

Opinion

Sometimes lawyers can confuse the issue

It's no wonder the general public doesn't always hold lawyers in the highest regard. Lawyers, judging from those involved in the ongoing hearing at the Halton Hills Civic Centre on the proposed Niagara Escarpment Commission Amendment 52, appear to confuse rather than clarify the issue at hand to prove their point.

Amendment 52, if approved, would require applicants wanting to establish a waste disposal facility on the escarpment to first obtain an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Currently an amendment isn't always required.

Those who oppose the amendment include, Milton-based Reclamation Systems In-

corporated and Walker brothers from Niagara - both waste management firms. It should be noted RSI currently has a proposal before the province's Ministry of the Environment to convert the Acton quarry into a dump. The quarry is located south of Acton on the escarpment.

It appears, given the line of questions posed during Monday's proceedings, that the lawyers for RSI and Walker Brothers are trying to prove dumps are essential and as such, no possible dumping area should be ruled out - including the escarpment.

RSI lawyer Richard Hazard questioned two members of the public Monday from Dundas and St. Catharines, who both support



Ben's Banter
by Ben Dummett

Amendment 52, on whether they agreed dumps are essential.

Not surprisingly, both agreed. It's not news that Southern Ontario is experiencing a garbage crisis.

Mr. Hazard then posed a series

of questions that centred on the idea that if a leak-proof dump could be established on the escarpment and there were no other available sites, would they accept a dump on the escarpment.

Mr. Hazard's point being the amendment, if approved, could hinder a solution being found for the garbage crisis. This line of argument makes sense if the amendment's sole purpose is to prevent dumps on the escarpment.

Mr. Hazard's questions confuse the amendment's meaning.

Amendment 52 isn't being proposed to add to the garbage crisis. It's being proposed to "maintain and enhance" the escarpment's natural environment.

Walker Brothers' lawyer Cynthia Findley questioned members of the public on why they support Amendment 52 when they may not object to other types of development such as housing on the escarpment.

The Niagara Escarpment Plan allows for housing development on the escarpment that doesn't detract from the escarpment's natural features.

By associating dump proposals with housing development, the lawyer is lessening people's focus on dumps per se. Amendment 52's only purpose is to consider landfills, and whether they detract from the escarpment.

Why don't the lawyers involved tackle the amendment head on instead of trying to associate it with side issues?

People's Forum

Not seeing the whole picture

To the Editor:

Re: Food Bank being abused.
There is a saying along the lines of believing only half of what you see and in the case of the author of the above letter, I believe that she may not be seeing the whole picture.

I have put in a few hours as a volunteer at the Acton Food Share. My own economic situation is such that I can't spare anything, but my time, so I try to help out whenever I can. I made that point to show that I am talking from experience.

First, let me explain that the Acton Food Share is located in the back of the Beardmore property. Anyone who is familiar with the Beardmore is aware of the very steep hills on the proper-

ty, especially to someone who is walking. When packing the groceries, we take that into consideration, and try to distribute the load evenly. Potatoes, a package of rolls, diapers and a few canned goods, can easily account for 4 bags. Add to that a jar of peanut butter, cereal, sugar, baby food, juice, powdered milk, rice and extras for a school lunch or two. So, yes some people do come out with 10 bags of food.

The second point is that people who use the food bank do not simply come in and help themselves. They sit in the waiting area while volunteers, like myself, fill the orders based on the size and individual needs of each person and family. That woman whom you saw pushing

around a cart could very well have been me, as I bring my preschool age children when I help out, as do some of the other volunteers, who by the way include many males.

In closing, I would like to say that I have been touched by the very people we serve. From the sincerity of their smiles and thankyou's to the man who handed us a couple of dollars, saying that he was starting to get back on his feet again. No system is free from abuse, which I'm sure does take place, but it is so rare, why make those truly in need, suffer.

Sincerely,
S. MacAskill,
Acton.

Food bank defended

Dear Whomever:

Re: Article in the Halton Hills Herald, Wednesday, April 10, 1991, "Food Bank being abused."

After reading your article and having volunteered at the Acton Food Share, I felt it necessary to write.

First, you made reference to a woman "pushing a buggy that was dressed very nicely and had a hat on that you could never afford to buy."

Have you ever heard the expression, "Don't judge a book by its cover?" In short, just because a person appears to dress 'well' does not mean that the person is not in need of assistance from the Food Share.

Second, you made reference to the amount of groceries carried out by two persons and that they "should not be allowed to take so many groceries at once."

What you do not realize is that the food that is given out is weighed and this information is kept on the recipient's application.

Perhaps the 10 grocery bag couple was feeding a family of six! Was that their only trip to the Food Share that month? Do you know that volunteers fill the boxes or bags with predetermined amounts of food per person?

I understand your frustrations. Which assistance program isn't infallible? There are always those who try to defeat the system and get something for nothing.

The Food Share in Acton or anywhere was set up and provides for those who require assistance temporarily or permanently.

Next time, please direct your concerns or enquiries to those who volunteer their time working at the food share and perhaps you will better understand and relinquish your belief that your donations were a "big mistake."

Sincerely,
Arlene Martin,
Acton.

Town workers praised

Editor's note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.
Halton Works Department
Attn: Frank Morrette.

Dear Mr. Morrette:
The recent storm snapped a very old beautiful sugar maple and it fell over our property. As there was no hope for survival you sent three of your men to take it down. My husband Dave and I just had to write to you and make a very favorable comment. Norm Thornhill, Terry Campbell and Bob Clark took that tree down like the pros they are and raked up the debris, delivered the wood down our long driveway and dumped the requested chips exactly where we asked them to.

Their professionalism and friendliness however was not all they portrayed. In that tree was a mother racoon and her five little young whose eyes were not opened yet. They carefully took the section of the tree containing the little family and placed it over by the ravine, propping it up with a stick so it wouldn't roll. Before the evening came, the mother had come for two of the young, and before dark set in she had come for the other two. One did not make it and as I pondered the

wonder of that little deceased racoon in my hand I was so grateful for the kindness of Norm, Terry and Bob whose caring had saved the others.

As a wildlife artist my feelings run very deep toward all life, and I and my family want you to know Mr. Morrette that your men are OK with us. They really are. In a

world where the 11 o'clock news gives you nightmares it is a breath of fresh air to see outdoor type men who care for all living created things and we just want to say thank you on behalf of the racoons.

Sincerely,
David and Shirley Deaville,
Georgetown.

Bylaw criticized

Dear Editor:

Did you hear the joke about the small company that set up shop on Guelph St. about a year and a half ago, offering the consumer a bit of culture and a touch of class? Business was steady for a while then it quietened down a bit. The owners decided it was time for a special, so they went out and got a portable sign so the public could see what sort of goodies and services were on special. Hopefully business would improve and allow the company to keep the employees, pay their share of P.S.T., F.S.T., G.S.T., U.I.C., Workman's C. and any other BST. that had to be paid.

The sign was positioned just behind the pedestrian walkway on the crest of a small knoll, the ideal spot for passing masses. Everything was going fine, then one day the owner had a visit from the S.E.S. (Sign Enforcement Squad) informing him that the sign was contravening the by-law and it would have to be removed. Now wouldn't that give you the boak. Here we are up to our eyeballs in plant closures, lost jobs, bankruptcies and a recession that will be around for a while yet, and some yo yo, who has obviously nothing better to do, starts preaching some idiotic by-law about what kind of sign you can put up.

I am a great believer in abiding by the laws, but in times like we are having right now, surely certain rules could be bent a bit. Some joke, eh?

Name and address withheld by request.

Service clubs thanked

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two local service clubs in our community who provided a valuable service. The Acton Rotary Club and the Georgetown Optimist Club sponsored free skating at the three arenas in the Town of Halton Hills. In total, 5,272 residents took advantage of this generous opportunity.

On behalf of the residents of Halton Hills, and the Recreation and Parks Department, thank you for your continuous support and for the contributions you make to our community.

Sincerely,
Cecil Peacock,
Facility Manager,
Georgetown Memorial Arena.

Agrees with editorial

Dear Editor:

I agree with your analysis of the Reform Party. I might add that the Reform Party, sporting a mixture of popular control, western influence and conservatism, is often praised by the major media for having abandoned the "value stuff" (i.e. principles and policies on difficult issues) for more popular positions (i.e. saying what people want to hear). Of course, the major media love to print what people love to read. So the loop closes with more support for the RP.

What is the difference between this new party, who would use

referenda to "solve" the divisive issues, and the old parties governing by polls? One might ask: where is the meat?

Why would Canada need another party which is converging towards the centre of the political spectrum in its struggle to quickly gain power? The other parties lasted for many years before compromising their principles and losing leadership. This one seems to have a head start in the same direction.

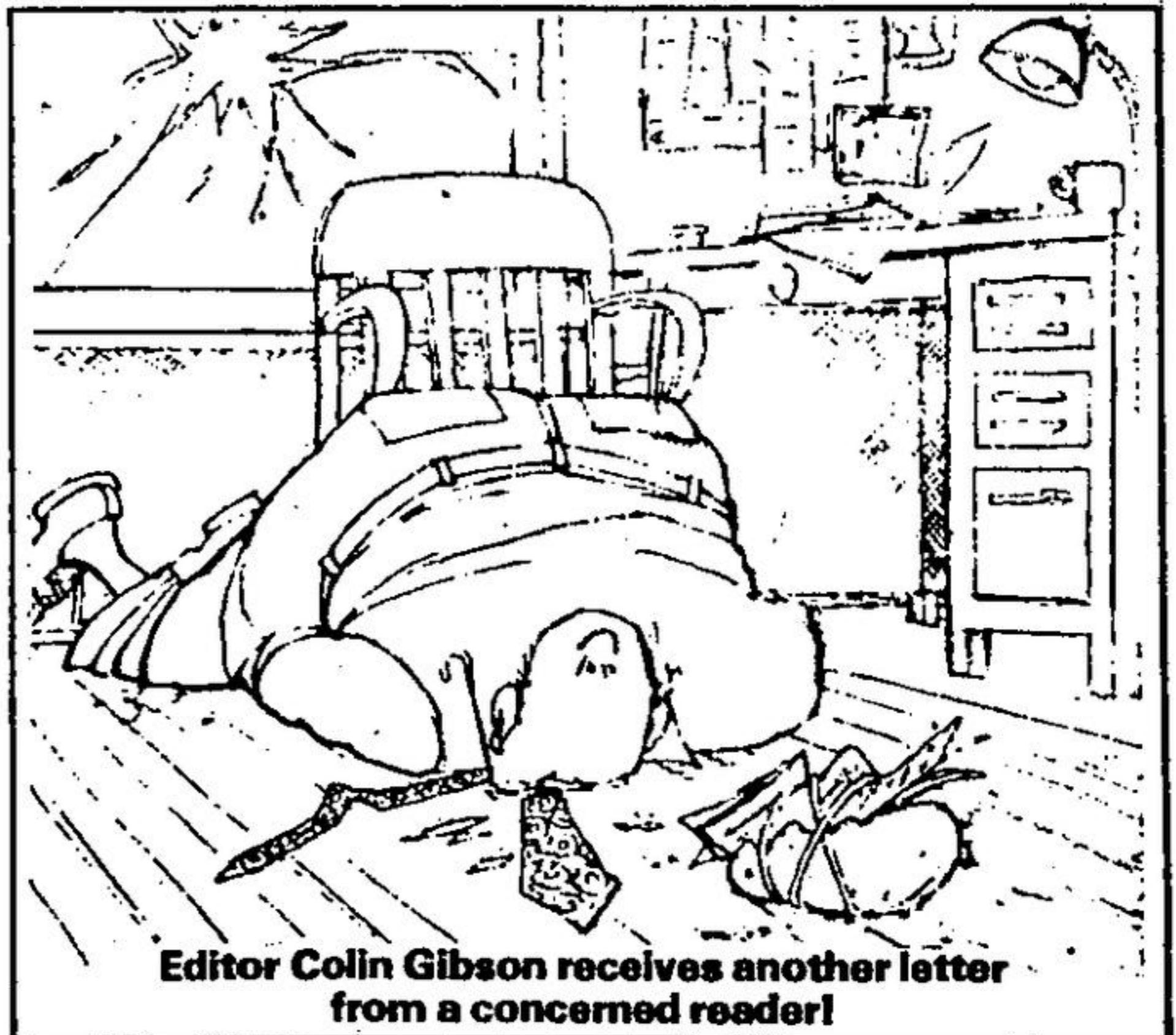
Sincerely,
Guiseppe Gori,
Executive Vice President,
Family Coalition Party
of Ontario.

'Lifestyles' enjoyed

Dear Editor:

I just wanted to write and say how much my family and myself enjoyed the "Healthy Lifestyles of Halton Hills" at the high school on Saturday. We all came away excited and a lot more knowledgeable. I hope that Healthy Lifestyles of Halton Hills becomes an annual event in Georgetown.

Shelley Riddall,
Georgetown.



Editor Colin Gibson receives another letter from a concerned reader!