

VALLEY EAST TODAY

Community Lifestyle Magazine

www.valleyeasttoday.ca and www.thelearningclinic.ca



Welcome To *Valley East*
◆ Peace ◆ Plenty ◆ Progress Ontario, Canada

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Enduring Life's Challenges Will Give You The Strength To Reach Your Treasure

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Robert Kirwan, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

4456 Noel Crescent, Val Therese, ON P3P 1S8

For Editorial Submissions or to inquire about advertising and marketing packages:

Phone: (705) 969-7215 or email: rkirwan@infocomcanada.com

www.valleyeasttoday.ca

This Is Valley East

"Where People Make The Difference"



From the Desk of the Publisher/Editor-in-Chief Robert Kirwan

The Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine is a weekly publication that is designed to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of the "people making a difference in the community of Valley East."

It is a "lifestyle" magazine that will contain a variety of articles and features that will be of interest to people from all walks of life and of all ages.

We also intend to use the magazine to help local residents become more aware of the goods and services that are available to them from businesses, professional offices, and institutions that serve the community.

Open Invitation To Schools, Groups and Organizations To Submit Articles

Valley East Today welcomes articles and photos from schools, groups, churches, and organizations. Simply send me your story along with a photo or two and we will gladly publish it in one of our weekly magazines.

We were fortunate for so many years to be served by The Vision Paper, but now that it is no longer operating, the Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine is the only publication dedicated to the Town of Valley East. We have decided to deliver the magazine through email subscription instead of putting in print because there are so many advantages of using the internet.

For one thing, your stories and articles will be archived on the web site www.valleyeasttoday.ca so that they can be accessed indefinitely. This is far better than having your article published in a print newspaper because once the paper gets thrown out you have lost the story and can usually never get it back.

We have also decided to publish Valley East Today in a PDF format so that our readers are able to forward the attachment to all of their family and friends around the world. The public has been very happy with this decision and we look forward to providing them with even more in the form of content from the community.

Corporate Marketing Program Now Available To Local Business Sector

In addition to publishing stories and articles from local groups and organizations, Valley East Today will become the best way for businesses and professional offices to communicate with their prime market.

Each week Valley East Today is sent directly to approximately 5000 different email addresses. The people who receive the publication are known to forward the attachment to an indeterminate number of other friends and acquaintances, with estimates of up to 20,000 people being sent Valley East Today each week. This is a huge distribution for the advertising rates that are charged for this service.

I think that most businesses will find our rates very affordable, so I encourage you to consider purchasing advertising from Valley East Today and allow us to deliver information about the goods and services you have available for local residents.

TO VIEW THE LAST EDITION OF VALLEY EAST TODAY CLICK BELOW:

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/PDF%20Version/Valley%20East%20Today%20Online%20-%202010%20August%2027.pdf>

REFLECTIONS

by Robert Kirwan



Enduring Life's Challenges Will Give You The Strength To Reach Your Treasure

The other day I was having a conversation with a friend about how the younger generation today seems to expect to have everything handed to them on a silver platter. Not all young people fall into this category, but it is clear that many teenagers and young adults seem to feel as if they are “entitled” to things that previous generations had to work hard to achieve. If you know anyone who belongs to this “entitled generation” give them a copy of the following story.



One day, a long time ago, a young man went to visit the oldest and wisest man in the village for some advice on how he could become rich and famous. The wise elder

listened to the young man tell of his dreams and of his ambition to achieve success beyond that which anyone had ever imagined.

“Fame and fortune is yours to be had at the top of yonder mountain,” advised the wise man, as he pointed to a tall mountain in the distance. “You must travel on foot to the top of the mountain. There you will find riches beyond your belief. When you arrive there you will have but one chance to claim the treasure for yourself. Once you leave the top of the mountain, whatever remains will be lost forever.” The young man was very excited and could hardly wait until the morning when he was to meet with the wise old man for final instructions. In the morning when he arrived at the wise old man’s home, the young man saw a long, thick log lying on the ground in front of the house.

“What is that for?” asked the puzzled young man.

“You must carry this log on your journey to the top of the mountain,” explained the wise old man.



“But why?” the young man questioned. “What use is this log? It weighs so much and will slow me down on my journey. I want to claim my fortune quickly.”

The wise old man merely looked at the young man, and then down at the heavy log, and quietly said, “The log is a necessary part of the journey. You must take it with you to the top of the mountain to claim your treasure.”

The young man was not pleased with this sudden surprise, but he respected the wise old man and as he lifted the long, heavy log onto his shoulders and struggled down the road towards the mountain he realized that the trip would not be as easy as he thought.

After he was walking for a while, a woodsman came up to him and said, “It looks like that log is pretty heavy. Would you like me to cut some of it off to make it lighter?”

The young man was exhausted and with so much of the journey yet to be travelled, was afraid that he would never make it up the mountain with the heavy burden, so he said, "I suppose that a little bit cut off the end wouldn't hurt. Thanks for your help". And the woodsman cut eight inches off the end.

The young man continued to struggle up the mountain and finally he arrived at the top. There at the very peak of the mountain was the most beautiful treasure he had ever seen. This was his dream. All that stood between him and his treasure was a wide opening in the earth which surrounded the mountain peak. The crevice was very deep and there was only one way to get across the opening. Now it became clear to the young man why the wise old man had given him this log to carry on his journey.

The excited young man lay the log across the gap and discovered to his dismay that it was eight inches too short to span the distance. The eight inches that he had allowed to be cut off to lighten his load on his journey to his treasure. As he turned despondently to walk down the mountain side, he looked back with tearful eyes and saw his treasure slowly disappear.

The young man learned a lesson that for many of us comes too late in life. Our dreams and our treasures are within our reach, but in order to get them we must first of all experience the struggles it takes to get there. Only then will we have what it takes to finally reach out and claim our treasure at the end of the journey. If we lighten the load too much along the way, our treasure may end up just out of reach. The next time you find yourself struggling with life's challenges, remember that it will be all worth it when you finally reach the top of the mountain to claim your reward.

Valley Community Theatre Announces Auditions For Next Production

The Valley Community Theatre Group is looking for people from the community who would like to audition for parts in their upcoming production, "The Twelve Daze of Christmas". Auditions will be held September 15 and 16 at 6:30 p.m. each night at Confederation Secondary School, rear entrance.

If you would like more information about the auditions please call 675-6167 or email:

[**vctheater@gmail.com**](mailto:vctheater@gmail.com)

"Be careful what you spend your day touching because it will shape your mind, your body, and your heart."

Sam Keen, Speaker and Author

Annual Tour of Homes To Take Place September 15

The Elizabeth Fry Chapter IODE will host its annual "Tour of Homes" on Wednesday, September 15th, 2010 from 1pm till 8:00pm.

There will be five very different homes featured this year.

Ken Hayes, an architect, and his brother Brad, owner of Comics North have redesigned their traditional bungalow with a better use of space in mind, keeping it functional, unusual, practical and minimalist. Ken has purchased on e-bay furniture by famous Italian designers from the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's giving the home a unique look.



Amber Salach, an intern architect, and Matthew Schultze, a carpenter, have completely gutted their two-story home that was built in 1927. They have used an open concept style of decorating employing unique materials such as lyptus wood for baseboards, porcelain tiles for countertops, walls, and flooring all in different textures and colours and cocobolo wood for the headboard of their bed. Being young, creative and innovative they strove to reuse, recycle and reclaim what they could from the original house but used in a different format. The result is an attractive, modern, interesting and inviting home.

OWNERS OF LOCAL STORE IN TOUR

Andrea and Todd Irwin have converted an 1898 log home, formerly known by many as the Whitson Creek Gallery, into their home. They love to collect antiques and

have many on display. Their children's rooms are unique and a source of many decorating ideas. Todd and Andrea are the owners of a very popular store, Gallery & Brew Shop, which is located at the Hanmer Valley Shopping Centre.

Sherry & Mike Brouzes live on Ramsey Lake, with a manicured landscaped exterior, complete with a hot tub, a gazebo and a "million dollar" view. Inside, the home is perfect for entertaining with its open concept design and inviting conversational areas.

The Becker home has a blue Cape Cod exterior and is decorated to the nine's. It has a fox hunt theme in the living and dining areas. Eila has painted the kitchen cupboards blue, accented with wood countertops and Delft tiles are imbedded in the white backsplash. Toile de jouy wallpaper with matching bedspread defines the master bedroom. Eila Becker can be found in "Canadian Homes and Cottages" magazine in "Ask the Decorator".

Tickets will go on sale in August for \$20 from A Touch of Class, Barrydowne Paint and Wallpaper, El Mercado in Chelmsford, Flower Towne, Forget-Me-Not Flowers, Gallery & Brew in Hanmer, Helvi's Flower House, Lougheed Flowers and Rosery Florist. Proceeds from the tour will go towards local charities. For more information call Mary at 524-0606 or email Mary Bess at mbguy80@hotmail.com.

Quality of Life Articles by Kevin Shanahan



The following is one of the articles that have been written by Kevin Shanahan a local writer who has been battling cancer for a number of years. He shares his thoughts about life in the hope of providing inspiration to others who are dealing with this dreadful disease as well as other challenges in life. Kevin has provided us with a selection of over fifty different articles that Kevin has written for us so that our readers may share some of his inspirational words.

Attitude Change,

When cancer struck, I was in the best shape of my life. I was walking 5 miles a day, working with weights and was down to a muscled 195 lbs. My regiment was nearly nonstop. Gardening, landscaping, under-brushing, felling trees, golfing, socializing were all part of any given day. All labors of love. Removal of my right lung with 2 months of recovery, then 4 months of chemotherapy robbed me of all muscle mass. It took another 8 months to rebuild myself. This past FEB. I was at 220 lbs. Too heavy for a man my height, with both lungs. I increased the walks, the workouts and backed away from the table. Spring arrives and I get back to my old, non-stop, regiment. I lose 20 lbs., and feel good, only to have it all come crashing down.

I crashed physically, and mentally. It was a fatigue like no other. It was as bad as the fatigue during chemotherapy, but it had its own uniqueness. It brought its own set of symptoms, its own mental retardation that set of a flood of "what if's the cancer is back". It was like being in a fight with a much stronger opponent. My being "stronger" wasn't going to cut it. I had to be "smarter" to win. It took me two weeks to recover. Well meaning friends remind

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me I'm 60. I say, so what, I'll live now and age later. Considering, though, I am getting older and with chronic bronchitis in my remaining lung, I need to make lifestyle changes.

Many years ago, I kept an article that featured "Twelve Prescriptions for the Millennium" by American Jesuit missionary, Robert Ronald. Now, I need to put all these rules to practice. It's the best prescription I have ever had. I don't feel these rules are just for aging. After "any" critical illness we need to adjust to our bodies limitations.

Rule 1; Look your troubles in the eye. Problems not faced do not go away. Life is a roller coaster of ups and downs. Anticipate each dip, and prepare for it.

Rule 2; Never say you can't, but do say you won't. Neither be so discouraged that you quit, nor so stubborn you won't stop. Troubles come sooner and last longer for those who wear themselves out.

Rule 3; For whatever you can no longer do, substitute something else. There is nothing more refreshing than a good nap, as long as it's followed by waking up. Find a way to slow down without stopping.

Rule 4; Don't hide. If you want your special needs attended to, you have to make them known. Do not be ashamed of your limitations.

Rule 5; Claim your rights and privileges, such as the right to refuse to eat more, the privilege of resting and pacing your activities, the right to assistance, the privilege of cutting back on your work, and so on.

Rule 6; Be humble enough to accept help, and proud enough to ask for it. Do not be ashamed to ask for what you need. Accept help graciously.

Rule 7; Always offer a helping hand and a comforting ear. Stay interested in the world around you. Concern for others lightens your own concerns.

Rule 8; Put anger, sadness and regret behind you. It's perfectly OK to feel anger at the pain and distress of growing old. It isn't OK to stay angry. It's perfectly OK to mourn the closing of chapters in your life. It isn't OK to mourn the rest of your life. It's OK to regret all things you could or should have done differently. It isn't OK not to forgive yourself or others. Don't let your anger today spill over into tomorrow. Look back without regret, and forward without dread.

Rule 9; Always look for the bright side. We win or lose by how we interpret and react to everything that happens. Winning is rejoicing in what you have left. Losing is seeing only what you have lost.

Rule 10; Take every day as it comes, and give it all you've got. The thing to be afraid of is not what you fear, but letting the fear keep you from going on.

Rule 11; Enjoy what each day brings. Be open with wonder and excitement to new experiences, even those that come with decline. Enjoy the ride down, even when you know there is no going back up.

Rule 12; Stir up the tiger in your tank. Your body will still be the same old jalopy, but life will have more oomph and satisfaction.

I'll use these rules to adapt with aging, with changes that were brought on by cancer and I'll do it One Day At A Time. A lot of my friends did not get the privilege.

FOR MORE OF KEVIN SHANAHAN'S EDITORIALS CLICK HERE >>

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/kevinshanahan.htm>

Valley East May Be Losing Another Ball Field in Blezard Valley Because of Housing Development

Close to 300 minor baseball players use the fields behind the Senator Rheel Belisle Community Centre in Blezard Valley. Because a new development is starting to edge its way towards the fields, rumours are starting that concern the players and their parents.

City officials have assured residents that before any decision is made on the ball fields public consultation will be held, but that is not relieving any concern among ratepayers.

"We've seen what happens during public consultations," stated one angry father. "They have their minds made up and then hold a public meeting so that they can say they heard from the people. Public consultations don't accomplish a thing in this city."

Several parents pointed out a couple of comments that have been made recently by city officials that are cause for concern.

The first was a comment by Cindy Dent, recreation manager for the City of Greater Sudbury who stated that the games will continue as scheduled until the end of this current season and then officials will decide what to do for next season.

Eliza Bennett of corporate communications for the City of Greater Sudbury stated that the fields might not be closed, but that the games will be relocated to another place in the community. To anxious parents that means the same as closing the fields.

The fields in Blezard Valley have been an integral part of the minor ball and adult ball community for almost 40 years. A petition has been circulated among parents requesting the city begin building new fields in a new location immediately.

Dan Beaudry, president of the Valley East Minor Baseball Association stated that any closure will have a detrimental affect on his association.

He stated that Minor Ball uses five different fields in Valley East. These two fields hosted over 150 games this summer alone. The adult softball leagues also use the fields on some weekends for special tournaments, so they will be affected as well.

Meetings are expected to be held with Councillor Ron Dupuis, however, Dupuis mentioned that the development has been planned for a long time now, indicating that there might not be much he can do about the situation.

Action Sudbury will be bringing with them educational apparatus' that will be used for the audience throughout the night to demonstrate the impaired judgment when drinking alcohol.

Our MC for the evening will be a SURPRISE community celebrity. He will be giving out prizes for those participating in some fun awareness games. Cousin Vinny's will be providing DJ Da Firewall to keep people up and dancing all night long!

Action Sudbury depends on community based fundraising initiatives to continue educating and spreading awareness. Their organization saves lives. Come out and be part of the revolution!

For more information on Action Sudbury or Cousin Vinny's log onto www.actionsudbury.org or www.cousinvinnys.ca

Preventative measures will be in place for the evening. Transportation will be provided for everyone by Cousin Vinny's, 'DD' bracelets will be provided to all upon entrance to the bar, extra security inside and outside the venue in order to ensure no one drives home under the influence.

Canadian Federation of Independent Business Survey Gives Failing Grade To City Council & Staff

When it comes to meeting the needs of small business owners and operators, the City of Greater Sudbury Council and staff are definitely not doing a good job according to the results of a survey conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

A total of 95 businesses in Greater Sudbury participated in a face-to-face survey between July 2009 and June 2010.

Business owners were asked to rate the local government on a number of issues, with Sudbury coming out with the worse results in all of northern Ontario.

When it comes to an overall awareness of the small business sector, a total of 68% gave the City a poor rating while only 6% said the City had a good awareness.

Other results from the survey were as follows:

Reasonable property tax levels:

9% said good, 27% said adequate and 64% said poor;

Fairness of bylaws and regulations:

16% said good, 40% said adequate and 44% said poor;

Control of government wage levels:

4% said good, 14% said adequate and 82% said poor;

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In Ontario each year over 30,000 people are charged with impaired driving offences. That's one person every 17.5 minutes. Over 41,000 driver's licenses are currently under suspension as a result of impaired driving convictions.

In response to these alarming statistics and in an effort to raise public awareness Cousin Vinny's is joining forces with Action Sudbury for a night of music, dancing, information and fun! Cousin Vinny's will be hosting an event on September 18th, 2010 at their establishment in the Hanmer Valley Shopping Centre. All individuals who choose to come out and support the cause will be given a ride home free of charge to enforce the message! There will be a small cover charge at the door which will be donated to Action Sudbury.

Value-for-money of public services:
7% said good, 30% said adequate and 63% said poor.

With the municipal election on the horizon, candidates will certainly be asked to explain their positions on these and other issues. However, we must remember that these levels of dissatisfaction do not come about overnight. This is the result of a continuous pattern of government from councilors who have all at one time or another pledged to improve the relations with small business and who have all praised small business as being the backbone of the community.

And yet, when the votes are counted and it comes time to deliver, obviously the councilors and City staff are falling far short when it comes to meeting the needs of small business owners and operators.

Candidates For Wards 5 & 6 As Well As Candidates For Trustee Positions Invited To Use Valley East Today

In an effort to provide candidates a means of communicating with their constituents, all people who have submitted their names for positions on City Council or for one of the School Boards will be given an opportunity to purchase advertising space in Valley East Today during the election campaign.

Publisher, Robert Kirwan explained, "We are hoping that the candidates take advantage of this opportunity to deliver their messages directly to their constituents. This is one of the most important campaigns ever for the City of Greater Sudbury and all of the School Boards, so we will do whatever we can through Valley East Today to help keep you informed about how candidates feel about the issues at hand."

A special election section will be introduced in the next edition of the Valley East Today Community Lifestyle Magazine. In this section you will be able to read about the platforms of the candidates who decide to use Valley East Today to get their message across to voters.

Municipal elections generally receive the lowest voter turnout of all three levels of government, and yet they are the most important as far as the day-to-day impact is concerned on people's lives. And in fact, one could argue that the school board elections are the most important of all. Decisions and policies that are education related have a huge effect on the entire family. Unfortunately, the interest in elections for trustees is traditionally very low, with most voters not having any idea about their local school board

representatives. This year we are hoping to change all of that through Valley East Today.

We are also going to be encouraging readers to send in questions and comments. Your questions will be posted in Valley East Today for response from local candidates. A section will be included on the community web site at www.valleyeasttoday.ca for local candidates who wish to purchase advertising space in this publication during the 2010 campaign.

Pete Chenier Takes Aim At Andre Rivest In Ward 6 Council Race

As of the latest information available at the time of publication, the race for the Council seat in Ward 6 looks as if it will be a head-to-head battle between Pete Chenier, a popular local business owner and incumbent Andre Rivest. Chenier is expected to make the campaign interesting to say the least. Both the Chenier's and Rivest's have long-time historical roots in the Ward 6 communities so this campaign should shake things up in Hanmer and Val Therese.

The race for Ward 5 still only has Ron Dupuis listed, but it is expected that another candidate will emerge in the final week.

The race for Mayor contains eight candidates, but most are expecting that either Mayor John Rodriguez or Councillor Ted Callaghan will emerge as the eventual winner.

The Sudbury Catholic District School Board will have a new trustee in Zone 3 (Wards 5 & 6) for the next four years with the retirement of George Middleton. Michael Bellemore and Geraldine Meskell are vying for the seat.

Robert Kirwan has just announced that he will be running against Ruth Ward in Area 3 (Wards 5 & 6) for the Rainbow District School Board. Kirwan operates a private practice as an independent education & career development consultant in Valley East. More will be found about his candidacy later on in this publication.

Jean-Marc Aubin and Claude Giroux are the only candidates listed for Areas 9 and 10 respectively for the public French Language school board so there is no race there as of yet.

Georges Boudreau and Marcel Legault are the only ones listed for Wards 5 & 6 with the French Catholic School Board.

The deadline for registering is September 10, so if anyone is still thinking about entering one of the races, time is running out.

The Learning Clinic

Education & Career Development Section

www.thelearningclinic.ca

Jean Hanson, Retired Director of Education With The Rainbow District School Board Shares Her Thoughts About Education on The Learning Clinic Radio Show



“My most significant responsibility as director has been to make a difference in the lives of students through our employees on the front lines and those who work diligently behind the scenes supporting their efforts.”

Those were the words of Jean Hanson, recently retired Director of Education with the Rainbow District School Board as she reflected upon her role as Director. Jean was the special guest on The Learning Clinic Radio Show on August 30, 2010 as she and host Robert Kirwan shared their comments and insights into the world of education as it has evolved since the early 1970's. Hanson began her career as a classroom teacher in 1970 at the Borough of York and retired as Director of Education for the largest school board in Northern Ontario at the end of July 2010 – a period of 40 years.

On a personal level, Jean Hanson is married to her husband, Bob they have two children: Jessica, a teacher in New Zealand, and Russell, a student in concurrent education at Laurentian University. Jean will be teaching one of the programs at Laurentian University this fall.

Since joining the Sudbury Board of Education in 1976, she has served as a classroom teacher, a special education consultant, a principal, a superintendent, and then in 2004 she accepted the appointment as the board's first female Director of Education in.

She has made her mark on Rainbow Schools and will long be remembered for her focus on student success through character development, special education, cultural understanding, education for sustainable development, the revitalization of Rainbow Schools, and early learning. Jean has also been an instructor at Nipissing University, a member of the Governing Council of the Ontario College of Teachers, and an instructor for the Principal's Qualification Program and the Supervisory Officer's Qualification Program.

She has also authored a number of publications, including *Learning Together: Building Collaborative Cultures in Our Schools*, the *Principal as a Lifelong Learner* and the *Exceptional Student in the Community School*.

During the show, Jean talked about her own challenges in the different roles she occupied during her career. She shared her personal feelings about the satisfaction that came from fulfilling her

responsibilities in each successive role, always indicating that she longed to be able to do whatever she could to enhance the quality of education of all children by supporting the front-line classroom teachers.

Discussion also centered on some of the issues and challenges that new teachers will be facing as they start out on their career. Trends and developments that will have an impact on the future of education were mentioned throughout the interview.

This is a great three-hour interview that will be enjoyed by anyone who is interested in education, and is especially helpful for people who are thinking about a career in education. It will provide you with some great insight into what the future will hold and contains some very practical suggestions and recommendations that will help you become a successful educator. You can listen to Jean Hanson's interview at the following link

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/thelearningclinic/Radio%20Show/radiohome.htm#jeanhanson>

Young Leaders On Board Program Being Offered Through The United Way



The Sudbury United Way/Centraide is introducing a new initiative called the Young Leaders on Board Program. The purpose of the Program is to enable young adults, aged 18-29, to serve on boards of directors of nonprofit organizations as INTERNS. The Program provides both this experiential component as well as in-class training.

For the purposes of the program, a board of directors is a group of volunteers who have been elected to

govern an organization. Boards usually focus on the “big picture” and long term issues, while staff focus on day-to-day issues. All boards make decisions around policy, finances, goals and the overall direction of the organization.

The benefits of participating in the program are:

- Gain networking experiences
- Acquire new skills
- Influence how decisions are made and make a difference
- Gain knowledge on a wide variety of topics in a fun learning environment
- Meet other young people interested in leadership

The time requirements vary from agency to agency. Most boards meet once a month for approximately 2 hours. After the initial interviews, there will be a one day orientation for Young Leaders on Board participants. Subsequent months will require a commitment of 6 hours to attend both the board meeting and the monthly training session.

Training sessions will be provided with the following topics to be covered:

- Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest
- Role of the Board
- Board Models
- Leadership Styles
- Meeting Management
- Legal Issues
- Financial Statements
- Policy Development
- Community Relations

Anyone interested in applying for the program can simply contact Linda Dupuis at the following email address:

programs@unitedwaysudbury.com

You can also phone 560-3330 ext 222.

The application deadline is September 13, 2010 for the Program running from October 2010 through March 2011. You will be contacted for an interview.

GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK TO LISTEN TO LINDA DUPUIS' INTERVIEW ON THE LEARNING CLINIC RADIO SHOW

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/thelearningclinic/Radio%20Show/radiohome.htm>

The Extent of Fund-Raising & User Fees Cause Some Concern in Education Circles

A report out of Toronto has caused quite a stir across the province, although the results should come as no surprise to parents of school-age children.

Most school boards in the province are facing a financial crunch as their expenses increase at a faster rate than the funding they receive from the government. As a result schools are being forced to reach out to the community for funds. The report indicated that 15% of all school councils have indicated that they are even fundraising for renovations, additions or upgrades to their schools.

The report which was done by People for Education discovered that school boards raised \$592 million during the 2008-2009 school year from a “combination of fees, fundraising, vending machines, donations from businesses and other revenue sources.”

The rules which govern fundraising and student fees are under review by the province. However, generally, students cannot be asked to pay for anything that they “require” for their course of studies. If it is required for the course, then it must be provided.

According to the Ministry, fees cannot be charged for textbooks, course materials or registration. However, they can be charged for voluntary activities such as extracurricular sports, yearbooks or field trips. The key here is “voluntary”. Therefore, if a class is planning a field trip during the day and there is a small “fee” for the trip, parents are free to choose to pay the fee or not.



Basically, if you require material, products or equipment to complete any course, then you cannot be charged. This is why children are provided with pencils, notebooks, etc. by the schools each year. All students have the right to attend school

without the payment of fees.

This is something that is going to be given a great deal of attention in the coming years since many boards and schools within school boards are “stretching” the limits with some of their demands. In all cases, if a parent comes into the school and refuses to pay a fee or charge, the school cannot hold anything against the parent or child. Yet the peer pressure to “go along” with the majority is tremendous.

School boards from across the Greater Toronto area raised anywhere from \$183 to \$411 per student during the 2008-2009 school year from fees, fundraising, and vending machines.

Locally, the Rainbow District School Board raised about \$4 million, which works out to just over \$250 for every one of their 15,000 students.

The Sudbury District Catholic School Board reported raising over \$2.5 million for its 6,600 students for an average of over \$350 per student.

The two French Language school boards are expected to be very near to the amount raised by the Sudbury District Catholic School Board.

What was particularly upsetting about the report was the percentage of Ontario high schools that are charging student fees for workbooks, materials, software and other items for classes in the following subject areas:

Art: 56%	Phys ed: 36%
Design/tech: 33%	Music: 23%
Family studies: 22%	Languages: 16%
Science: 13%	Business: 7%

The beginning of the new school year will undoubtedly bring the usual chocolate bar sales, so parents are warned to be ready for another year of fund-raising. If you do have any questions or concerns about the fees being charged in your school, call your principal right away.

EQAO Testing Causing Concern Among Both Parents and Teachers

The beginning of another school year always generates discussion about EQAO testing. While many parents and teacher organizations are against the testing program, it appears as if this is something that is going to



remain with us for some time yet.

The testing program costs some \$32 million annually and issues tests to about 500,000 students in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 10. Students in Grades 3 and 6 are tested

in math, reading and writing; Grade 9 students are tested in math, and Grade 10 students must pass a literacy test in order to graduate from high school.

The latest results show that 68% of the students in Grades 3 and 6 are meeting the provincial standards in reading, writing and math. The Provincial Standard is what we would call a “B” grade level.

Sam Hammond, president of the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario, has said the tests are costly, stress students out and force teachers to focus narrowly on literacy and numeracy and spend less time on other subjects that aren’t tested. They are also misused to rank schools, and some experts say they are overused by schools as they create improvement plans.

Rainbow District School Board Announces Principal Appointments of Interest to Valley East Residents

Some of the Rainbow District School Board’s elementary and secondary schools will welcome new Principals when classes resume on Tuesday, September 7th, 2010.

Susan Cousineau Principal Redwood Acres Public School (JK to Grade 5 English)

Susan Cousineau served as Principal of Larchwood Public School for the past three years. A resident of Valley East, she looks forward to assuming her new role as Principal of Redwood Acres Public School where she served as a Lead Teacher for three years. Redwood Acres Public School provides excellence in education in the English program to students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5. Since launching her career in 1995, Susan Cousineau has taught in primary, junior and intermediate divisions. She joined Rainbow District School Board in 2001.

Paul Dupont Principal R.L. Beattie Public School (JK to Grade 8 French Immersion)

Paul Dupont assumes the role of Principal of R.L. Beattie Public School with 13 years of experience as an elementary school administrator. As Principal of Valley View Public School for the past eight years, he had the privilege of leading the first green school in Northern Ontario. Valley View Public School has become a model for education in sustainable development. Principal Dupont looks forward to his new role at R.L. Beattie Public School, where he

worked as a teacher for five years. He has more than 20 years of experience in education, all in the French Immersion program.

Gisèle LaLonde Principal Valley View Public School (JK to Grade 8 French Immersion)

Gisèle LaLonde has been appointed Principal of Valley View Public School, the Rainbow District School Board’s first green school. She served as Principal of Levack Public School for the past four years. A versatile educator with 18 years of experience in public education locally, she has worked with students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, as a classroom teacher and school administrator. Prior to joining the staff of Levack Public School, she served as Vice-Principal at Northeastern Elementary School and Principal at Copper Cliff Public School.

Michelle Walton Principal MacLeod Public School (JK to Grade 8, English)

Michelle Walton, the new Principal of MacLeod Public School, has been Principal of Redwood Acres Public School for the past six years. She also served as Principal of Adamsdale Public School. Before becoming an administrator, Michelle Walton taught in London, New Liskeard, Port Hope and Sudbury in both elementary and secondary schools. Principal Walton looks forward to working with the community and the staff of MacLeod Public School to promote ongoing excellence in academics and character development.

Pablo Gil-Alfau Principal Confederation Secondary School (Grade 9 to 12, English and French Immersion)

Pablo Gil-Alfau served as Principal of Princess Anne Public School during the past school year. Prior to this, he was Vice-Principal of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School. He returns to the secondary panel as Principal of Confederation Secondary School where he taught science, biology and physical education from 1998 to 2001 and also served as guidance counsellor. Pablo Gil-Alfau joined the Board in 1997 as a teacher at Manitoulin Secondary School. He looks forward to leading a strong community school with excellence in education.

**Mike Mirka
Principal
Chelmsford Valley District Composite School (Grade 7
to 12 English and French Immersion)**

Mike Mirka is the new Principal of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School. He served as Principal of Confederation Secondary School for eight years and Vice-Principal for three years. With 19 years of experience in education, Mike Mirka has worked in both the elementary and secondary panels, including assignments at Levack District High School, Confederation Secondary School, and Sudbury Secondary School where he taught biology, chemistry, science, math and computers. A champion of community schools, Mike Mirka looks forward to his new leadership role.

member of the Rainbow District School Board's Student Senate during the past school year," said Boyd. "As Secretary of the Student Senate, I took on quite a few responsibilities and I am certainly ready to take on more. I am so proud to be the voice of students and I know I can make an important contribution as Student Trustee."

Sloan Boyd is enrolled in the Arts Education Program at Sudbury Secondary School where she is majoring in dance. She has been an active member of Sudbury Secondary School's Student Parliament since Grade 9 and served as Deputy Prime Minister during the past school year.

Sloan Boyd plans to pursue her postsecondary studies in law and political science at Laurentian University.

**Rainbow District School Board welcomes
Student Trustee for 2010-2011**

Sloan Boyd, a Grade 12 student at Sudbury Secondary School, will serve as Student Trustee on the Rainbow District School Board for the 2010-2011 School Year. She was sworn in at the Board meeting on Monday, August 30, 2010. In the photo below, Sloan is being sworn in by Director of Education, Norm Blaseg.



"We are delighted to welcome Sloan Boyd as a Student Trustee," said Rainbow District School Board Chair Tyler Campbell. "Rainbow Schools are all about students and Sloan Boyd will bring the student perspective to the table." He added: "Her involvement will give us an opportunity to develop our future leaders and will give her an inside look at democracy in action."

Sloan Boyd looks forward to fulfilling her role as a Student Trustee. "I have had the privilege of being a

**Rainbow Board receives
Employer Service Excellence
Award for pension reporting**



The Teachers' Pension Plan has, once again, recognized Rainbow District School Board for its excellence in pension reporting with the presentation of the Employer Service Excellence Award. "This award is a tribute to the efforts of our staff in the Finance Department who continue to provide exceptional pension reporting services on behalf of our employees," said Rainbow District School Board Director of Education Norm Blaseg. Payroll Clerk Mary FitzPatrick, left, and Payroll Administrator Jody Levesque were praised for their diligence in maintaining accurate employee records and their timely response to priority enquiries.

Back to School Means It's Time For Parents To Think About Getting Involved in Their School Council

"This year, only five of our 184 employer organizations are receiving this important distinction," said Mila Babic, Director of Employer Information Services for the Teachers' Pension Plan in a letter to the Board.

She added: "This will be the third time we celebrate your organization's superior results, as Rainbow District School Board was also recognized with this honour in 2001, our first organization to receive this award, and then again last year for 2008 reporting."

"This award is a tribute to the efforts of our staff in the Finance Department who continue to provide exceptional pension reporting services on behalf of our employees," said Rainbow District School Board Director of Education Norm Blaseg.

Rainbow District School Board Payroll Administrator Jody Levesque and Payroll Clerk Mary FitzPatrick were praised for their diligence in maintaining accurate employee records and their timely response to priority enquiries. Employees waiting for pension service receive, on average, a one-day response.

TODAY THE WORLD IS MINE

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman, and wished I were as beautiful.

When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle. She had one leg and wore a crutch. But as she passed, she passed a smile. Oh God, forgive me when I whine. I have two legs. **The world is mine.**

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm. I talked with him, he seemed so glad. If I were late, it'd do no harm. And as I left, he said to me, "I thank you, you've been so kind. It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind." Oh God, forgive me when I whine. I have two eyes. **The world is mine.**

Later while walking down the street, I saw a child I knew. He stood and watched the others play, but he did not know what to do. I stopped a moment and then I said, "Why don't you join them dear?" He looked ahead without a word. I forgot, he couldn't hear. Oh God, forgive me when I whine. I have two ears. **The world is mine.**

With feet to take me where I'd go; With eyes to see the sunset's glow; with ears to hear what I'd know. Oh God, forgive me when I whine. I've been blessed indeed, **the world is mine.**

This morning when I wakened And saw the sun above, I softly said, "Good morning Lord, bless everyone I love." And right away I thought of you and said a loving prayer, that He would bless you specially, and keep you free from care.

I thought of all the happiness a day could hold in store. I wished it all for you because no one deserves it more.

Some time during the month of September, all parents of children attending elementary or secondary schools in the City of Greater Sudbury will be receiving a notice about the elections for the 2010-2011 School Council. The Government of Ontario established School Councils about twelve years ago. The regulation governing school councils states that the purpose of school councils is, "through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents."

According to the regulation, school boards are required to solicit the views of parent councils on the issues that relate to pupil achievement and accountability to parents. This obviously includes a wide range of topics and areas of interest.

Furthermore, the regulation stipulates that school boards must consider each school council recommendation and report back on any action taken. This is an important consideration for parents and one that should make them sit up and take notice. The school board "must" consider each school council recommendation and report back on any action taken. This is a group that has a great deal of influence on the operation of the school board so you should pay serious attention to the people who sit on the school council for your school.

School councils must consist of parents, the school principal, a teacher representative, a non-teaching staff representative, and at least one community member. The principal, in consultation with the school council, may appoint a student. The principal can designate his or her position on the council to the vice-principal.

The school council can adopt by-laws that govern the number of parents and that extend the number of community members. Parents must constitute a majority. Community members are appointed by the other members of the council.

School councils are required to consult with parents about matters under consideration by the council, and provide an annual report on their activities to their principal and the school board.

If this is something that you feel you might be interested in, either wait for the letter to come home from the principal, or call your local school immediately and ask about the school council elections.

NEW ORLEANS PIZZA IS QUICKLY BECOMING A TRUE CORPORATE LEADER



**VAL CARON
523-8080**

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AT 11:00 A.M.

**SUNDAY TO WEDNESDAY
OPEN UNTIL 9:00 P.M.**

**THURSDAYS
OPEN UNTIL 10:00 P.M.**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OPEN UNTIL 12 MIDNIGHT**

Make sure you visit the Valley East Today Corporate Web Page for New Orleans Pizza by clicking the following link:

http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/newsmagazine/Corporate%20Profiles/new_orleans_pizza.htm

NEW ORLEANS PIZZA IS A FULL YEAR AHEAD OF THE MINISTRY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS



New Orleans Pizza has been providing lunches to schools and school groups for over 30 years and is proud to announce that it has altered its products to meet the new requirements set out by the ministry of education a full year before it will become mandatory. Some schools are making it mandatory now so this is something they might like to know.

New Orleans Pizza provides a school lunch menu where over 80% of its products are in the Sell More Category as outlined by the Ministry of Education's School Food and Beverage Policy. This is good news for teachers and principals who like to schedule weekly pizza lunches which comply with the requirements. New Orleans Pizza has a proud reputation for quality products and do not compromise when it comes to maintaining a high standard of nutrition. For more information you should contact Vicky Wydra at 523-8080.

Heatwave Tanning Salon Has Information For Parents About Safe Use of Tanning Beds



With four locations to serve you, Heatwave Tanning Salon has become the preferred tanning spa in the Greater Sudbury Area. Each month you will find special deals that will help you stretch your dollar as far as possible. Ron and Andrea are also pleased to provide you with all the information you need about how to tan responsibly, whether in their tanning beds or on the beach. You can also save money on lotions whenever you buy any tanning package.

During the month of September you can purchase a 15 tan package for the price of 10

Ron and Andrea also invite people to call them up to discuss the safety measures that have been incorporated into the

Heatwave Tanning Salon policy. There is much concern about the safe use of tanning beds and Ron and Andrea wish to assure all local residents that no one is more concerned about the safety of their clients than they are. Visit the web site for more information <http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/Heatwave/> or call Ron or Andrea at 897-4006

Ron Pedneault of Fantastic Floors Has The Secret



Ron Pedneault opened Fantastic Floors in the fall of 2005 after gaining years of experience in the flooring and construction industry. He built his business by providing customers with the kind of personal service that demonstrated the pride he has in always doing his best. Today his business is thriving because local residents appreciate the efforts he puts in to satisfy their needs. This is a perfect time of year to stop by the Val Caron location of Fantastic Floors and speak to Ron about projects you have in mind for the summer cottage or your mobile homes. You will find some special "cash and carry" deals on carpets and flooring that will certainly suit your needs and your budget. Ron always has something on sale so stop by before you head out to camp this weekend. [CLICK HERE FOR THE FANTASTIC FLOORS PROFILE>>>>](#)



VCCNET.ca Internet Solutions Offers Full Range of Internet and Communication Services for Home or Business

VCCNet.ca Internet Solutions is subsidiary of Valley Computers & Consulting Services and is a locally owned and operated business that has offered affordable, cost effective telephone, long distance, and internet solutions since 2001. If you need any of these services for you home or

office you should visit the web site at www.vccnet.ca to find out more about the services available and even get an indication of the low prices that are offered at this time. Give Edgar a call and he may be able to save you plenty of money while giving you the kind of service that you thought was no longer available.



Robert Kirwan Announces His Candidacy For The Position of Trustee With The Rainbow District School Board for Area 3, (Wards 5 & 6), Including Valley East and Cambrian Heights

www.kirwan.ca

Robert Kirwan, a resident of Valley East since 1974, has officially entered the race for the position of Trustee for Area 3 (Wards 5 & 6) for the Rainbow District School Board. Kirwan, who retired from a 28-year career as a classroom teacher in 2001, currently owns and operates a private practice called The Greater Sudbury Learning Clinic, an education and career development agency. He founded his tutoring agency in January 2007.

Kirwan has a wide range of hands-on experiences at both the elementary and secondary school levels and has worked with hundreds of students from all four school boards since opening up his practice. He will bring a unique perspective to the Rainbow District School Board as a trustee and intends to make a difference with his “fresh viewpoint” as

issues are discussed and decided upon for the next four years. He was also President of his local teachers’ union for nine years, and hopes to use that experience to help maintain a very positive relationship with the teachers’ representatives when the current collective agreement expires at the end of August 2012.

There are a number of challenges that school boards across the province of Ontario will have to face head-on during the next four years. Kirwan feels his experience and his practical approach to problems will serve him well in the position of trustee where he will be able to work with other elected representatives to come up with innovative and cost-effective ways of dealing with some of the major issues of the day.

Among the most important concerns facing trustees today, Kirwan cites the following as among the most critical:

1. “School Boards cannot be satisfied with the status quo. We simply cannot continue to do things the way we always have and expect to initiate positive changes that will meet the needs of students living in society today.”
2. “School Boards have done a great job of integrating their schools “into the community”. Now we must reverse the flow and integrate the community “into the school community” through an “open door policy”.
3. “The October 2011 provincial election will bring with it a “brutal” budget for school boards. It is going to be very important for school boards to find creative low-cost ways of meeting the needs of students.”
4. “The provincial collective bargaining process is expected to cause severe labour unrest in the fall of 2012, so it is imperative that school boards develop a strong and positive relationship with teachers before that time.”

Robert Kirwan has created a web site at www.kirwan.ca which contains many other points of information about some of the other issues and challenges he plans on addressing if elected to the position of Trustee for Area 3 (Wards 5 & 6) for the Rainbow District School Board.

You are invited to visit the web site or phone Robert Kirwan at (705) 969-7215 if you wish to speak to him about his campaign or issues that you would like him to take into consideration.



www.afterthewhistle.com



A Letter All Hockey Parents Should Tape To The Fridge... Why I Quit Hockey...



Could Your Child Have Written The Following Letter?

Editorial By Marty Kirwan

Note From The Publisher: The following editorial appears on the minor hockey web site which can be found at www.afterthewhistle.com It was written a number of years ago, but I like to pull it out at the beginning of every hockey season just to remind parents that they should always keep things in perspective when starting another minor hockey season.

For the record, Marty Kirwan was one of the most recognized hockey referees ever to come out of Valley East. He has refereed in the Ontario Hockey League for the past five years and has taken an early retirement from the game this year to focus his attention on his family and his career as a police officer with the Peel Regional Police Department.

At the time he wrote this editorial he was an assistant coach of the Valley East Rebels Minor Atom hockey team. His comments are as relevant today as they were when he wrote them and the letter that you will find in this article is priceless.

If you are a hockey parent or grandparent, you will certainly feel the emotions as you read it.

WHY I QUIT HOCKEY...by Marty Kirwan



Young 10-year old Jeff Bilton, of the Tim Horton's Minor Atom Valley East Rebels, is all smiles as he sits out a two-minute penalty during one of his recent hockey games. Jeff enjoys everything about the game of hockey, but so do most other players at his age. So what happens to kids like Jeff as they get older? Why is there such a high drop-out rate among hockey players in Canada?

I don't think we have to look much further than the adults in the stands to find the answer. We have recently heard of a man in the United States sentenced to six years in jail for killing another man in a fight at an arena. A bantam game in Toronto had to be halted because of an altercation between two coaches. And during a tournament last year in Valley East, witnesses overheard one parent threaten to kill another father and his son at the end of the season. During Minor Hockey Week in Canada we heard stories about parents trying to attack referees; coaches almost coming to blows with each other; fights in the lobby after the game; a linesman being speared in the leg by an angry high school player; referees walking off the ice; and accusations of teams trying to use illegal players. George Armstrong, a former Toronto Maple Leaf Captain who grew up in Skead, was recently quoted in the Toronto Star, "Hockey in Canada will be in good shape when parents decide that it is being played for the children's benefit and not their own."

As we head into each new season of hockey, with great expectations and excitement, it is important that we keep our priorities straight. Therefore, I think it is time to once again bring out one of my favourite letters. I rank this letter right up there with "Yes, Virginia...there is a Santa Claus". This letter too, first appeared in a large metropolitan newspaper and hits right at the very soul of every parent who reads it. Take a few moments to reflect upon the message.

DEAR MOM AND DAD....



Don't get excited. I'm not running away or anything. I hope you won't be mad that I left you guys this letter, but I don't have the guts to say all this stuff in person.

It's about our hockey team. I was really excited to make the traveling team this year. The uniforms and hockey bags are pretty neat and we get to travel all over the place. But I know you are disappointed in me.

It started when Dad called our coach after the second game to tell him he was taking me off the team. I know you used to like to tell the guys at work how many goals I scored last year in house league. I guess you haven't got too much to tell them this year.

But after the coach talked you out of taking me off the team I was really nervous to go back. The coach told me he thought I was good enough to play on the traveling team and not to worry. He told the other players I got sick and they all kept asking me if I was feeling better.

I know you really like it when I score goals. I guess that's why you said you'd give me five dollars for a goal and a dollar for an assist. But the coach says an assist is as good as a goal. The coach wasn't too happy when I told him you gave me two dollars for a penalty though.

I try to be more aggressive, like you said, but the other guys skate pretty fast. You told me to carry the puck more, like Jimmy does, but I can't seem to go fast enough to get away from the other guys.

You should see me play street hockey though. When they pick teams I always get picked nearly first and I score a lot of goals. The other day I hit one of the guys in the elbow with a tennis ball and we couldn't stop laughing for about a year. But before our real hockey games I always get so nervous.

You know a lot about hockey, Dad, but I just can't remember all the things you tell me in the car on the way to the game. By the time we get there, I always feel sick in my stomach.

I don't mind you screaming at the games because all the parents scream. But don't yell at John to pass the puck more. He's the best player on our team and without him we'd be dead.

After our game yesterday, I felt bad when you yelled at the coach for not putting me on the ice in the third period. It was a close game and he wanted the best players out there. The coach is a pretty cool guy really, and he doesn't get any money or anything for coaching us.

I know you were both pretty upset after we lost the game. You were surprised when I started crying in the car on the way home. It wasn't because of when I got hurt in the second period, like I said. I just couldn't help it.

I love you both a lot, so I think I better quit hockey. It's costing you a lot of money, like you said, and you guys don't seem to enjoy coming to my games any more anyway. I can't go back to house league, because all of the guys would laugh. I hope you understand why I can't play hockey anymore. I think it'll be the best thing for you guys.

Signed
Your Son.



If you are a hockey parent, do you recognize yourself in any section of this letter? Have we forgotten why we put children in a hockey program to begin with? Is the pressure really worth it?

Let us pause to reflect about what we, as adults are doing to our children. We may have all the best intentions in the world, but what do our words and actions portray? Could your child have written this letter? If so, it's not too late to change. Do it for the kids!

Let's remember kids like Jeff, and let's try to keep the smile on their face for many years to come.

If you like this editorial, there are many others just like it on the web site, along with comments from parents from around the country. Check out www.afterthewhistle.com



For The Sake Of The Game

HOCKEY... WITHOUT THE SILVER LINING

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www.afterthewhistle.com

One afternoon when I was about 11 or 12 years old, I was in the kitchen gulping down a soup and sandwich when I overheard my parents, who were in the living room, talking to one of their friends about me. They obviously didn't realize that I was within earshot. My father described me to his friend as being "hockey crazy".

Back then, I took what my father said as the ultimate compliment. I finished my lunch and then hurriedly picked up my worn out stick and went outside to join a dozen or so of my buddies for the second half of our 'four-hour road hockey game'.

Normal everyday things like lunch, dinner and homework simply got in the way of our games. The dreaded "Bobby, it's time to eat" became such a game killer that eventually most mothers learned that family gatherings at dinner time would have to be put off until after hockey season. Either that, or they would have to co-ordinate dinnertime with all of the other 'hockey moms' on the street. Even the term 'hockey mom' had a different meaning back in those days.

Most of the guys in the group also played on "organized teams" back then. A few of our games were even played 'indoors' at the old Copper Cliff Arena. That was a big treat for us to get to skate on artificial ice, out of the wind and snow. A good season would consist of about 16 games (including playoffs), and we were all happy with that, because as far as we were concerned, the most important hockey games were played on the street with a tennis ball.

If you are old enough to remember the "good old days" when the most important hockey leagues were played between sidewalks and under streetlights, you will enjoy this full length book which can be found at the following link: <http://www.afterthewhistle.com/hockeybook/index.htm> on the web site at www.afterthewhistle.com

Move Over Kids – The Adults Are Coming Back To School



If the trend continues in our public school system, we are going to soon discover that the surplus space in some of our local schools filled up with adult learners over the age of 18 who are ready to return to school to get that all-important Grade 12 diploma.

The high school graduation rate is still hanging on at around 79%. This means that 21% of all students entering secondary school today will not graduate with their diploma after five years. The norm is four years, but a full 21% or more will fail to earn their diploma even after an extra year. What happens to these young men and women? Most of them go out into the workplace and find “meaningless jobs” that pay minimum wage.

Many of them are now discovering that in order to get into most training programs or even to be considered for any kind of worthwhile job, you need at least a Grade 12. And rather than continuing to pursue a life of disappointment, many are taking the courageous step of returning to school in adult programs that are being run by local school boards.

One of the greatest challenges for school boards who run adult day-school programs is that the Ministry

only funds these students at about one third of what they provide for day school students. A day-school student attending secondary school, for example, receives almost \$11,000 in funding. However an adult day-school student receives only a bit more than \$3,000. Therefore, the Ministry has been accused of promoting adult education without providing the funding necessary to fully support it.

Studies have shown that despite the fact that Ontario has spent millions of dollars trying to improve graduation rates, most of their efforts are falling short. It is as if the policy makers have never heard the phrase “if you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got”. There are two ways to improve the graduation rate. You can focus on student retention which will keep students in school until they graduate, or you can focus on making it easier for students to return to school if they do drop out. According to Statistics Canada, less than 30% of student dropouts ever return to complete their secondary school education. If we can improve on that statistic, then we will have succeeded in improving the education level of our general population.

MATURE STUDENTS ARE ENROLLING AT UNIVERSITY IN RECORD NUMBERS

Another very interesting trend is that the number of mature students enrolling at university and college has been steadily increasing over the years.

A mature student is an adult older than 25 who has taken at least a full year off school. They either return to study to complete a degree or diploma on a full- or part-time basis. Many are doing this to find a new career or to improve their chances in the existing job market.

Universities are reporting that as much as 20% of their students are now considered mature students and over 60% of them are attending full-time programs so that they complete their studies sooner. Adult learners have grown to understand the importance of getting

their education as soon as possible so that they can get out in the job market and begin earning a decent living. They do not want to take 10 or more years to get their training so if they can they do the program on a full-time basis.



ADULT LEARNERS MUST OVERCOME MANY BARRIERS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR EDUCATION

Despite the enrolment trends that are emerging, reports indicate that there are many other adults who would like to return to school or take training to upgrade their skills but are facing a variety of barriers. For an adult to return to school it takes an entire family willing to make some serious life changes.

The top barriers to pursuing education or training for mature students over the age of 25, including adults who are in their retirement years, are financial limitations, difficulty with current employment commitments and responsibilities that they have to their family.

An adult who wishes to return to school on a full-time basis must usually give up some or all of his/her income for several years. Many people simply do not have the savings to be able to pay for the cost of education and give up their salary at the same time. Unfortunately, government tuition assistance is often out of the question because their family income is too high as a result of both husband and wife taking on employment. With one spouse working to support the other, and the adult student taking on a part-time job to help out, their family income is usually too high to qualify for assistance.

Many adult learners would like to take a leave of absence from their current employment, but often it is just too difficult to schedule work responsibilities around class

schedules. Employers must be extremely flexible and understanding. Many students find that they end up going to class by day and work in the evening. However, that is usually a recipe for burnout in a short period of time. Either the work or the studies suffer.

Balancing family responsibilities is another concern that weighs heavily on the minds of adult learners. They simply cannot ignore the needs of their children while attending school, so they must find a way of balancing the two. At times that is not the easiest to do.

Many other mature students face another “internal” barrier. They do not have the confidence that they will be able to keep up with the younger students since they have been out of a formal education environment for so long. Therefore, more and more of the mature students are turning to personal tutors to help them keep up and overcome the challenges of learning new concepts and skills after being out of the classroom for so long.

The instructors registered with the Greater Sudbury Learning Clinic have found that a significant number of people who seek their services are mature students. The tutors also find that the “learning coach approach” is the best method of helping them achieve success in their studies.

Helping students become better learners

A LEARNING COACH APPROACH TO TUTORING THAT REALLY WORKS!

While the “Learning Coach Approach” works well with students of all ages, its principles are most conducive to the needs of mature students who are returning to the classroom after being away for some time. For a more in-depth analysis of the “learning coach style” you should take time to visit www.thelearningclinic.ca and read the relevant sections that are on that web site.

If you are a mature student and you have decided to enrol in a particular program, the first thing you need is someone who can sit down and help determine some of the non-academic skills that must be refined. Things like attendance at class, organization of notebooks and binders, how to take notes, the use of the internet in the program, etc. You must be prepared for the 21st Century learning environment. Things may not be quite the same as they were when you were last going to school.

An instructor will then take on the role of “coach”, helping you with much more than just academics. In fact, your self-confidence may need some boosting, so the coach must be aware of that possibility as well. There are certain strategies that you must be made aware of when it comes to handing in assignments, preparing for tests and exams, and using the internet for research and/or communication.

At the Greater Sudbury Learning Clinic, we never want to see a mature student become discouraged merely because they find it too difficult to become a student again. In fact, we like to point out that it is often easier for mature students to “bear down” and many have a much better “work ethic” than non-mature students. All we have to do is help develop the right strategies and give whatever support is necessary to refresh the academic content and usually the mature students blossom. Once again, if you are thinking of getting a tutor for yourself, go to www.thelearningclinic.ca



www.valleyeasttoday.ca

The Valley East Today Community Web Site has been evolving since 2003. This is an invitation to all readers to spend a few minutes checking out some of the more popular features on the site. Here is some information about those sections:

Our Living History



“Our Living History” is a special section that contains hundreds of special feature articles that have been written over the years about the people and events making a difference in the community of Valley East. There are over twenty three chapters of stories, with titles for you to check out before you select the chapter of interest to you. You will recognize many of the people in the articles. If you want to find out more about the character of Valley East, all you have to do is read about the things that the people find important. Visit this section today by clicking the link below:

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/newsmagazine/Living%20History/homelivhist.htm>

Our Spiritual Community

Churches & Religious Organizations Serving The People of Valley East



We encourage all religious groups and organizations to send us information that we can relay to our readers. Click on the link below to look over our Spiritual Community:

<http://www.valleyeasttoday.ca/Religion/religion.htm>



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When you go to the following link, all you have to do is type in any address in Valley East and you will be immediately transported to the street where you will be able to see exactly what the community looked like when representatives from Google took photos of the town recently. You can also see the rest of the world cities with this link:

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