There must be somewhere in the great outdoors, situated closer to home than the interior of B.C., where an innocent bystander can enjoy the sound of nature without being subjected to an endless barrage of music, news and commercials imposed on them by someone else.

It's bad enough having one's ears assaulted by that canned drivel created to turn shoppers and elevator passengers into zombies, or to sit in an aircraft while people drop carryalls on your head to the accompaniment of a kind of musical pablum.

Fear of silence, an aberration long displayed by American sportscasters, has become an in-



kate's corner

kate gilderdale

ternational plague.

When you visit the beach, park or cottage, shouldn't you have the right to listen to the loons rather than the news? No doubt the people who crank up the volume on their portable stereos would be enraged if you relaxed uninvited in their backyards or helped yourself to their towels on the beach.

That, after all, would be a serious infringement on their rights.

For some reason, however, it's considered perfectly okay for them to inflict the noise pollution of their choice on you or anyone else within the radius covered by their megawatt speakers.

Recriminations or gently reasoned requests to turn down the offending noise are met with aggression, complete with indifference or simply open-mouthed amazement.

Isn't it odd, that while individual rights are regarded as sacrosanct to an almost absurd degree, there's nothing you can

do to prevent such an invasion of privacy, unless the offender can be proven to have rendered you completely and irreversibly deaf?

We now provide smokers with a few cramped areas in which to puff away at the evil weed; we don't allow people to bring alcohol into many areas including public parks, and walking about with no clothes on is only allowed in the privacy of one's own home, or in specially designated areas of certain beaches.

In other words, you're entitled to indulge in your own particular deviation provided you don't infringe on the rights of everyone else.

Doesn't it follow that we should supply small enclaves where those bent on obliterating the gentle sound of nature can gather with like-minded individuals and allow the rest of humanity a bit of peace and quiet in a noise-free

zone? Imagine the thrilling cacophony of sound in a small, cordoned-off area with every conceivable radio station being played simultaneously at full volume.

Think of the pleasure of listening to a combination of Def Leopard and The Eagles with a sprinkling of Anne Murray and a running commentary on how the Jays are faring — all at once.

Since, alas, such a resolution is unlikely to be sanctioned by the powers that be, the only alternative to beating them is joining them, or living on a desert island.

Nevertheless, it's a sad commentary on the human race that consideration for others has all but disappeared, having been replaced by an "I'll do what I like and you can't stop me," attitude.

"If music be the food of love, play on," said Shakespeare. But please, not while I'm on the beach.

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Editor's mail

Library expansion not needed

Dear Editor:
Re: proposed library expansion.

The need may come for future expansion of the library and Latcham Gallery — but this is not the right time and certainly not at the expense of even higher taxes.

We have enjoyed the present facilities on a frequent basis since the day they opened, and have yet to find a line-up at the check-out counter.

Contrary to your headline last week, the majority of residents seem to support this view, as only 43 per cent of the 738 questionnaire responses (317 resident out of a location population of around 15,000) came out in favor of the proposal.

If the remainder had realized the potential consequences of ignoring the poll, no doubt the response would have been

greater and the result much different.

Hopefully, our local council will keep its priorities and sense of perspective in order, directing our tax dollars towards meeting needs rather than the "wants" of a select few, while budgeting for the cost expansion at some more appropriate future date.

Yours Truly,
Brian and Christine Hopgood