

# the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

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## Editorial

### Fight now

We can't understand Halton's reluctance to halt Dufferin Aggregates' proposal for a 30 to 40-million tonne landfill in its tracks.

Dufferin Aggregates wants to put a landfill site in its quarry bordering on southern Halton Hills. The landfill site could be twice the size of the landfill proposed by Reclamation Systems Incorporated for the Acton quarry.

Halton's planning and public works committee defeated a motion last week to reject the landfill proposal.

Dufferin Aggregates manager Mike O'Connor said after the meeting a rejection by Halton Region would have killed the proposal.

How many dollars does Halton want to spend fighting landfill sites? Halton Hills is setting aside \$200,000 a year in preparation for the fight against the Acton dump. Burlington and Milton citizens groups have spent millions fighting proposed Regional dumps in their municipalities.

Haven't Halton's politicians learned anything from this?

This is heating up as a battle between northern and southern municipalities once more. Milton's Bill Johnson, Halton Hills' Rick Bonnette and Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy, a Norval resident, voted for outright rejection of the landfill proposal. But Rob Forbes, Pat McLaughlin and Barry Quinn, all of Burlington and Oakville's Fred Oliver, voted not to reject the dump immediately.

Unless proposals like this are stopped before they can gather steam, taxpayers dollars are once again going to land in the hands of consultants on both sides of the issue.

How long can we sit by and watch private enterprises make money digging huge holes in the ground, then make even more money filling it up with garbage. With the oversupply of quarries in the Region, it's easy to imagine Halton as the garbage capital of southern Ontario in a very short time.

Halton council will debate the issue today.

Common sense and prudence demands council overturn the committee's decision and put a stop to the endless proposals to bury everyone's garbage in Halton.

### Whose voice?

**Brian MacLeod**  
Editor's Notebook



Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner is his own best public relations man.

The MP penned a column March 21 questioning the purchase of the \$1.8 million painting Voice of Fire by the National Gallery of Canada. Mr. Turner called the work "a big, boring painting."

He added, "to make matters worse, (it was) painted by an American."

Well, he threw one more barb at the gallery Thursday when he invited the media to his Georgetown constituency office to watch him paint his own Voice of Fire. It took him just 3 1/2 minutes, albeit the painting wasn't as big. The painting was 40" high and 24" wide.

ting will be auctioned off at a Rotary Club meeting in Bolton today with proceeds to help build a seniors centre there. We'll try to find out how much the painting went for - heck, we'd even like to give it a critique!

If you've decided to drag your wheels - that's two wheels - out of the garage to enjoy the spring weather you'd better be aware of some new regulations announced this week by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation governing bicycles.

From now on:

- a bicycle is included in the definition of a vehicle,

- bicyclists must identify themselves to the police,

- bicyclists are not allowed to ride their bikes along a crosswalk or a pedestrian crossover. They must walk their bikes across the road,

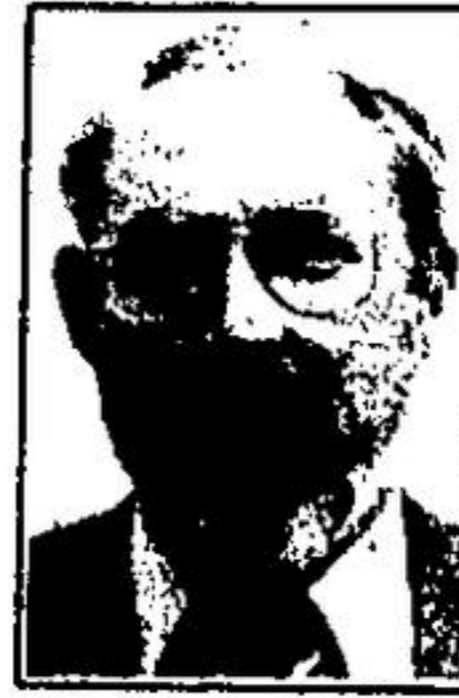
- bicyclists should indicate a right turn by extending their right arm horizontally,

- a person walking a bike along a highway without sidewalks may walk on the right side of the highway - not on the left side facing traffic.

## Cartoon captured court decision

**Derek Nelson**

Queen's Park  
Toronto News Service



TORONTO - The Toronto Sun editorial cartoon on the Supreme Court decision shutting down the judicial inquiry into the Patti Starr affair caught what many thought was its essence.

Cartoonist Andy Donato drew Premier David Peterson kissing the justices' feet and mumbling "thank you, thank you, thank you."

Some suspicious minds even think the narrow terms with which the inquiry was framed in the first place was a deliberate attempt to scuttle it.

It was the ageing of Criminal Code wording in the inquiry terms of reference that cause the Supreme Court to bring it to a crashing halt.

Although Attorney General Ian Scott has said it would be impossible to re-establish the inquiry under different terms of reference, others aren't so sure.

NDP leader Bob Rae, who from the beginning has called for a much wider inquiry into contacts between the development industry and politicians, said Scott's conclu-

sion was a "political misuse of the court decision."

**NOT HAPPY**

In short, while the inquiry may now be dead, nobody except the principals and the government is happy about the result.

Nor should they be.

The real public benefit of the inquiry under Mr. Justice Lloyd Houlden wasn't the "prosecution" or "persecution" of any of the people who were involved in the widely diverse activities that have come to be summed up under the title, "the Patti Starr affair."

These activities included Starr's fund-raising and fund-distributing activities as head of the Toronto section of the National Jewish Women's Council, her connections to the development giant Tridel Corporation and the building of a non-profit housing co-op, and the strange case of the refrigerator that Gordon Ashworth, then executive director of the premier's office, received but didn't pay for.

The aim should have been to find out what had actually happened in each of those circumstances. It now appears unlikely that the facts will ever come out in any coherent manner.

And that's unfortunate.

The Patti Starr affair has, and is continuing to have, much broader consequences than the pyrotechnics triggered by the machinations of a political group.

In particular, the Starr affair has hurt the political process in general, leaving an impression of widespread corruption even though there has been no evidence

of it.

It has ruined or at least dented the careers of numerous politicians who were hardly at personal fault because they didn't keep track of every single dollar donated to their campaigns.

It has tarnished the image of a highly respected charity organization, the National Council of Jewish Women.

**DISREPUTE**

Worst of all, by bringing personal and corporate fund raising into such disrepute, the Starr affair has probably made inevitable the end of private financing of political campaigns.

Corporations and unions will almost certainly be banned from making political donations during the next round of (so called) electoral reforms, expected next year. Individuals may well, too, be prevented from contributing, or, at least, have greater restrictions placed on how and who.

This could leave financing of political parties entirely - or almost entirely - in government hands, using some variation of allocating tax dollars to political parties based on the vote they received in the previous election. At the same time, third party advertising for or against an issue would be banned.

The beneficiaries of all this will be the three old-line parties (Liberals, NDP, PC). A new party, having no voting record, won't get any money. Outside individuals, aligned to no party, but having a cause, will be silenced.

That could be the real legacy of the Patti Starr affair.



## Canadians up to competition

**Vic Parsons**

Ottawa Bureau  
Toronto News Service



OTTAWA - Canadian manufacturers are not wimps when it comes to facing competition from the rest of the world.

That's a spot of good news in these morbid times. Especially so when there is an increased world trend toward lower trade barriers and greater integration of national economies.

True, the statistics upon which the assertion is based are at least a decade old. But Richard Caves, the Harvard University economist who rummaged through the numbers and dreary formulae to reach his conclusion, says his findings suggest our manufacturers

should respond well to increased competition under the Canada-U.S. free-trade agreement (FTA).

Caves' report was part of the background compiled by the Economic Council of Canada when the federal agency was formulating an FTA policy.

"Canadian producers by no means retreat in disarray when import competition stiffens," says Caves, an American. He talks of "fighting responses" and says manufacturers in the '70s were aggressive sellers who behaved as though exports were a "regular and substantial" part of their business.

**BARRIERS FELL**

Part of Caves' study shows that although Canada's tariff barriers were falling during the '70s, the foreign share of sales of manufactured goods also declined. This varied in different sectors, of course. Foreigners grabbed a bigger share of the clothing market, for instance, but lost ground in machinery and printing sectors.

Moreover, Canadians are not just resting comfortably on their natural resources, he suggests.

vantages that foster our sales abroad.

Just as Caves' study was released last week, the Conference Board issued a report on "globalization" - which means a unified world marketplace.

The private research agency's publication looked at how 15 successful Canadian firms are adjusting as economies become more interdependent and interconnected.

Successful firms, it suggests, will need to increase productivity; offer environmentally safe products; beat competitors to the market with their products and services and improve technology so potential clients will see them as capable suppliers.

The Conference Board notes Canadian output is still about 30 per cent lower than that of the U.S., our major trading partner, due to short production time, less specialization and more resistance to new product lines. There are no major signs of productivity improvement, either, the report says.