

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Morrow challenges Nixon comments

This is a copy of a letter sent to The Herald for publication. Mr. Robert Nixon, M.P.P., Brant-Oxford-Norfolk Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M7A-1A2

Dear Mr. Nixon: Recent press reports indicate, that in your opinion, all Regional Governments have failed. Contrary to your expressed feelings, I submit that the future of local government is greatly enhanced by the creation of Regional Governments and that our citizens have much to gain, in the future, by the opportunity to deal more effectively with modern-day municipal problems through the reorganized local government structure.

The following comments will reflect, in particular, Halton Region, but to a significant degree relate to the principle of Regional Government for-

med in other areas of Ontario. To state that the Region is failing is to indicate your support for a return to the former County System and would indicate, for instance, that police services in Halton would be improved by a return to five separate forces, rather than one effective and coordinated force greatly enhanced by a much improved system of communications.

It must follow, as well, that you believe that a strong balance to the ever-increasing influence of Metro Toronto, and an effective voice at the Provincial level is better provided by separate municipalities quarrelling amongst themselves, rather than the strong representation provided to local government by the Regional Council.

Regional Government has provided the vehicle by which the Province has returned, and will return, an increasing number of former Provincial powers to local government. Local government officials have requested these powers for years. To oppose this transition is to indicate your support for a large centralized Provincial bureaucracy which gives little or no power to local government, and where civil servants are making decisions which should be the responsibility of elected representatives.

Do you really believe that the environment in Halton will receive a better chance of protection by the operation of seven separate garbage dumps, or by one properly engineered and operated landfill site, complying with our present environmental standards? Resource recovery, which opens new possibilities for the protection of the environment and the preservation of a farmland, has been made possible in Halton, only as a result of Regional Government.

The Region has received an "AA" rating for municipal borrowing which has resulted in lower costs than would have been experienced by our separate municipalities.

The region, will soon be providing badly needed municipal water to the citizens of Norval, a further example of a service made possible by elimination of arbitrary and irrational municipal boundaries that formerly existed.

There are many other areas, such as planning, social services, public health, water supply and sewage treatment where more responsible decisions can be made, a higher degree of service can be provided, better cost control initiated and more effective use of

personnel implemented by working together as a Regional unit.

Further, it must be recognized that the former County system has implemented over one hundred years ago, when modern-day municipal problems could not be foreseen.

Today our country faces a serious crisis, in part because of the unwillingness of the Federal Government to be flexible and recognize that as our society changes, government must accept the challenge to respond.

Fortunately, the Provincial Government recognizing the pressing need for the reorganization of local government did what was necessary, despite knowing, full well, that the required change would not be a popular issue.

Approximately twenty-five years ago, the Provincial Government instituted Regional Government in the Toronto area. Without doubt, there were many then who adopted the popular and emotional position that "Metro Government" would not serve the citizens well, and would be a failure. Today, there are few who would say that the Metro system has not played a significant role in the development of Toronto as a large city with a quality of life second to none, in North America.

Twenty-five years from now, there will be few who will say that the Region of Halton has not played a positive role in promoting a sound social structure and the effective provision of necessary services to

support that society. No, Mr. Nixon, the track record of Regional Government has been one of success not failure. The future will, more conclusively, show that the correct decision was made.

Being an elected official myself, I am aware that it is relatively easy and emotionally popular to oppose governmental changes. I'm convinced, however, that any responsible person who studies the facts will come to the conclusion that local government reorganization was necessary, and that its implementation has provided local government with the legal and political framework to successfully meet the challenges of the future.

Sincerely yours
H. B. Morrow
Regional Chairman

Car sideswiped \$350 damage

A car suffered \$350 damage after sideswiping the blade of a snowplow on Jan. 11.

The plow, driven by Ronald Latimer, 53, of Limehouse, was backing out on to Main St. in order to plow the corner of Henry Street, police say, when a second vehicle, driven by Francis Tyler, 56, of Georgetown, made a left turn onto Henry Street, sideswiping the blade of the plow. Road conditions were snow-covered and slippery at the time of the accident, the police report said.

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Can't take column seriously

To the editor of The Herald:

The "Open Letter to Mom from Baby" that appeared in the Jan. 18th Herald is very difficult to take seriously.

Since when did an unthinking, undeveloped fetus have priority over the wishes and feelings of a rational, mature adult? Obviously, the author of this letter has little regard for the decision of the "pregnant married or single" woman who is considering an abortion. A pregnant woman who realizes that she is incapable of being a mother is doing herself and her "baby" a favor by having an abortion. No woman should be responsible for the care and support of an unwanted child, as accidents do occur when birth control methods fail due to either bad luck or lack of knowledge. Pregnancy should be a matter of choice, not chance.

Perhaps the "Open Letter to Mom from Baby" would have been taken seriously and with more sympathy had it been written by an unhealthy, battered or neglected child.

Yours truly,
Anne Hansen

Thank you

To the editor of The Herald: I wish to compliment you on an article which appeared in last week's edition of The Herald. I am referring to "An Open Letter to Mom from Baby".

Thank you
Mrs. Catherine Barrett

Acton

Stand by power OK'd

Stand by power for water works in North Halton has been recommended by the region's public works committee subject to budget approval.

Prospect Park in Acton and Kelso Park in Milton would be the sites of either a portable generator, a direct diesel drive or a diesel generator in order to overcome any future power failure that could curtail the water supply in case of fire, says a report from Bob Moore, director of public works, to the committee, Wednesday.

As well, the question of reliability of Ontario Hydro to deliver power must be assessed, Mr. Moore says.

Although there has been no problem of power failure or "brown out" in Ontario, these have occurred elsewhere and it would be prudent to have stand by power not only in case of Ontario Hydro failure but also man-made or natural disaster, he said.

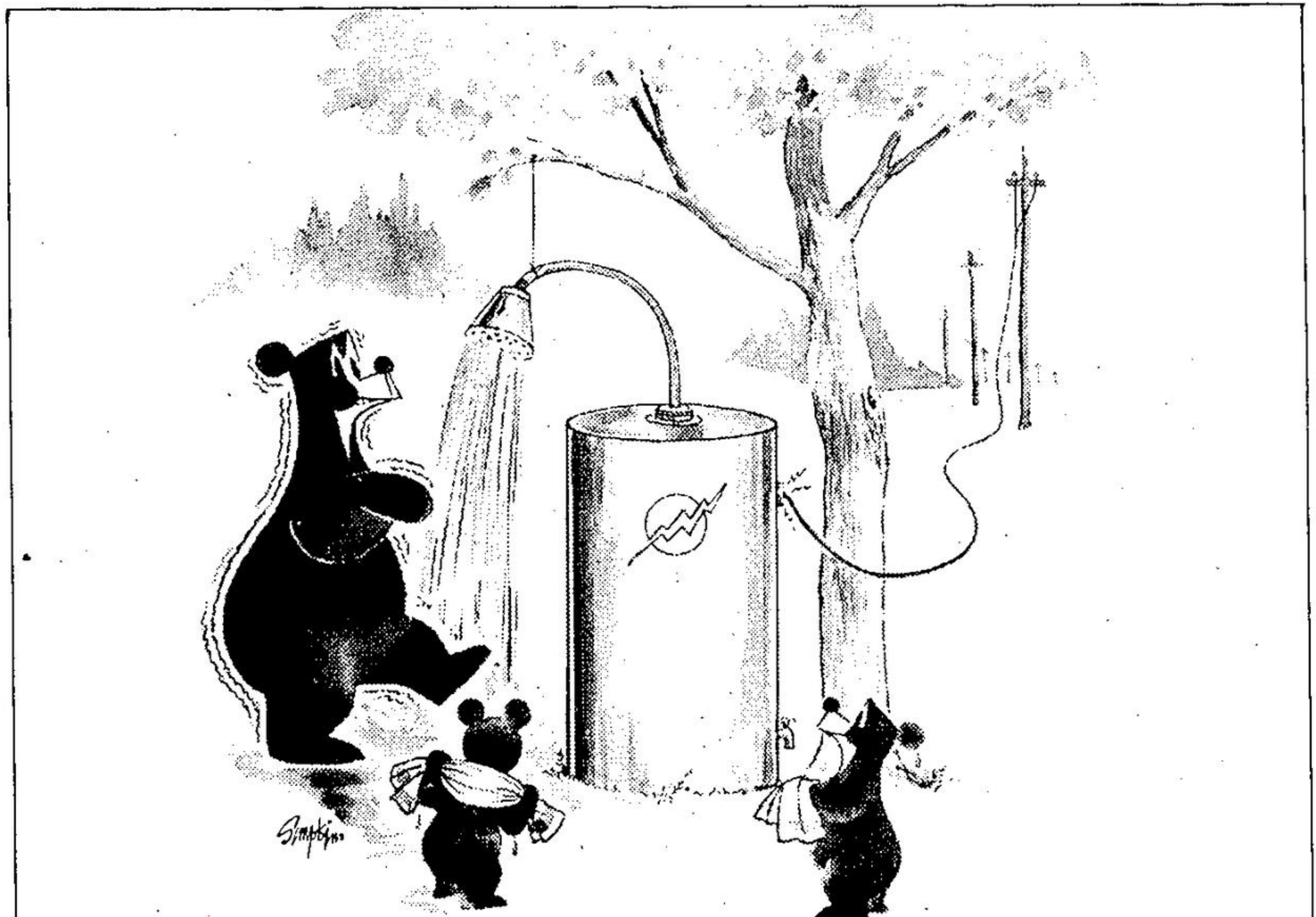
Mr. Moore estimated that a standby unit would cost about \$40,000 and recommended the diesel generator as the cheapest and most flexible of the alternate sources.

Public works chairman Jack Raftis said public utility commissions do not guarantee power and nor can the region.

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JASPER has the same problem a lot of us have: too many kids around and not enough hot water to go around. It's the same old story. You're ready for a nice hot shower or relaxing tub before going to bed and...brmmr...the old water heater gives you the cold shoulder again. It's almost unbearable, isn't it?

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