

## Save the Games

Behind the drone of bagpipes played by 28 bands from all over North America, aside from the colorful tartans donned by highland dancers, and apart from the grunts of the heavy lifters at Saturday's Highland Games, some Halton Hills councillors sensed an "anti-town" sentiment.

Games organizer Keith Spicer said this year's event should pay for itself and that's good news. But it's unfortunate that an event which should spawn camaraderie in a town with a high percentage of people with a British heritage, should have underlying grumblings. Organizers were apparently angry that the town had failed to provide utilities on time and that overnight-camping privileges, so essential to the success of the games, were not granted. In the past, Highland Games organizers have appeared before town council to explain that camping privileges are important because hundreds of dancers and band members must be up and on the site early in order to prepare for the games. We understand that there can often be some confusion surrounding large events, but in these days when the town and other organizations are pushing tourism so heavily, the confusion should be overcome in pursuit of success.

Coun. Joe Hewitt said Monday he heard people asking "why is the mayor letting us down?" during the games.

The problems which arose during the Highland Games can't be pinned on one man. There are seasoned veterans on both sides, but it must be remembered that organizers of the Highland Games are volunteers, who have little or no control over things like the installation of water and hydro facilities.

Coun. Norm Elliott said there were rumors that Saturday's event would be the last Highland Games in Georgetown.

We trust that won't happen. The organizers of the games are dedicated to the event, which is one of a series in Canada drawing professional athletes.

And we know that the town is serious about its tourism campaign.

## Ideas and Art



### Editor's Notebook

Brian MacLeod  
Herald Editor

Here at the Herald we try to stay on top of all aspects of life in Halton Hills and our newest columnist will help us better understand the cultural scene. John Sommer will be writing two columns each month covering all aspects of the arts. Mr. Sommer is the owner of



John Sommer

Gallery House Sol on Charles Street in Georgetown and his efforts in the arts field in town have been well documented. His column is entitled Ideas and the Arts and

Mr. Sommer has indicated he intends to cover a wide variety of cultural events locally.

Mr. Sommer's insight into the arts and his genuine appreciation of all artistic endeavors, from photography to canvas to the written word, will help give all those interested in culture locally a stimulating and thoughtful viewpoint.

While some people may have felt an anti-town sentiment down at the Highland Games at the Georgetown Fairgrounds on Saturday I was impressed with the massed bands, the energetic dancing and the heavy lifting events.

I must admit, being an avid weight-lifter myself, I was tempted to grab that 28 lb. weight and give it a heave. But the chaps in the kilts seemed to have a 50 lb. advantage on me in size so I thought the better of it.

Oh yes, I was glad to see at least one black and yellow MacLeod kilt heaving the cabers on Saturday.

Still the highlight of the event was the massed bands. Those of you who were there, or even if you live in the neighborhood had to hear and see the drone of the bagpipes and appreciate the colorful kilts of the clans.

Anyone with a hint of Scottish blood still has to stop and watch when the pipes start blaring.

## Anand resigned over policies



### Queen's Park

Derek Nelson  
Thomson News Service

TORONTO—"The path to a better Ontario is neither straight, nor phosphorescent.

"It has to be chiselled through layers of contrasting bedrock, sometimes permeable, other times apparently impermeable.

"The contrasts include majorities and minorities, different physical and mental abilities, workers and employers, landlords and tenants, owners and users, government and citizen."

Those are quotes from Ontario Human Rights Commissioner Raj Anand's resignation statement.

What is the man talking about?

It is tough to take seriously someone using such purple prose.

One would like to think such fuzzy thinking contributed to his resignation. But no such luck.

Anand lost the job because he didn't hire enough non-whites in senior positions at the commission. It's that simple.

Since he was appointed by the Liberal government 17 months ago, five senior people have left the agency. Anand has brought in seven newcomers.

Two of those who left were non-whites. All the newcomers are white. (Anand himself is a very pale-skinned East Indian, which makes him, in Ontario government eyes, a non-white.)

This hiring ratio brought Anand under attack. In the coming new multicultural Ontario, taking on only whites for anything will be ipso facto proof of discrimination.

The allegations went further, with talk of rigged competitions and improper terminations of the old crowd so Anand could hire his buddies.

An internal government review of the charges suggested there was "no evidence" of discrimination, favoritism or competition rigging in the hiring process.

But the review also concluded that the commission sometimes didn't follow normal hiring procedures and, for one particular job, rejected non-white applicants with better qualifications than the successful white applicant.

### MISSING

Interestingly, notes of candidate interviews and other information - which could have helped those doing the review judge whether hiring was done fairly - were missing. The data had not been kept.

In his resignation statement, Anand accurately noted the reviewers had said his personal "honesty and integrity... is not questioned" by them.

Even so, "considerable damage has been done. The complex com-

munity of human rights activists and the public at large is confused.

"The commission I want to see, the commission which Ontario needs, cannot be built in this environment. The work which I started must continue, and my presence must not divert attention for its completion."

And what is this work?

"My personal aspiration to lead the way to genuine equality of all our many peoples must take second place to the realization of the ultimate goal.

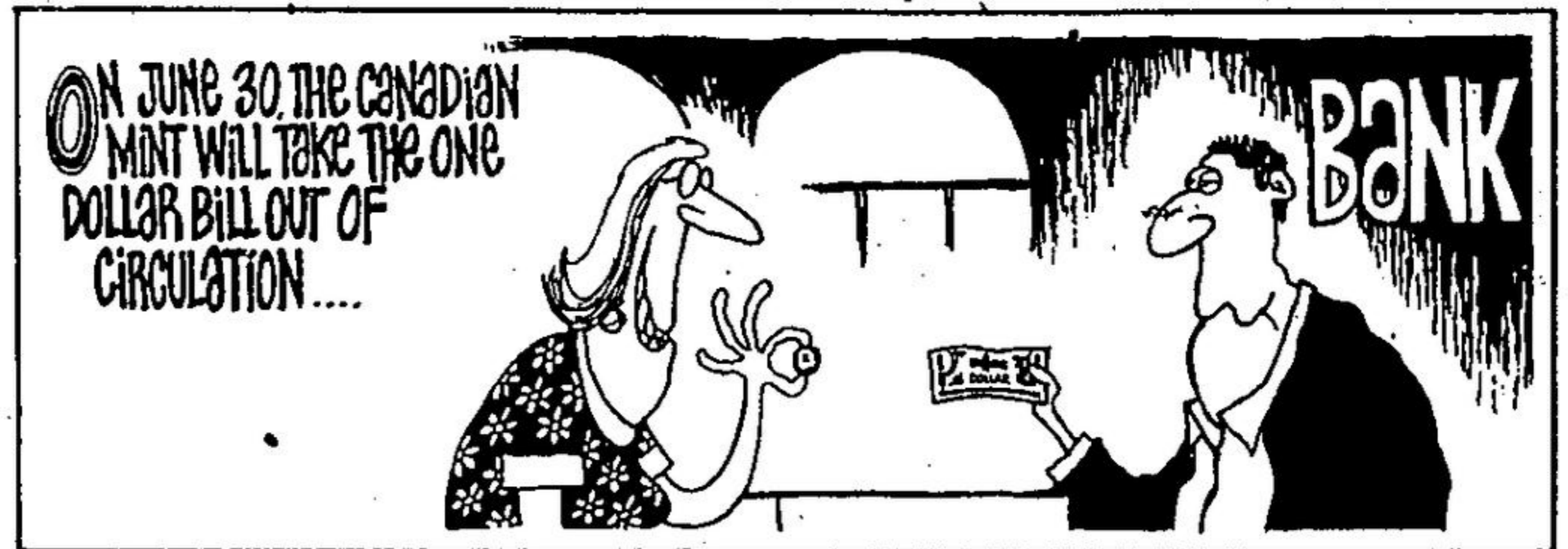
"I dreamed of a haven for victims of discrimination, of a beacon of compassion and strength in an environment of mistrust, ignorance and prejudice."

And so on.

This kind of flowery language, which mostly disappeared with the death of the Saturday afternoon matinee four decades ago, masks the hard reality of Anand's goal - a goal shared by the provincial (and federal) government.

They all call it "employment equity." Anand wanted it made mandatory in all firms. It would require "goals and timetables" by companies and government for the hiring of non-whites. Failure to meet these open-ended quotas would be proof of discrimination and bring the wrath of the commission down on one's head.

And if anyone is wondering how severe that punishment would be - look no further than Raj Anand. He's the first victim.



## RCMP wants to stop flow of smuggled cigarettes

By RENNIE MacKENZIE  
Ottawa Bureau  
Thomson News Service

OTTAWA—With a few subtle changes to its regulations, the federal Revenue Department expects to scuttle tobacco-smuggling operations that cost governments more than a hundred million dollars each year.

The proposals to extend tobacco-labelling requirements and penalties for selling tax-exempt cigarettes were all but buried in Finance Minister Michael Wilson's April budget.

But the changes are high on the priority list of RCMP and customs officials. They want to halt the multimillion-dollar flow of Canadian cigarettes exported to the U.S. and smuggled back free of the heavy excise taxes applied to tobacco that is sold directly on the domestic market.

The untaxed cigarettes that flow into the country, mainly through Mohawk Indian reserves outside Montreal and Cornwall, Ont., find their way into several major cities and other reserves.

Authorities estimate that the smugglers rake a 40-per-cent profit

off the contraband sold to consumers who are unhappy with tobacco taxes that have tripled over the last dozen years.

Up to \$5 million worth of cigarettes are said to pass through the Akwesasne Reserve on Cornwall Island each week. The Mohawks there are in a unique geographic position. Their land straddles Ontario, Quebec and New York State.

Lightning raids by hundreds of police over the past year have resulted in scores of arrests and the seizure of more than \$3.5 million in contraband. But the flow of tobacco continues.

By fall, however, it could get tougher for the smugglers. An Excise Act amendment will require manufacturers to put distinctive markings on export products. It will become illegal to possess or sell imported tobacco products that are not marked.

### MORE EXPENSIVE

It will also become more expensive for those caught with the contraband tobacco. The amendments boost the fines from the current \$50 to \$500 to an amount equal to double or triple the excise that would apply to the contraband shipment.

"That will make it a formidable

penalty," said Sandra Corbeil, chief of the department's excise duty office.

Corbeil explained that close inspection is required now to detect the Canadian product smuggled through the U.S. It should be obvious to anyone who goes out of his or her way to purchase cigarettes at the duty-free shops that dot the roadsides in the areas around the Mohawk lands. But it may not be so to someone buying through a retailer in a major city.

Apart from the absence of a tear-strip that states the duty has been paid, the differences are minor and a buyer could be excused for not noticing them. There tends to be more cardboard and less foil in packages destined for the U.S. market, the printing is in English only, and the health warning is that issued by the U.S. surgeon-general, Corbeil said.

Customs officials figure the federal losses along the Mohawk's tobacco road are near \$50 million each year. Quebec claims it loses about \$52 million.

With losses of that magnitude, it's likely the department will be working swiftly to take advantage of the new regulations.