

I was once new in town

Dear editor:

Re: Are you new to Shelburne?

In 1981 my family moved to Shelburne. Yes, we moved here from Brampton and we were the "new people". Believe it or not, this was culture shock.

At that time we lived in the "new" subdivision ? the development the residents of Shelburne did not want to see built. Most citizens wanted the town to stay the same as it always was.

If your family had not lived in the area for a hundred years or more, you were looked upon with suspicion and distrust; and with good reason.

As a "new person" in Shelburne I saw things that I thought were wrong. I did not appreciate the acceptance of low property standards, disrepair of playground equipment and low inventory of goods in the stores.

I'm afraid we voiced our disapproval. As the "new people" we were told to move back to the city if we didn't like it in Shelburne. But we didn't go. We had experienced a different life in the city. We had benefited from amenities Shelburne did not have. So we voiced our concerns and asked for a better quality of life in our adopted hometown, and we worked to make that happen.

So it goes. The "new people" today see things differently from those of us who have lived here for a long time. And most of us did come here from somewhere else and brought our ideas with us.

There are rude people in all segments of society; we can all learn from others; we should all try to lead by example.

Sharon Grant,

Shelburne