

# Comment & Opinions

Saturday, October 25, 1997  
Vol. 13, No. 43

Send your letters  
to the editor  
to the address below

EDITORIAL

## Reason to be MADD

Drunk drivers beware. Ontarians are MADD as hell and they're not going to take it anymore.

Justice Minister Anne McLellan is pushing for a federal-provincial plan to combat booze on the highways which would see greater police powers and the lowering of the legal blood-alcohol level from 0.8 to 0.5, a suggestion that has come to the minister from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Also suggested is the plan for mandatory jail terms for drunk drivers who take a life while behind the wheel. A national survey indicates that more than 85 per cent of Canadians would support such measures. Currently, the justice system favours the drunk driver in many ways. Court snarl-ups, delays, improper evidence, inadequate testing and lenient sentences have left many victims and families reeling from the ineffectiveness of the process.

What MADD wants to do is take away the advantage, take away the licence to kill that is currently in the possession of many drunk drivers. A good idea.

Still, many people do not know the parameters of drunk driving. Should having one beer with dinner prohibit someone from getting behind the wheel? Is having three drinks and waiting two or three hours before driving sufficient time to allow the effects of the alcohol to wear off? Lowering the blood-alcohol limit would help to better establish these boundaries. The message would be clear. If you drink, keep the car parked.

If a disease posed the same threat as drunk drivers, we'd be pouring dollar after dollar to find a cure. Our government would legislate strict measures to contain the pathogen. So what about alcohol? We have every right to be MADD.



## It's good to be back at job outside home

It's been three years, three new wrinkles and about three extra pounds, but what's a few incidentals between friends.

I'm back in town now, and ready to take on my duties as editor of both *Tribunes* with vigour. And if I can ever get away from my computer desk, I'll be looking forward to seeing many familiar faces, and ducking a few others (and you know who you are.)

After spending three years honing my editorial skills in four large Metro cities I can't tell you how happy this small town girl is to be back serving real communities.

Not to slight large metropolis life and all that entails or anything, but you really can't beat the atmosphere and closeness small towns like Stouffville and Uxbridge bring the people who live here.

After spending seven months at home with my



### Kibble's Bits

Tracy Kibble

six-year-old son, Kody, and my new daughter Kendall, the thought of returning to the outside world of 'work-for-pay' was frightening.

After all, I've never worked so hard in my life since leaving work last March to give birth to the World's Most Perfect Baby. (I call Kendall this because she does something my son never did — sleep!)

Life at home is no walk in the park, so to speak. It's a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week duty which

begins in the wee hours of the morning and ends only when your head hits the pillow at night (if you're lucky.)

To help in my return, however, I made a list of the pros and cons of working outside the home.

#### PROS

- 1) I can spend the entire day without having to enter the laundry room.
- 2) I can have adult conversations with other grown ups who don't care a tinker's darn how hard it is to remove poo-poo stains from baby clothes.
- 3) I can utilize both hands at the same time while eating lunch.
- 4) It's okay to bang around the office without worrying someone may arouse from a much-needed nap (I won't even go there.)
- 5) I can hop in my car without carrying a lot of equipment and having to strap everyone in safely.
- 6) I can talk on the phone without hearing 'mommy can you help me glue this to my sister's head?' or worry about someone choking or screaming (most days.)
- 7) I can enter the washroom alone, at my leisure, without being inundated with questions about polar bears, honey bees and requests to fix Spiderman's arm.
- 8) I earn the coveted paycheque, of course.

#### CONS

- 1) I spend twice as long in the laundry room.
  - 2) I spend twice as long removing stains from baby clothes.
  - 3) I have no time to cat.
  - 4) No one naps at all because everyone, including mom, is a cranky pants after a long day.
  - 5) My car is a mess after I finally make it to the sitter's and throw all the bags, books and belongings onto the seats.
  - 6) I have no time to talk on the phone.
  - 7) I have no time to go to the washroom.
  - 8) My entire paycheque is eaten up by day-care costs.
- Life is as it should be. It's so good to be back!

## Premier left out a lot in speech

Dear Editor,

In response to Mr. Harris' speech Wednesday night, I would like to say it was notable for what it didn't say.

He made no mention of the fact that the passing of Bill 160 will give the government unprecedented power over education in this province.

He made no mention of the fact that this bill will do away with teachers' contracts, and jobs can be terminated with two weeks notice — and that there is no appeal process possible.

He made no mention of the further \$700,000,000 which the government plans to eliminate from the education system, or the thousands of jobs which will be lost.

Mr. Harris did not see fit to mention that the passing of this bill will remove all power from school boards, teachers, trustees, and parents regarding the education of our children.

### LETTERS

The Cabinet alone, with no input from educators, trustees or parents, or even other members of the government, will make decisions about the education of Ontario's children.

No mention was made of the fact that anyone the government chooses can teach our children.

These are chilling prospects indeed, and ones which cannot and should not go unchallenged.

The teachers of this province, in their concern for the future of our children, are doing the only thing left for them to do, and they deserve our support.

Yours sincerely,  
M. E. Gibson

STOUFFVILLE  
TRIBUNE  
WEEKENDER

A Metroland Community  
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