

Son walks line between good and horrid



**From
Where
I Live**

Bruce Stapley

I think Hank Ketchum had our son, Griffin, in mind when he conceived the now-legendary comic strip Dennis the Menace all those years ago.

That thought came to mind when I recently happened across a syndicated Dennis offering. In it the holy terror, clad as always in overalls, is standing on the seat of his little rocking chair in the corner of a room. Obviously, the two have been placed there for disciplinary purposes. Clinging to the chair's upper back section and facing the room in which his parents have sought refuge, he is attempting to implicate his mother and father. "If you're raisin' me right, HOW COME I GET INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE?" he bellows.

The scene reminded me of Griffin's own manipulative tactic of trying to get out of eating his supper by pointing to his time-out step at the bottom of the stairs and insisting he go there on his own in what he hopes will be taken as an act of pure penitence.

Griffin and Dennis even look a little alike. Both have that tousled, sticking-out-all-over-the-place shock of blonde hair. They have a similar bang approach to life, and are seemingly impervious to the constant scratches, bumps and bruises they are forever acquiring.

Griffin turned two this week, the age when all moms and dads begin to wonder just what they were thinking when they decided to give up peaceful dinners with just the two of them, sleeping in on weekends, and orderliness in the house in exchange for an extra branch on the family tree. Griffin has been serving notice for weeks now that he intends to fully fulfill the obligations of the terrible twos. These include throwing sudden tantrums, saying no before even listening to Susan and my desperate pleas for compliance, and attempting to insert his grubby little fingers in his five-year-old brother's eye sockets.

As if on cue, the little fellow staged a mini-tantrum upon my wife Susan's dressing him and bringing him downstairs for his customary morning tea to start off his birthday. He eventually pulled himself together, however, and proceeded to exhibit the other side of his 'little girl with the little curl' dichotomy.

The theme for Griff's birthday was Thomas the Tank Engine, the English railway video series that has proved so popular for tots over the past several years. Susan had worked her usual birthday cake magic. This time, her inspired four-part effort included James the Red Engine, Bertie the Bus, and the Fat Controller.

Upon having the lit-up cake placed down in front of him, Griffin immediately pounced upon the masterpiece, scooping up two handfuls of icing and everything lying underneath. We managed to restrain him, and his mother and a few other relatives demonstrated the art of forcefully extinguishing the candles in a manner he could gleefully imitate. The presents were finally brought out, and with some help from his big brother, Griffin waded through new acquisitions. The loot included a slew of Thomas paraphernalia along with the usual bunny rabbit slippers, cars and theme pajamas.

Griffin, who has so often found himself the butt end of jokes from his mom and dad suggesting his blonde hair may have affected his intelligence level, drew gasps of awe from his grandparents when he immediately and correctly placed all five pieces of a wooden Thomas puzzle into their places.

This impressive little display of innate competence simply served to reinforce what Susan and I have been suspecting for some time now. Just like Dennis the Menace, Griff will always have the last laugh.

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**York
Region**

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

THE COUNCIL OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK PROPOSES TO PASS A BY-LAW AUTHORIZING:

1. STOP UP, CLOSE AND REMOVAL OF THE PLEASANTVILLE CURVE, AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIVIAN ROAD (Y.R.74) FROM HIGHWAY 404 TO WOODBINE AVENUE (Y.R.8), TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE.

- the widening and reconstruction of Vivian Road (Y.R.74) from Highway 404 to Woodbine Avenue (Y.R.8) in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville to a basic width of 36.0 metres;
- the stop up and closure of the Pleasantville curve (Y.R.74A) from Vivian Road (Y.R.74) to Woodbine Avenue (Y.R.8) in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville effective October 1, 1999;
- the removal of the Pleasantville curve (Y.R.74A) which connects Vivian Road (Y.R.74) with Woodbine Avenue (Y.R.8);
- the installation of permanent traffic control signals at the intersection of Vivian Road (Y.R.74) and Woodbine Avenue (Y.R.8);
- the carrying out of all related works and undertakings in connection with the above; and
- the acquisition and disposition of the necessary lands and interests in lands for the works described above.

Pursuant to section 300 of the *Municipal Act*, the Transportation and Works Committee of the Regional Council will, at its meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on the 17th day of June, 1998 in Committee Room "A" at the Regional Administrative Building located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, hear any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard. Anyone wishing to be heard is requested to advise the Office of the Regional Clerk, attention Doris Sue (telephone 895-1231 or 731-0201, ext. 1303). If any party entitled to be heard does not attend at the hearing, the Committee may proceed in his/her absence and he/she will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

The proposed by-law and plans showing the proposed works may be inspected at the office of Brian Harrison, Director, Design and Construction Branch, at the Transportation and Works Department located at the Regional Administrative Building at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket (telephone 895-1200 or 764-6345, ext. 5088).

DATED at Newmarket this 6th day of June, 1998:

DENNIS HEARSE
Regional Clerk
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McGee & Associate is pleased to announce that Laura E. Fryer has joined the firm and will be continuing in her practice in Family Law, Litigation and Employment Law

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