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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I question motives behind letter

Re: Can councillor be effective for Ward 1?, letter by G. Irvine, May 19.

I was taken aback to read this letter regarding Councillor Greg Beros' bankruptcy woes.

I have no knowledge of the financial situation of either G. Irvine or Mr. Beros, but questioning Mr. Beros' effectiveness as a councillor is highly speculative, not to say unkind, at this time.

What were the exact motives behind such a letter?

Although Mr. Beros is not my ward councillor, I have found him to be generous, perceptive and most supportive of an annual art festival which I founded for our community's youth six years ago — and this year was no exception.

In a case such as this, I believe that an old adage is applicable: Don't kick a man when he's down.

K. HARDING
RICHMOND HILL

Hope to see more AEDs

Re: Defibrillators help girls enjoy normal life, May 3.

My wife and I funded the placement

of a defibrillator in our son's elementary school, E.T. Crowle.

It was a bit of a long process. The school staff, however, were very supportive of the cause and the majority of them took a defibrillator training course sponsored by the school principal.

Through routine checkup, a heart murmur was detected in our son when he was 6. Subsequent specialist follow-up and visits to Sick Kids Hospital confirmed a diagnosis of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

This condition has claimed the lives of many young people unexpectedly. It can be routinely detected through ECG and ultrasound tests.

Our son is now 11 and continues to enjoy a fairly normal life.

We would very much like to see automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all schools and public places.

I hope this article draws further attention to such a cause and that continued efforts from organizations such as Heart and Stroke, along with government and school boards, allow AEDs to become as commonplace as smoke detectors.

BILL MINOR & SARA UDDIN
MARKHAM



Imagine if we each treated others with respect

I was honoured to attend the eighth annual Richmond Hill mayor's prayer breakfast last week.

As I climbed out of the car, so did two gentlemen dressed in suits who had parked beside me.

I greeted them and commented on how dashing the older gentleman looked in his eye-catching striped jacket.

We struck up a conversation and I mentioned I was formerly from South Africa.

The younger of the two gentlemen replied that he knew the South African ambassador, as well as an official from Lesotho, a region not far from where I grew up.

While still in the parking lot, I taught him how to say "Hello" in Sotho, so that he could greet them in their native language.

Although I did not know it at the time, I was, in fact, talking to the prayer breakfast guest speaker, Senator Don Meredith.

The dashing man in the jacket was his delightful father-in-law, Lloyd Daley.



Melony Teague
Guest column

We walked into the venue and after picking up my ticket at the door, I proceeded to the ballroom where Senator Meredith and Mr. Daley were greeting everyone as they entered.

Although Senator Meredith had never met me before, he had still treated me with the utmost respect, as he did everyone else that morning.

It did not matter who I was, he gave me the same respect that he gave His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales

who was in Toronto recently for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

What a lesson; that we should respect all our fellow human beings, no matter who they are or what they do, choosing to see the best in each other.

I sang the national anthem at the prayer breakfast with a glowing heart. What a wonderful moment to sing both verses, accompanied by the Salvation Army band.

It was a great privilege for me to be among those who were praying for our leadership, on Parliament Hill, and on the provincial and local levels.

To see members of churches from different denominations unite in prayer for our community with our leaders was something I will not soon forget.

A greeting was read from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, indicating his support for the event.

Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow commented that we were people of prayer before we entered our roles in the community and there is no reason why that should not continue.

Senator Meredith then challenged us to be "salt and light" in the communities in which we live.

He reminded us that many great men have come from small churches and have done great things.

My experience at the mayor's prayer breakfast convinced me of this.

We need to pray for one another and work together to be relevant in our communities.

We need to show respect to every single person, without fear, condescension or perhaps any feelings of self consciousness.

I know what it felt like to be treated this way and I choose to pass it on.

Melony Teague is a mother of two living in Oak Ridges and an active member of Gormley Missionary Church. She is a freelance writer and a member of The Liberal's Community Links group.

What do you think?

send your comments on this and any issue, plus letters to to the editor, to mbeck@yrmg.com