

School board offers empty arguments

re: High school closure process

Well, the verdict is in. Westmount is exclusive, er, excluded from the ARC process.

The school is old, in terrible shape and gets more than 80 per cent of its students from the other Mountain schools' catchments.

In its defence, an impassioned, fist-smacking argument of "that's the way

we set it up," following the Edmonton model of 20 years ago.

No facts as to its effectiveness, but an argument, which was basically a raised voice, that "it can't be moved."

And tellingly, no comments, not a peep, from the high-paid minds at 100 Main St. West who made the recommendation. They just sat quietly by as the board kept open the loophole creat-

ed for schools in far different circumstances, that are in far better shape, that have local students facing overcrowding.

This is no way to run an inclusionary, visionary process that is to involve the whole community, one that is to impact students for the next 20-plus years.

**Tony Gzik
Hamilton Mountain**

Remember Henderson on Women's Day

re: Nora-Frances Henderson

March 8 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of International Women's Day. A century ago, in addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded the right to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.

Consistent with anniversary celebrations, International Women's Day 2011 will provide an opportunity to reflect upon women's accomplishments over the past 100 years.

While women have made significant gains in many areas of social life we continue to lag behind in the political arena. Nowhere is this more obvious than on Hamilton City Council.

Hamilton voters have never elected a woman to the mayor's office and there

has never been more than three women on council during one term except when the city was part of regional government.

This is in spite of a woman having paved the way for other women with the election of Nora-Frances Henderson as the first woman elected to Hamilton City Council in 1931 and then being the first woman elected to a Board of Control of a municipality in Canada in 1935.

Her life represented a life of service advocating for women and children, but her contribution was not significant enough to have her name remain on the hospital that was named in her honour. Perhaps on International Women's Day our attention could be directed at remembering the contribution of women like Nora-Frances. Gone but not forgotten.

**Pat Saunders
Hamilton Mountain**

Board should comply, then it can complain

re: School board cries foul over city parkland fees (Feb. 17)

Board chair Judith Bishop is upset the City of Hamilton has not exempted the school board from its standard five percent parkland fee on development. This fee is designed to provide cash to purchase parkland for public use in neighborhoods across the city.

Let's look at the reality and a common example:

The public school board operates a public school. The city often maintains these school lands over the years and does not charge for that service. The residents consider the lands to be a park. The school board decides the school is no longer viable (often a controversial neighborhood decision) and is offered for sale.

The city is offered the land at a price that matches what a developer might pay for single-family zoned lands. Not parkland prices, but the maximum

price that lands could be developed for.

Because the school board never zoned the lands for parks, even though that was the use, developers can then easily buy the land and build, no zoning changes needed. No public meetings, no OMB appeal by residents allowed.

Suddenly neighbours find the school board had sold the land and houses will be built where their park was before.

As bad as that sounds, the chair of the board now insists that they should not, like everyone else, pay a fee to help replace that park.

If the school board wants a co-operative relationship with the city, perhaps it might consider actually zoning their lands for their proper use and, considering that the city paid for maintenance over many years, offering those properly zoned lands to the city as a better option.

**John Norris
Hamilton**

Farmers market changes don't live up to hype

re: Hamilton Farmers Market

Narrow aisles, cramped conditions, stairs that lead into a wall.

Does this sound like a tour through the Haida? It does in a way, but it also describes the "new" farmers market in

downtown Hamilton.

After many months and millions of dollars, is this what they meant by hip and trendy? If it is, you can have it.

**Carl W. Ambridge
Hamilton Mountain**

The silver-haired head is a crown of glory

The headline above is a Bible verse paraphrased from the Book of Leviticus. It reaffirms the fact that our elderly friends, neighbours and family are an orchard of information just waiting to be harvested.

The younger generation, though, has neglected this fact. As they roam through life — stumbling, wondering, questioning — our elders sit like an unopened book. It's time we turned the

page. It's time we turned the

page. It's time we turned the page. Our native friends had it right all along. Walter Cooke, an Ojibway-Cree of the Bear Clan and elder at De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre, speaks to youth on a regular basis and tells a story of a young boy who was asked by his father to take his dying grandfather into the bush and keep him warm with a blanket. The boy then returned with half the blanket. When his father asked why, he replied, "It's for you when you die."



**LUCIO PALAZZO
COMMUNITY COLUMNIST**

Recently, I read Pat Moore's book, "Disguised: One Woman's Journey into the Future," published in 1985. Ms. Moore, an industrial designer and gerontologist, dressed as a woman of 80

when she was just 26 years old. She spoke, just over a year ago, at St. Peter's Healthcare and I was fortunate to be in attendance.

For three years she travelled to over 100 cities to experience how the elderly are treated.

Well, you probably know how that turned out. She wasn't treated well at all. With few exceptions, for the most part she was ignored and not seen as having value — she was a nuisance, an annoyance, in the way. As Rabbi Bernard

For three years she travelled to over 100 cities to experience how the elderly are treated. Well, you probably know how that turned out.

Baskin says in his book "The Essential Bernard Baskin," the aged are "too often pushed into the background."

Why is it that we overlook the obvious fact that this segment of the population is of immense value, that they are underutilized.

I can recall many times when I just happened to be sitting and chatting with an elderly person and learning something from them every time.

"How much more I could learn if I sought them out?" I thought.

These brilliant members of society, with a lifetime of wisdom, are just waiting for

someone to say, "Please, tell me more!"

Native elders teach by example and share knowledge like what is means to s m u d g e . Smudge contains cedar, sage, tobacco and

and sweetgrass for curing illness, giving thanks, patching up old hurts and helping bring minds together as one, respectively. And when they make a decision they think

about how this decision will affect the next seven generations — instilling in youth the fact that one must care about those that come after us.

I'm 44 years old. I'm young enough to know that I still don't know — and old enough to know that my head is getting greyer and to give thought to the type of life I want in

my later years. Gordon Neufeld, a Hamiltonian who runs a workshop called "The Best Half" redefines retirement and refers to it as "re-invention."

So, don't worry if you don't have the answers. Look for someone a little older and greyer, that's a sign of a lifetime of experience. Seek them out ... have a seat ... stay a while. You'll leave with more wisdom, and leave them with a smile.

Lucio Palazzo is a Mountain resident.
If you would like to write in this space, call editor Gord Bowes at 905-523-5800 ext. 335 to discuss your idea.

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ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Last week's question

Hamilton councillor Sam Merulla would like to see a storm water tax on large, big box properties in an effort to raise money for infrastructure improvements. Do you agree?

The Results

Community	Yes	No
Ancaster News	12.5%	87.5%
Dundas Star News	0%	100%
Mountain News	33%	67%
Stoney Creek News	40%	60%
Overall	23%	77%

Vote online for this week's question: The Ontario government says hydro rates must increase to support needed upgrades to the province's aging energy infrastructure. Do you agree with this justification for rate increases?

www.ancasternews.com
www.dundasstarnews.com
www.hamiltonmountainnews.com
www.stoneycreeknews.com

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