

Editorial

Sewage sludge research project

Canadians, and indeed the world community as a whole, are becoming increasingly conscious of the need to both protect and preserve our environment.

To drastically understate the obvious - it's about time.

One of the main problems concerning environmentally-caring communities is what to do with sewage sludge. Especially sewage sludge with high, harmful metal contents.

News out of the University of Toronto suggests that a cost-cutting environmentally beneficial way has been found to dispose of sewage sludge.

University of Toronto Professor, J. Glynn Henry, of the civil engineering department, working with graduate student Lawrence Wong, claims to have developed a process - called Biometex - which is reported to significantly reduce the harmful metals in sewage sludge while retaining the sludge's fertilizer benefits.

"Sewage sludge can be transformed into an excellent soil conditioner for use on agricultural land, forests and parks," Professor Henry is quoted as saying in the U of T press release about the Biometex process.

In addition to plant nutrients, untreated sewage sludge contains metals, toxic organic compounds and pathogens which pose potential human health hazards.

The Biometex system, which has successfully operated for four months, according to the press release, is a continuous biological metal extraction procedure.

To remove heavy metals, from solid sludge, the metals are made soluble through bacterial leaching. It has successfully treated anaerobically (free of air) sludge highly contaminated with metals.

The system removed large quantities of copper, nickel, zinc and cadmium while nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium remained unchanged.

The U of T report noted that sludge handling and disposal currently accounts for more than 40 per cent of the capital and operating costs of most treatment plants.

Professor Henry believes that landspreading, facilitated through the Biometex process, is an economical alternative that would even cost only 60 per cent as much as incineration - which already has environmentalists up in arms.

Similarly, landfilling as a sludge disposal method is prohibited due to the high metal concentrations in sludge.

The successful research of Professor Henry and Lawrence Wong was sponsored by Environment Canada through the Department of Supply and Service and by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

More environmentally-oriented research projects such as this should be commissioned.

Perhaps then, our poor dear old battered and abused planet just might make it through a few more decades.

A good belly laugh

Dear Sir:

Because Mr. C. Richard Fagal wrote to your paper objecting to your "Letter to Mike" editorial, I wanted to let you know I thoroughly enjoyed it as did a couple of people I repeated it to. In fact we had a good old-fashioned "belly laugh." Laughter eases tensions, relieves stress and anxiety. A proven medical fact!

In the preceding weeks many of us have wept over editorials of killing and maiming of thousands of human beings, worried about our national debt, job losses, etc., angered by political squabbling and name-calling, patronage abuse, tossing of canes, pomposity and ultimatums. Laughing at ourselves and our politicians is healthy. Many countries are denied this and are revolting for such freedom.

There are those who can afford to escape the world's troubles for a short while but there are increasingly more and more Canadians who can do no more than just exist from day to day and a chuckle from such as your column does wonders and perhaps even saves on health care costs.

I would presume Mr. Fagal considered George Bush's phrase "Kick Ass" to also be in the washroom graffiti category and hope he would not discriminate in his objection to people speaking or writing to the masses, and pen his displeasure to Washington, D.C.

Or - perhaps in the words of the younger generation - Mr. Fagal - "Lighten up."

Sincerely,
Pearl Kerby,
Georgetown.

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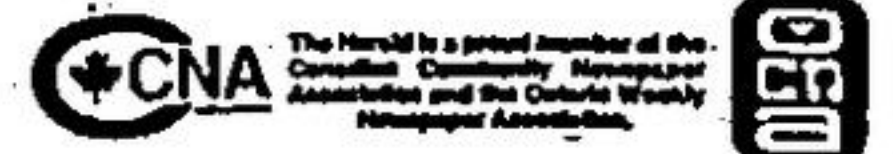
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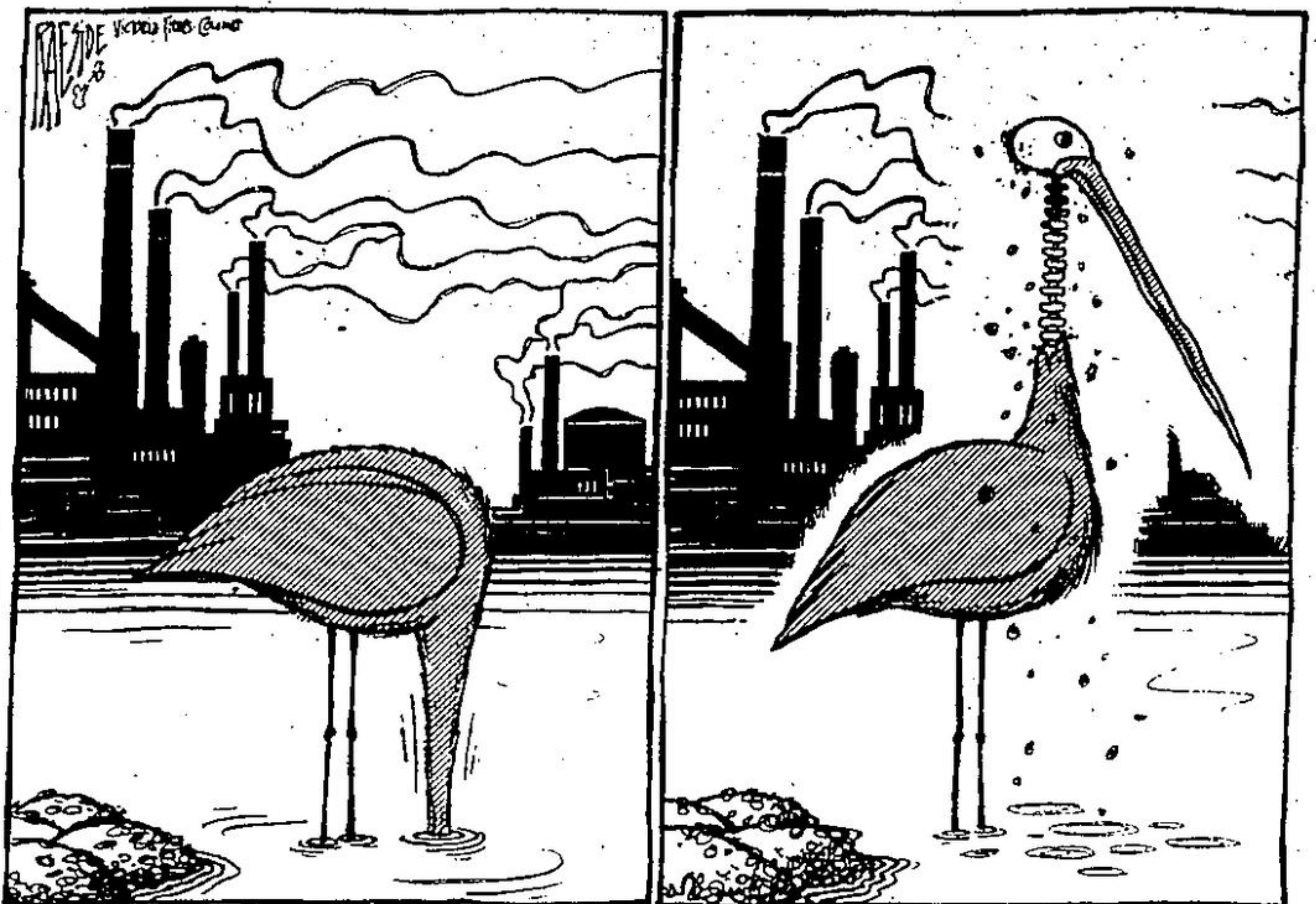
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People's Forum Town Council applauded

Dear Sir:

In these times when our town Council seems to be criticized for many of the decisions they make, we would like to commend them on the strong stand they took against the Bain-Smart townhouse project. This development proposal would have seen four townhouses placed on a lot currently occupied by a single family dwelling.

The Acton councillors in particular were very forceful in their arguments to protect this established neighbourhood and support the wishes of the many residents who opposed this major rezoning application.

Replying to the suggestion that the area was "in transition" Councillor Bonnette called it a "stable, long term neighbourhood" and said that "an increased number of townhouses will change the character of the neighbourhood."

When the developer argued that it was his right to suggest changes to the Official Plan, Councillor Elliott countered, "It is the right of the people to object to a change which will alter their neighbourhood forever" and that, "People have a right to object to unacceptable density."

Even though town staff and consultants recommended that the project "could" be done, Council fulfilled its mandate by deciding whether or not it "should" be done. Rick Bonnette summed it up well with "This is what our zoning and Official Plan are for, to protect."

As residents of Halton Hills, members of R.A.I.D.D. are glad to see councillors upholding our bylaws and Official Plan and

listening to what the people have to say. As Norm Elliott said, "You have to listen to the neighbours."

Yours truly
Gail Rutherford
President
R.A.I.D.D.

The last word

Editor's note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Dear Guiseppi:

I have decided to address this, my last letter, to you directly as I'm getting rather tired of the third person communication we have been engaged in, the last few weeks.

It seems that we agree on some things to do with women's liberation, (pornography, exploitation of women, male accountability for violence against women to name only three), but are not in agreement on abortion. I have come down on the pro-choice side which is also pro-life in a very profound sense, and you on the pro-life side. From our battle of wits in the newspaper much can be said on both sides - too much probably!

You name one of the causes of women being forced into becoming baby-factories as women's liberation. I get the distinct impression that the FCP, hard line fundamentalists, and other reactionary elements in society would dearly like to legislate the women's movement out of existence.

It won't happen, Guiseppi. Those of us who seek freedom for ourselves and our sisters, know that our liberation, while not yet achieved, is inevitable. We know that the women's movement which is happening all over the

world, even in macho Islamic countries, has the potential to bring healing to our ecologically-distressed world - now so ravaged by the males who want to exert "power over" it - to control, dominate and destroy it. We know that "power over" is not going to last, as one by one, worldwide, women discover the "power within" themselves. You can't stop it, nor can I. It's too deep, too pervasive, too convincing for any individual or group of individuals to quench. It arises from the depths of the collective human unconscious, and through that to the Cosmos itself.

Thank you for providing my family and myself our daily dose of humour last Wednesday evening. We haven't laughed so hard in a long time. I refer, of course, to your advice that I should seek out a pastor to dialogue on the merits of Christianity. You see, I happen to be married to one!

Yours sincerely,
Joan Davison,
Georgetown.

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6. All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.