

**Thought Of The Week**  
By Ted Ecclestone

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## Local teens struggling to cope in an uncertain world

By REBEKKAH GRANT  
Co-op Student

For even the most upbeat, experienced people, these are stressful times. Therefore, few might understand the everyday pressures and challenges facing today's teenagers.

Though some people may not know it, students are uptight about school, current events, politics and the state of the economy. Sarah Hill, a student at Westside Secondary School says, "I feel confident about myself and going out into the world." Some teenagers, however, are not so confident. Stephanie Medeira, also a Westside student, said, "How am I supposed to be confident and stable if the world isn't?"

Eventually, teenagers are forced to step outside their boundaries of the safety of home and the familiarity of friends and

school and face the world. They worry about college or university. And though some people may not think so, teenagers worry about current issues, too.

Politicians are a different story. "They haven't even solved their own problems, how are they supposed to solve ours?" one Westside student said.

"I think teenagers are extremely insightful," said Rebecca Finch, the Dufferin-Caledon Liberal candidate in the last federal election. "They can see what's going on. I think all the politicians have pretty much demonstrated that they've got some issues to work out."

So how far are politicians willing to go to change the attitudes of younger people?

"The issue of getting them to vote has been bothering people for years," says Ms. Finch. "In my opinion, if there was more obvious maturity and dig-

nity in politicians, it will attract a certain type of person. There are certainly a number of younger people interested in politics, but they're not your average person."

While most teenagers worry about making the grade and impressing parents, others worry about even making it to college. With university tuition fees rising, most teenagers are already feeling a hole burning through their pockets.

"I'm worried about transportation and housing, which all comes down to money," Sarah Hill explained.

"The need to get into a College is pressuring," added Alyssa Jansen says.

So what do some teachers say? John Wervers, a teacher at Westside, explains: "Problems do go away. Economic conditions change over time."

But is this enough to help ease the pressure that teens are feeling?

Jen Elric, a student, disagrees with Mr. Wervers' assessment. "I don't think it's going to get better, it will just get worse."

While all this pressure is affecting their mentally and physically, does it affect their schoolwork as well?

"It does in a negative way," said Jen Elric. "Because I'm so stressed out, I can't concentrate on the thing I'm working on, and so nothing seems to get done."

With all this pressure affecting their schoolwork, and bringing down their grades, it's no wonder some teenagers are thinking twice about going to college or university.

"I'm not going because I think my stress rate there will go through the roof," said one student. "There's just too much work to get done, and so much pressure to be the best at what you do."

The stress rate for

teenagers seems to have gone up rapidly in the past couple of years. Much of it might be due to the pressure of having to pass high school with at least an 80 average to get into a good university.

"Society puts more pressure on teenagers these days," Jen Elric said. So

with all the pressures surrounding them, how does she cope? "I try not to think about it, and I try to indulge in various activities."

While pushing the problem aside may work for some people, for others, it creates even bigger problems. "If I ignore the problem, I usually find that it never truly goes away. It

piles up until finally, I can't take it anymore," another Westside student said.

It has been forecast that today's economic problems may not go away for years, and university and college fees will keep rising. But, while all this pressure is discouraging, most teenagers have learned to keep an open

mind, and try not to be too pessimistic.

"We can't dwell on what's going on," said another student. "It's either dwell on the past, or concentrate on the future. And I choose to concentrate on the future. What matters most is being able to get past all of this and learn to move on."



STUDENTS PONDER FUTURE: In these uncertain times, many high school students wonder what future they have, including (left to right), Westside students Jasmine Leitch, Sarah Hill and Jen Elric. Photo/DAN PELTON

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JUBILATION. The Orangeville Crushers celebrate on the ice of the Mnjikaning Arena in Rama on Tuesday evening after Robert Visca's over-time winning goal not only gave them the win but also a hard fought 4-3 series win over the Couchiching Terriers. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

## Crushers eliminate Terriers in OT

By MIKE MALONEY  
Sports Editor

By the numbers, it was a game the Orangeville Crushers never should have been in.

They were against a Couchiching Terriers team that, judging by how handily they won their last two regular season games against Orangeville, held all the cards.

But it was with a stroke of irony that on Tuesday night, the Crushers found themselves within a slapshot's distance of Casino Rama where the gutsy never-say-die Crushers took to the ice of the Mnjikaning Arena for a winner-take-all game seven against the powerhouse

Terriers in the OJHL Phillips division semifinals. And it was there that this team that believed in themselves beat the odds and downed the Terriers 2-1 in overtime to win their series.

Down two games to one, Orangeville surprised many when they played one of their best games of the season back home in the Alder Street arena last Thursday.

From the opening puck drop, the Crushers took control and made Couchiching play their game for once.

Goals from Mike Arnold, Dan Minor and Devin Mantha put Orangeville out to a 3-0 lead before the Terriers could figure a way past a very solid Andy

Groulx in the Crushers goal.

Mantha would again strike pay dirt late in the frame teaming up with linemates Jarrod Connelly and Arnold and again in the third on the way to a convincing 5-3 win over the division champions.

Playing in Rama on Saturday night, again it was Orangeville first on the board with a power-play goal from Connelly before the Terriers tied it to end the first 20 minutes of play tied at 1-1.

In the second, Orangeville refused to be intimidated and continued to play their game and were rewarded with goals by Connelly and Mantha for their efforts.

In the third, Curtis

Longland's unassisted goal at the 7:09 mark proved to be the difference. Despite outshooting Orangeville 16-7 and scoring twice, Couchiching could not find the equalizer and at the final buzzer, it was the Crushers heading for home with a 4-3 victory and in control for game six.

Facing elimination, the Terriers were anything but tame lapdogs at the Alder Street rink Monday. Jumping out to an early 2-0 lead, Orangeville was forced to battle back to briefly tie the game at 2-2 in the second on goals from Matt Crilly and Dylan Hutton.

Penalties and sloppy play in their own end handed over a pair of chances to the Terriers,

who capitalized on their opportunities to end the second with another two goal lead at 4-2.

Life was breathed back into the Crushers when Seven Beyers drew them back within one at the 11:49 mark of the third. Pressing for the tying goal, Orangeville looked to be done when Kurt Zdrilich scored with 1:47 left on the clock. But again the Crushers rose to the challenge, and only seconds later with Groulx pulled in favour of the extra attacker, Beyers again buried the puck in the twine but that would be it for Orangeville and it was back on the bus for game seven.

Speaking after game  
•Continued pg B3

## Muskies jump out to 2-0 series lead

What a difference a week makes. Even after dispatching with the Ripley Wolves in four straight 10 days before, many of the so-called hockey scribes still pegged the chances of the Shelburne Muskies get-

ting past Elora in the WOAA Senior A Mens semi final as slim to none. Now two games into that series, those same scribes are re-examining their tea leaves as the Muskies cruise into this coming

weekend up 2-0 in the best of seven series on the strength of two 6-3 back to back wins over the Rocks last week.

Opening the series last Wednesday night in Elora, the Muskies found themselves the under the

gun early when Rocks' Steve Walter opened the scoring just under three minutes into the game.

Brad Horan would have the touch, though, for Shelburne this night, scoring his first of three 10 minutes into the first period, and then tagging his second on the night to offset Elora's Jeremy Machin's power-play marker and send the teams into the second tied at 2-2.

Derrick Robson teamed up with Horan and Chris Greer to put the Fish out front for the first time before Rod Bauman knotted up again at 3-3. But from there on, the Muskies seemed to gain momentum as the Rocks began to tire. Derrick Smith gave Shelburne a lead they would not relinquish from that point forward; a power-play

marker of their own late in the second.

It was followed in the third with goals by Smith and Horan to give the Muskies a well deserved 6-3 win.

Playing Saturday back in Shelburne, the Fish started off slow, falling behind 2-0 before Horan picked one past Rocks goalie Joe Amlinger with 1:08 remaining in the first.

Kevin Tuckey would have a good night Saturday for Shelburne. Early in the second he and Matt Lougheed would combine on Tuckey's first of two second period goals while Zac Duerden offset the Rocks third and last of the night to make it 4-3 after two periods.

Again, Adam Clarke continued to play solid  
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THE LONG DISTANCE LADIES: The Wellington-Dufferin chapter of the Heart and Stroke Foundation benefitted from the tenacity of a trio of local swimmers who swam 85 kilometres each to raise funds for the cause. From left to right: Barbara Cooper, Stacey Manzerolla and Janet Jones. Photo/DAN PELTON

## March Mania on Alder ice

This weekend, Skate Canada Orangeville in conjunction with Skate Canada Central Ontario, will be hosting March Mania at the Alder Street Recreation Centre this weekend.

Running both Saturday and Sunday, this competition will see approximately 600 skaters representing over 20 synchronized skating teams.

Skate Canada Orangeville will have 38 of their own skaters

taking part in this event and the club wishes to encourage the community at large to come out and witness the skills and talents of these young skaters.

Skate Canada Orangeville is also celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

To help commemorate the occasion in style the will be holding their annual year end gala skating carnival on March 28th.

The theme this year

will be 50 Years of Rock and Roll and there will be two performances of the show, one a matinee at 1:30 p.m., the other in the evening at 7 p.m.

If any community members or club alumni would like to take part in the show or have memorabilia they may wish to display, they are encouraged to contact Skate Canada Orangeville through their website at [www.skatecan](http://www.skatecan)

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