

People's Forum

Major depression looming

To the Editor:

When Mr. Mulroney's parliamentary committee on taxation visited New Zealand a few years ago, it found that their new tax system was not a milk cow, but a whole herd of milk cows. The system is similar to our G.S.T. and in the first year produced much more revenue than the New Zealand Government ever dreamed of collecting. Our members of parliament came home with glowing reports of how much money they could extract out of the people. The stage was set for our G.S.T.

The result of extracting so much money from the economy was not considered. New Zealand was plunged into a recession that it has never recovered from. The simple fact is that not enough money is left to live, which increases the cost of goods and services. Yet, on the other hand, high prices mean people have to reduce unnecessary spending to balance the family budget. Result - lost jobs and the economic ground work for a made-in-Canada depression. Government policy makers had to know this was going to happen or else they are abundantly incompetent.

Mr. Mulroney campaigned in 1984 on reducing the numbers of civil servants and government waste. Since that time he has doubled the national debt during a time when revenues increased enormously.

Nearly a billion dollars was wasted on a very questionable, if not false, advertising campaign promoting the G.S.T. In one breath, the government said the tax is going to be revenue neutral and in the next, the tax is necessary to reduce the national debt. Both cannot be correct.

Nearly a billion dollars a year extra is being spent to administer the G.S.T. A large increase in the number of civil servants, the added costs, work and aggravation for small business caused by the G.S.T. is enormous but our government officials either do not understand or care. They arrange large salary increases for themselves before the budget and Mr. Wilson talks about his tough stand. What a bunch of hypocrites!!

The fact that the manufacturing sales tax needed to be changed is a poor excuse to place an all encompassing tax on the nation. Much promotion was placed on the reduction of the tax on a new car, but remember the G.S.T. like the P.S.T. now applies to used cars bought off the lot. Nothing was said about the vast majority of lower priced goods that sell at retail for four, five or six times or more of their manufacturing costs. That adds up to much more tax than the 13.5% of the M.S.T.

Since last November, Mr. Wilson has been trying to increase the money supply in the Canadian economy (which is in-

flationary) to stimulate the economy and yet publicly talking about holding down inflation with high interest rates. To date, the Canadian public is not borrowing much of that money.

Many people are out of work, many more are waiting for the day when their employers go bankrupt. Not a very pleasant outlook for both employee and employer.

Canada cannot continue to consume itself. We are on the brink of a major depression. Once a business and jobs are lost they will not return quickly. With Canadians working for governments well into July of each year, the G.S.T. on January, 1991, was a severe blow below the belt for a staggering economy. Ontario can expect another similar blow when its budget is presently shortly.

Those simple-minded people who thought increasing taxes again would work can now see how it works, lost jobs, lost business and an ever-increasing flow of money and talent out of the country.

Unless all levels of government take quick and effective steps to reduce unnecessary programmes and waste, so that taxes can be reduced, large sums of money are going to continue to flow out of the country and our economy will continue to deteriorate.

R.D. Pinkney,
R.R.3, Georgetown.

Proud Canadian

Dear Editor:

On CTV's Sunday Edition, Mike Duffy had a piece about the booing of the Canadian anthem in Quebec. He discussed this with a few individuals; one of whom was Francine Pelletier.

As a Proud Canadian I am insulted by the continued abuse other people feel is justifiable; because they have an attitude problem with the present state of our country.

It is rather unfortunate that many Canadians have taken on a destructive attitude about the plaguing issues surrounding Quebec.

The most unfortunate part of all this is the lack of knowledge about the history of our dynamic country.

The European founder of this country is Jacque Cartier; a French man. Since the beginning of the arrival of the white man, there have been Frenchmen. The English have tried many times to physically remove the French in order to accumulate land, but have always failed in their efforts to do so.

The Battle of Montreal was a prime example of such an occurrence. Ever since this time the French have been a minority. Ironically now it seems the French want to get rid of the English. Yet we are all Canadians.

The destructive abuse I am referring to is the desecration of our flag and the booing of our national anthem. No matter what province or territory one comes from we are still all Canadian.

Francine Pelletier is a frequently listened to journalist from Quebec who unfortunately expresses a bias opinion of the events in her province. Once again she feels she has justified the actions of a few in a public place (sports arena) who have booed our national anthem. She appears to express a separatist view of such happenings not an objective one, which a journalist should be expressing. There must be an objective, bilingual, female journalist somewhere in the province of Quebec. This is a perfect example of one adding insult to injury.

I feel I have been tolerant of many of the issues Quebec has dealt with in the past, because of our history, sign laws, bilingualism across Canada, Meech Lake. No one journalist speaks for a whole province.

I know I am not alone in my thinking and it is about time we the average Proud Canadian spoke up and said so.

The media do not represent all Canadians any more than the politicians think they do.

Proud to be a Canadian,
from Terra Cotta, Ont.,
Erin Tayler.

Opinion

By-law enforcement becoming a town issue

As unbelievable as it might seem, the enforcement of Halton Hills bylaws has become an issue. One that is both important and complex.

On the surface, most would probably agree Town bylaw enforcement is a simple matter of the Town charging those who refuse to abide by a Town bylaw. However it's not that simple, as the controversy surrounding the way the Town is enforcing one of its bylaws shows.

The bylaw involves business signs.

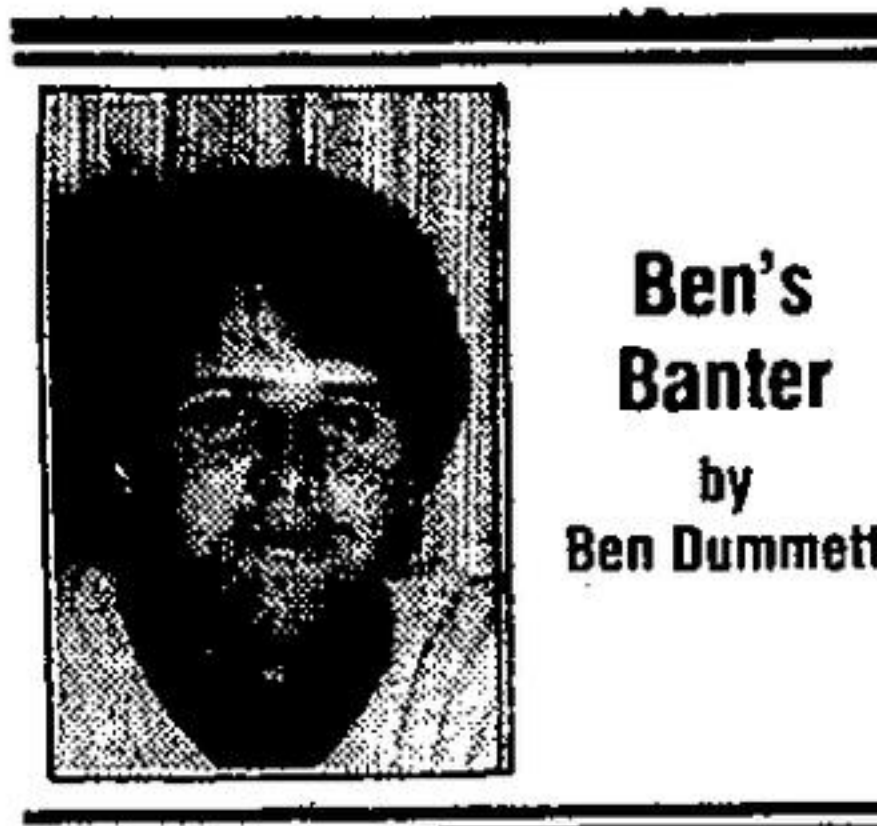
The issue doesn't centre on the sign bylaw per se but rather how the sign bylaw is enforced.

In a letter that went before

Town Council last April 15, Doug Robb, President of the local company Marzo Glove Ltd., calls the enforcement of the Town bylaw discriminatory. Mr. Robb's letter was in reaction to being charged with violating the Town's sign bylaw. Mr. Robb contends in the letter the Town's policy of only investigating bylaw infractions upon receiving public complaint is unfair and discriminatory.

The Town requires that Mr. Robb remove the sign, but in the letter Mr. Robb writes the sign's removal will mean a significant loss of business.

Mr. Robb's argument makes sense since some businesses in Town are currently operating



Ben's Banter
by Ben Dummett

with illegal signs and are going unpunished. As well, those same businesses could go unpunished indefinitely if no one complains.

The Town's bylaw enforcement

policy exists as is because there isn't the Town staff allowing for an enforcement officer to spend his or her day travelling around the community looking for sign bylaw infractions.

Why doesn't the Town hire more bylaw enforcement officers? To do so would require higher taxes, a prospect no one wants to face.

Mr. Robb suggests the Town eliminate the bylaw all together. The only problem with this idea is that the Town's urban landscape could be dominated by signs, the end result being a form of sign pollution.

One possible solution could be the Town exempt Mr. Robb from

the bylaw. Given the recession and the fact that Mr. Robb would lose a significant amount of business without an exemption seems fair.

There is only one problem with this solution. If the Town grants one exemption then it must do likewise for other companies using illegal signs.

The only thing certain about the controversy surrounding the sign bylaw enforcement is there is no easy answer.

However, if the Town doesn't want to appear to be unfair to the business community, changes to the bylaw or the way it is enforced are needed.

The sooner the better.

Picture Portraits



Hospital benefits from burgers

Barbequed hamburgers were going like mad at M and M Meats annual barbeque held Saturday. Near lunchtime, (left to right), Clarissa, Neil and Allison Salinas, children of store owners, Clarita and Salvador Salinas, lined up with buns for Mark Flood

to slap a patty on. Hamburgers and a drink went for one dollar and proceeds were donated to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital. (Herald photo)



Good reading material

Matthew and Michael Willis may have just learned how to read, but the wonder of the written word has caught a hold of them and they were eager to buy books at the University Women's Club annual book sale held Saturday at Knox Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Georgetown. Children's books were a hot item at the sale which offered over 20,000 books. (Herald photo)