

The Mississauga News EDITORIALS

A reasonable query

Spiralling costs of education have long gone beyond the point where people feel an easy tolerance toward still further increases.

And no one is more painfully aware of what is happening than school board members who have to deal with the demands of teachers' unions, then answer for it to the taxpayers.

In view of all this, congratulations are in order to Mississauga school board members who presented what they judged was a fair method of saving taxpayers half a million dollars.

Apparently it could be done merely by increasing the secondary school pupil-to-teacher ratio from 17-to-one to 18-to-one.

Chairman Glenn Grice suggested that this was the only flexible item on the budget and that the money thus saved will allow the board a little leeway in negotiating the teachers' salary demands.

The administration didn't take too kindly to this suggestion. They argued that it might be difficult to get good teachers to teach on that ratio.

At this point one of the school board members suggested that teachers will be asking for raises as usual and asked "Aren't they prepared to do a little more work for it?"

Which seems to us to be a perfectly reasonable question.

NHL hockey machine

We are half-way through Minor Hockey Week, a week set aside in recognition of the many tireless men and women who spend countless hours organizing minor hockey for the youngsters.

From time to time we hear from people who would have all this organization eliminated. They contend the kids were much better off when they played shinny on the ponds.

We disagree with these people completely. The program is designed to teach the boys self control and sportsmanship and plays a most useful role in our communities.

Lately, however, it would appear the whole minor hockey movement is destined to become a machine designed to churn out players for the NHL.

Certainly the plans of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association to change age requirements for its leagues would indicate this. If the plans for lowering the maximum age limit become reality then many boys will lose a year of hockey — or be released a year sooner to feed the hungry jaws of the NHL.

But what really bothers us is the spectacle of men fighting over the youngsters' hockey while the pawns in the game, the players themselves, are kicked around helplessly. That the granddaddy of all minor hockey tournaments, the Quebec PeeWee tournament, should almost go down the drain because of the squabble is unforgivable.

Let's keep minor hockey organized, but let's do it for the benefit of the small fry, not for the satisfaction of the adults involved nor for the benefit of big business.



P.O. buries Mississauga in town of Cooksville?

Sir,

I am following your reports about the postal address of Mississauga with great interest. Postmaster Hawke of Cooksville P.O. seems to be quite co-operative, but he can't fight Ottawa, which stated before that the matter will be "studied".

This is the official term used by all three levels of government and, translated from government lingo into plain English, "pigeon-holed" until it is forgotten.

There is only one way to keep the matter going: keep pounding it on your first page. The Canadian mail belongs to the most expensive, most conceited, least efficient and least dependable of the civilized western world.

Not only does slightly-inaccurately addressed mail go astray without any effort of the post office to rectify the inaccuracy, (not every letter writer is a mail expert), but even quite correctly addressed mail goes often wrong. Mail addressed correctly to B e r r y t o n Ave. Toronto 15, is often delivered to Barrington Ave. Toronto 13. If you make out a change-of-address card, chances are it will not be registered at all, and if it is registered, more than 20 percent of the mail is still being delivered to the old address.

Once a letter addressed to Kirby rd., Toronto, came back with the remark, "no such street". I mailed the letter again, pointing out that the street is one block north

of Wilson and one block east of Highway 400.

The letter came back with the same remark: "No such street."

If you get a letter with the warning, "Please do not crush, bend or fold", you can be sure it will be crushed, bent and folded and the contents ruined. A cardboard in the letter is no protection. It would have to be a sheet of steel-armor on both sides of the contents, strong enough to withstand heavy equipment. And I can go on and on.

The Canadian Post Office feels entitled to open and destroy any piece of mail that they don't like. Even "police states" like Nazi Germany had a law securing privacy of mail, declaring clearly that the post office may not open first class mail under any circumstances, with the only exception of a dead letter without sender, and even then only for that one single purpose to attempt to find the address of the sender so that the letter can be returned to him. Why is Canada, which claims to be a free and democratic country, so hypocritical?

We have to tell the Ca-

nadian Post office in no uncertain terms that it has absolutely only one single duty and obligation: forwarding mail. And absolutely nothing else. It has no qualification and/or business with censorship; it has no right to insist on the use of postal addresses which are different from the official description of the locality; it may recommend quotations of zip-code numbers, RR numbers, post office names — if the delivering post office is located outside of the small municipality the mail is addressed to.

But all this may never be more than recommendations for the sake of expediency and never, never, never under any circumstances a condition for delivering, with the penalty of not delivering if the address does not comply with the whim of the post office.

After all, the post office is here to serve the people and not the other way around.

The people who write the addresses usually were never in the place where the letter goes to and may not know the proper postal address. A non-delivery if the addressee can be located is a discrimination against the sender who has paid the postage and may be handicapped in one way or another.

If the post office is willing to accept these conditions it is fine. If not, we may need new legislation and the whole government has to be bombarded with requests, complaints, warnings (about

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losing votes in the next election) to put the post office management into its right place.

I just received a note from the municipality-informing me about the proper mailing address: Town of Mississauga, Cooksville, Ont. Can you think of anything more ridiculous than that?

So the Town of Mississauga is in Cooksville! It is like wearing your jacket inside out, with the lining exhibited to the outside world!

Of course, the post office won't move if they can get away with it and, thanks to the Canadian Post Office, Mississauga will remain a freak and laughing stock.

This would be the more regrettable, as I found Toronto Township to be the friendliest, most pleasant and most sensible municipality I found up to now.

Hypocrisy and lack of common-sense is the main trouble in Canadian governments of all three levels and it was a real relief to find a township with not a trace of it, but rather a smooth and sensible running administration which I admired.

I hope sincerely that the small town of Mississauga will not get lost in the big place of Cooksville, where the Canadian Post Office is trying to bury it

Sincerely yours,
Eberhard Matuschka

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