

OPINION

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Domm's contempt of court could abort justice

The police investigations into Karla Holmolka and her husband Paul Teale were among the most sensational this country has ever witnessed.

By the time Karla Holmolka was to have her day in court, print and broadcast media coverage had become a frenzy and the public stood right behind them demanding as much information as they could gather.

But the Crown Attorney asked for a ban on publication of all proceedings at Holmolka's trial and it was granted.

The Crown argued that releasing evidence about Holmolka's case might prejudice a jury against Teale, denying his right to a fair trial.

The American media, on the other hand, face no ban on publishing or broadcasting details



Viewpoint

Paula Crowell

of the case to the American public. When the tabloid show, A Current Affair aired a segment on Holmolka, the Canadian carrier of the program substituted it with a rerun. But people with satellite dishes were able to pick up the show.

One such person, Gordon Domm, videotaped the program and made 50 copies. He let the public know the copies were available and they would be given out to the most worthy

recipients.

Domm is breaking the law. Domm is also a retired Ontario Provincial Police officer. While he breaks the law, he collects a pension paid for by Ontario taxpayers.

On a radio program this week, Domm argued that people who requested tapes fear Holmolka will be released before Teale's trial ends and before details of both can be made public.

But how do we know that what A Current Affair ran is true? Or that Holmolka will be released before Teale is tried? Or that Holmolka would commit another crime once released?

Clearly, as the court sees it now, Domm is in contempt of court. No matter what his reason for doing so, by distributing

the videotape, he may hamper Teale's right to a fair trial.

Furthermore his actions could throw the justice system off the rails aborting the crown's case against Teale.

Domm's tapes should be seized and he should be fined for his actions and be forbidden from using a satellite dish. And if the Crown Attorney, who represents the best interests of the public, insists that the ban continue, so be it.

We will know soon enough the details of these crimes.

Meet new public school board director

Dear Editor,

An important educational event will be happening at Buttonville Public School on Tuesday, Nov. 30.

York Region parents will have an opportunity to meet the person who is at the top of the York Region Board of Education, Mr. Bill Hogarth. He is the newly appointed director of our local board.

Parents all over have been asking for more out of their educational system, but often are unsure of how to approach their school or the 'system.' Here is an opportunity that all local parents and teachers should not miss.

If we truly believe there is a need for dialogue about how our school system should change, we all must stop abusing those time honored excuses of: no time, too busy or it won't make a difference.

Here is a chance to discuss issues we have, ranging from strategies used in the classroom, to standards and accountability to over all philosophy.

Many parents diligently get involved at the local level through parent/school groups such as The Buttonville Parent Liaison Group (PLG) and this is imperative. We also need to deal at higher levels and parents have an excellent opportunity to listen and ask questions of the



person who has a dramatic impact on the education our children receive.

It promises to be an informative evening and I trust you will see the value of this and make every effort to attend.

The session will be held at the Buttonville Public School on Tuesday, Nov. 30, starting at 7:30 p.m. See you there.

John Martin
Buttonville



Adam®

by Brian Basset



Contract a concern

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to voice my concern over the Social Contract Act and the long-term implications it has upon education in York Region.

It has been several months since the Social Contract Act took effect, yet the consequences of its mandate have yet to be seen to any great extent in the education sector. The main reason for this is that local negotiations have yet to be settled.

However, I am troubled by two possible solutions to meeting the Social Contract sub-sectoral target within York Region.

The first approach has been to increase class size significantly. While it has been suggested that this may be one possible solution to cutting spending, the long-term effects could be devastating upon the education of our children.

I have heard both parents and teachers voice their concern over this policy. It is perhaps the one issue teachers are most concerned with. Yet, the York Region Board of Education made a unilateral move to increase class size last June, prior to any Social Contract guidelines.

Some elementary classes are already approaching 40 students and could become larger over the next several years. This is particularly disconcerting since many schools have had classrooms built to hold much smaller classes.

The second issue has to do with another approach the York Region Board of Education is trying to use to meet the educational target of the Social Contract. They have decided to place a majority of the burden of the Social Contract upon the backs of relatively new teachers; that is, teachers with less than ten years experience.

Of the several avenues they have

to meet the target, they are attempting to convince the federations that the best approach would be to freeze the experience increments. Since it takes 11 years to reach the top pay category, any teacher with less than 11 years experience would not receive their experiential raise for the term of the Social Contract. In addition, the three year loss of experience would not be regained at the end of the Social Contract, making the experience grid 14 years in length.

However, teachers with more than ten years experience are not affected by the deal the Board is attempting to get accepted.

While the results of this approach may not be as devastating as the increase of class size, it lacks equity and makes young teachers feel mistreated and victimised. It is a simple injustice to make one portion of the teaching profession pay for the Social Contract.

Young teachers bring fresh ideas and energy into the profession. Many of them do a great deal of extra-curricular activities. But with such an inequitable agreement staring them in the face, they could feel abused and may lose the motivation it takes to be a good educator.

In addition, it is the young teachers who are just starting out in life and have purchased homes recently or begun a family, unlike the more experienced teachers who may be unscathed by the agreement the York Region Board of Education is proposing.

The long-term effects either one of these approaches could have on the education of the next generation have not been considered by the York Region Board of Education or the New Democratic Party.

Name Withheld

Bhaduria's win reflects change

Dear Editor

Jag Bhaduria's recent landslide victory in Markham, as a result of Liberal sweep in the federal election last Monday, indicated that public trend is changing.

"You can't fool everybody all the time." In the high tech society of today, multiculturalism and liberal trends are the only way to keep the globe as one unit. The collective experience of all the cultures will be more rewarding to Canada.

There are other candidates from visible minority groups across the country who will be joining Bhaduria in the House of Commons. They all represent Canada's diversity and there is unity in diversity. Let's hope these members of the House will help put the country back on the track and create tolerance among people of different ethnic backgrounds in jobs and other sectors of the economy. By giving a little push to the economy in the right direction, there is bound to be a speedy recovery.

Jogendra Kalra
Markham