

Freedom to observe religion must be maintained

ADVERTISING CORRECTION
Eaton's Home Fashion Launch-747, appearing in this paper, Wednesday Sept. 28, 1994.
On Page 22 (S) Henckles 26cm. slicing knife, price should read \$44.99.
On Page 12 (D) Chair is not available. Inadvertently, the errors listed appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

EATON'S

ADVERTISING CORRECTION
Eaton's Home Fashion Launch-747, appearing in this paper, Wednesday Sept. 22, 1994.
On page 3 (E) Seagrass baskets set will be available Oct. 15. Page 4 (D) Potpourri candles will not be available. Pages 6 (C) Wicker sideboard will be available Oct. 30. Page 9 (G) Porcelain vase will be available Oct. 20. Page 21 (L & M) Metal cake rack & candle holders will be available Oct. 15. Page 36 (A) 'Egyptienne' towels offer ends Oct. 10, 1994. Page 45 (H) Eaton family thermal blanket, price is 26.99 to 42.99. Inadvertently, the errors listed appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

EATON'S

DO YOU NEED ADVICE ON PERSONAL BANKRUPTCY?

Personal bankruptcy can be a trying experience, but you don't have to face it alone. To discuss your financial situation in confidence, contact

MURRAY H. KIDECKEL
Trustee in Bankruptcy
(416) 882-2436

We Pick It Up You Write It Off

The Kidney Car Program accepts any motor vehicle in any condition. In return, you get a free tow and an income tax receipt.

Call the Kidney Car Hotline to find out more.

1-800-565-5511



THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA

INTERLOCK

WAVY WALKS? DIPPY DRIVE?

REPAIRS BY **SENTRY**

905-294-3791

There's an old joke about how many people are included in the Canadian work force, compared to how many are actually working at any given time. The punch line concludes that with unemployment, disabled workers, holidaying employees, those in training, etc., "that leaves just you and me to do the work, and I'm not so sure about you!"

Perusing the York Region Board of Education's official list of festivals by religion, it's easy to see how officials on a school board marked by such cultural diversity as the York board might find themselves wondering how they could ever hope to have a quorum of students and



From Where I Live
Bruce Stapley

teachers in the classroom on any given day.

The compendium, which is required material for everyone from teachers through trustees, lists a whopping total of 81 such dates covering nine religions from Baha'i through Zoroastrianism. Fortunately, however, only a dozen

of these are labelled "Significant Religious Days", about which it is stated at the bottom of the page that "conferences, meetings, work shops, and other professional events, co-curricular activities, exams/tests will not be scheduled on these days." The memorandum does suggest, however, that individual schools develop appropriate ways of celebrating the other 69 days.

But while there are people of no serious religious affiliation who would claim such a cataloguing of significant dates is like turning the school year into one endless Mexican festival, the importance of the list should be acknowledged all the same.

For instance, while attending Rosh Hashanah, or Jewish New Year, services with my wife and her mother the morning of Sept. 6, it soon became apparent this was not the type of new year's celebration that came with party hats, booze, and noise makers. Not unless you count the snafu, the ultimately significant ram's horn whose resounding yet solemn blast serves such a vital purpose in the proceedings. Rather, it was a critical observance for a people who can trace their cultural and religious heritage back some 6,000 years.

And while the closing of York schools on that day caused an uproar among some, it must be noted in fairness that Rosh Hashanah conflicts with the opening of the school year just once every 40 years. With none of the other 11 significant religious days

falling anywhere near the all-important first two days of the school year - except Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, which always follows the week after Rosh Hashanah - it rendered unfounded the claims that other religions should be similarly indulged. The Hindu observance of Diwali, the closest of the other 10 significant religious dates, doesn't come until November.

There was, of course, no request to have schools closed the next week for Yom Kippur. But my mother-in-law, a teacher with the North York Board of Education, felt both slighted and misunderstood when she took time off work to celebrate the vital date. As she and 18 other Jewish teachers at her school left the office the afternoon before Yom Kippur, they were bid adieu by some of their peers with an almost cynical quip to "Have fun!" Apparently, there are many who forget that the 'holy' in the word holiday sometimes implies just that.

It would appear the bottom line here is that while some people may disagree with our politically correct tendency to honor and acknowledge all cultures, races, and religions, it is vitally important that we continue to guarantee freedom to observe one's own religious celebrations as he or she chooses.

And if that results in the closing of schools two and a half times every century, then perhaps that's not really such a high price to pay. Ultimately, the work will still get done.

IT'S AS IMPORTANT AS THE AIR YOU BREATHE

Get your furnace ready for winter!

FALL SPECIAL! 10% OFF

Air Cleaners & Humidifiers

DUCT CLEANING SERVICES EARLY SEASON SPECIAL
Save \$100 or Receive up to 3 smoke alarms installed in your home FREE!

BRIDLEWOOD
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

MARKHAM (905) 479-4440

FURNACE CLEANING SPECIAL \$59.95

DURHAM REGIONAL LABOUR COUNCIL

Labour Council wishes to invite all Durham Region candidates for the Nov. 14, 1994 Municipal Election who seek endorsement to attend for interviews on:

Monday, October 3rd, 1994
between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.

at
United Steel Workers
115 Albert Street,
Oshawa

Phone (905) 579-5188 leaving your name and phone number also.

The interviews will be conducted by the Political Action Committee of the Durham Regional Labour Council.
Chairperson - Cec Mackessy.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BIGGEST BOOK SALE

IN YORK REGION

- COMPUTER BOOKS
- CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- GARDENING
- COOK BOOKS
- SPORTS
- GIFTS

AND MANY MORE!

Books from 50¢ and Up

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK MON. - SAT. 10 - 7
SUNDAY 11 - 5

100 WEST BEAVER CREEK
(Hwy. #7, One Block West of Leslie)

Now 2 Stores!

A STORE OF MANY TALENTS!

Finally. A store to showcase North America's talented crafters and artisans. Come and browse through aisles of beautifully hand-crafted items perfect for home, cottage and gift giving. We're new. We're unique. And we're open seven days a week. Mon to Wed., Sat. & Sun. 10-6, Thurs. & Fri. 10-9.

THE CRAFTER'S MARKETPLACE

SHOWCASING NORTH AMERICA'S FINEST CRAFTS EVERYDAY

Mississauga Home & Design Centre, 2575 Dundas St. W. at Winston Churchill (905) 828-7744
Pickering Home & Design Centre, Brock Road Exit, (905) 686-0714

Opening Soon in London

VISIT OUR NEW MISSISSAUGA LOCATION!

WELCOME WAGON

Baby Shower

Displays Gift Bags Door Prizes Useful Hints & Information

nittance is free, but by invitation only.

To receive your invitation call
Tina
471-8685
Vahalla Inn - 3 p.m.
Sunday, October 16, 1994