

Reader's page

Blame problems on society, not teens

After reading of the recent shooting and reports of all the vandalism, I then read the statements of the group Counteract in which it is stated that there is little for the local teens to do. One must then ask: why? The only answer must come from the parents and our politicians. They are shirking their duty of representing all of the people of Mississauga.

Let's take a look at the problem. A teen is bored at home on a Friday night after school all week and wants a little fun. His father can go to the nearest plaza and get drunk while he hoots at a stripper, but his son can't. So what is so wrong with a pool hall or pinball arcade? Nothing, except the mentality of Professor Hill and his 76 trombones. There is a lot to be said for a little friendly rivalry with friends around a pool table. These places don't breed trouble but create a little fun, and very cheaply, too. As for an arcade, is there any difference between that and the shuffleboard at the old man's legion? I'd be willing to bet that a lot more money passes hands there than would be spent on a pinball machine.

And what about those grand and glorious monoliths to society as our high schools? Does not every one have an auto shop along with a machine and woodworking shop? Compare the price of weekend supervisors and instructors against that poor man's life flowing out on the sidewalk of the Fieldgate plaza. And, which would you rather have: a teen spend his money on a new carburetor or a little vial of that brown stuff?

I'm sure that when you really stop and take a hard look at the situation, it is not the teens wreaking havoc on society, but the failure of society and our beloved politicians that refuse to stand up and be counted. Many people have made very valid suggestions but those who count are still sitting on their hands refusing to get involved.

What is the problem? Ask them and then do something.

J. Dickson
Homelands Drive

Congrats from Gregory

Congratulations to the staff of The Mississauga Times on being named the best tabloid newspaper in the largest circulation category by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association.

Your conversion last August from

the broadsheet format to tabloid has been most successful.

Mississauga residents are very fortunate to be so well served by The Mississauga Times.

Bud Gregory, M.P.P.
Mississauga East
Chief Government Whip

Lakeshore bad for walkers

There is a lack of pedestrian crossings on the Lakeshore Road, between Dixie Road and Southdown Rd.

During school hours a small number of school crossings are in operation. Between these times a hapless pedestrian must put his life in his feet and pray a thoughtful driver will permit him or her to cross. Otherwise he or she is a lone person amid a sea of cars, which augers instant injury or death. Please look into this matter and correct it.

Another aspect of the Lakeshore is a number of people travel by bicycle and cause havoc due to the narrow road. How about a bicycle path? Is it an impossible dream? Think yourself lucky if neither of these affects you.

Joseph William Lea
Toronto

Libraries have show places

Under the heading Seniors Exhibit at gallery (Mississauga Times, June 13), the art gallery of Erindale College is described as "the only public gallery in Mississauga."

This is not the case. Mississauga Library System has space for art shows in nine of its 11 libraries, and is a member of the Ontario Association of Art Galleries.

Display space is available to local artists and local organizations, as well as for major exhibitions by established artists, so that libraries are also public galleries.

The art gallery of Erindale College is unique in Mississauga in that it has National Exhibition status, which means that it has the air-conditioning, humidity control, lighting, and other physical facilities which enable it to

display irreplaceable works of art.

A Class I gallery with facilities to attract and exhibit major collections is expected to be a part of a new Central library to be built some time in the future.

Meanwhile, Mississauga Library System, Erindale College, and the many artists and art organizations in Mississauga, work together to promote the arts in the city.

Edna Toth
Publicist
Mississauga Library System

Here's what was said

The following letter was sent to Peel Board of Education chairman Bill Kent.

I am writing this letter to try and resolve your expressed concern over a statement that I formally made to the press on Monday, June 11, 1979. Some of the information was used in an article written in The Mississauga Times, June 13, 1979 issue.

As I understand you, the two concerns you have are with the implications in the following portions of the article.

1. Implication that there was a breach of the board's CSA policy in that, I was to have said that "a special public meeting was to be held this spring as required by the board policy."

2. That there was improper procedure in handling the situation.

I will now quote from my formal written statement to the press on June 11, 1979.

"According to the administration's CSA policy, stage two must incorporate a meeting of administration, superintendent, trustee and a select group from the community involved. I must emphatically state that our statement was received by Mr. Quance before the recommendations were tabled in April, 1979 at the planning and building committee, but that myself, president of West Acres P.T.A., president of the Applewood P.T.A. were not consulted or directly involved in preparing the recommendations."

I would like to advise you that a full transcript of my press release can be sent to you if required.

My statement was based on the fact that according to the CSA policy, members or representatives of the community should be involved in discussing the alternatives and give input

to the final recommendations.

Nowhere did I say that a "special public meeting" was to be held, and I am sure it was a misunderstanding on the part of the reporter.

I did say that if it was proven that the procedure followed was improper, this would delay the proceedings one more year, which we as a community, nor the board wants.

One final point I would like to clarify is that the copy of the CSA policy I have in my possession does not state that the stage two committee include members or representatives of the communities involved, but that the policy had been amended to include these individuals. It is my understanding that this very positive change in this policy was not incorporated during the time between February, 1979 and April 1979 and I apologize for my misunderstanding. However, formal policy or not, I strongly feel that there should have been dialogue initiated by the administration and/or our trustee from February 1979 through April 1979.

It was not until June 7, 1979, that we met with yourself, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Leeder; but if you recall, we had to initiate the meeting. I was pleased to see that all concerned individuals were present and after our subsequent meeting on June 11, 1979, I now feel that the board and Mr. Robertson know our position in this most critical matter.

I apologise if I have generated undue pressure and criticism against your board and hope that this letter helps to assure you and all trustees that we are willing to be openminded.

John F. Walmark
Chairman, North Applewood
Homeowners' Association

Taylor go home

I am in receipt of a communication sent to residents of Ward 3 by Larry Taylor, the Councillor in Ward 4.

In this communication, Mr. Taylor endorses and seeks support for Douglas Bennett, a candidate in the upcoming Ward 3 by-election.

The residents of Ward 3 have a history of electing excellent representatives to city hall. Chic Murray became Mayor of Mississauga, Bud Gregory is now an important member of our provincial government and we, the residents of Ward 3, were delighted and proud at the election of Frank Bean to the office of Regional Chairman. All these outstanding men were elected by the people for the people without any interference from councillors in other wards.

Ward 3 residents have proved on numerous occasions that they know how to elect responsible persons to city hall.

Mr. Taylor's foray into Ward 3 politics is possibly motivated by his association with Bennett in the New Democratic Party (NDP). If this be the case, Taylor surely should be aware that party affiliations have no place at city hall and even if they did, he could have chosen a socialist candidate who at least lives in the ward and who had served an apprenticeship (like our former councillors) in the ratepayers' associations working on behalf of Ward 3 residents.

Mr. Taylor would be better served attending to the affairs of the people who elected him, rather than trying to use his name and office to influence the electors of another ward.

K. L. Hartness
Campaign chairman for
Rudy Skjarum
Ward 3

Transit system is 'inhumane'

This letter is written out of frustration and mental anguish in regards to the almost inhumane treatment by the Mississauga Transit System.

I am referring to Route 1 — Dundas St. E. For four consecutive days I have been left standing on the corner of Dundas St. & Constitution Blvd., while the bus at 8:05 a.m. let people out but does not pick passengers up. The driver's excuse is, "there is a bus right behind me." Said bus does not arrive until 8:20 a.m. The same excuse, the next bus arrives at 8:35 a.m. On Tuesday, May 29 even the 8:35 bus driver was giving me the same excuse, which forced me to the very unladylike action of stepping in front of the bus, telling the poor driver, "if I don't go, the bus doesn't go." Needless to say the driver opened the door and gave me a ride to the Islington Subway Station. "50¢ cash."

As the City of Mississauga does not seem to be capable of attracting industries within her boundaries, many of her citizens are forced to seek employment in Toronto. One wonders if industries do not settle "in" our fair city because of poor service — one should think our fair city would at least provide better services for its citizens to get "out" — as well "within."

Maria Ihmer
Constitution Blvd.



But we chose Applewood for the school!

The following letter was sent to school board trustee Bruce Robertson.

On June 19th, my family and I became residents of Applewood Acres. Our children's ages are 6 and 3½ years.

You can well imagine the shock as well as disappointment we felt to learn of the proposed closing of Westacres Public School.

We chose this specific area because of the proximity of the school to our home, as well as the convenience of location in relation to our respective offices, shopping and recreational facilities.

As a parent, I am sure you can appreciate the great concern we have for our children's safety. With the greater proportion of students coming from the Applewood area in this proposed transfer, the odds that something will happen are therefore greater. It frightens me to think of the "odds in favor" of a child being

involved in a motor vehicle accident. We can only pray that our children will not be victims as a result of what appears to be a purely political decision.

It is my understanding that the younger children will be transported by bus to the school location. Does it make any sense to you to bus children from a 1,200-home community as opposed to children from an area half that size?

It is also my understanding that approximately 2/3 of the children who will be attending Sherway Public School are from the Applewood community. Again, I question the rationale behind the Board's decision.

It seems a shame that our children must forfeit the excellent facilities, indoor as well as outdoor, that Westacres has to offer.

Apparently Sherway has an existing mortgage of approximately \$250,000 while Westacres is paid for. Taking into consideration that maintenance must be performed on any structure and that there is only 12 years

difference in age between Sherway and Westacres, why maintain a building with such a large mortgage?

We had the privilege of attending the 25th annual June Fair held recently at Westacres Public School. You commended the organizers on their efforts and told them to keep up the good work. I echo the sentiments of one of the parents when they asked, "How can we?"

Another key factor to take into consideration is that the houses in the Applewood Acres area are in the \$70,000 to \$90,000 range while Sherway homes are well over \$100,000. Thus, Applewood would naturally attract more young families to homes with facilities in the immediate area and also offer a home that is within their income.

I respectfully request that this letter be presented as opposing the closure of Westacres Public School.

Mrs. F. Dianne Cobbett
Guthrie Lane