

# More is not less in any shape or form

One one of those hot days we recently had, I was imbibing some badly needed refreshment in a local establishment when a patron, having wholesomely praised my writings, asked why I do not devote more time to the local political scene. Actually I have considered for a while to comment on what goes on in our beautiful little kingdom, but ....

So be it, let us take a look at our surroundings. Recently a well-meaning professor spent some of the taxpayers money studying the two-levels of local government in the Niagara Peninsula. he came up with the conclusion that the two levels situation is not any more expensive than a one-level one. An embarrassing conclusion for those of us who firmly believe that we have a bit too many governments in Canada!

But let us look at the findings of the professor. Actually he is absolutely right. If we look at the services provided by the two levels (region and municipality) we will see that there is not much overlapping and indeed two levels or one cost roughly the same.

Well, not really: two cafeterias are more expensive than one, two personnel offices cost a bit more than one ... but let us not quibble. Our learned scholar is however missing a key point: the devil finds work for idle hands! (Not that our civil servants are idle ...!)

What "idle hands" means is that if we have one employee that person is likely to come up with - to satisfy the old Parkinson's rule - let's say, one new idea a year. Now two employees will come up



**Another View**  
by  
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with two ideas, and so on. In a few years the two organizations will have created hundreds of ideas, and some of them will have blossomed into full fledged programs. the more organizations ...

the more programs. And let us face it, most programs can be justified - in one way or another.

Recently a fine fellow came around to ask how much office space we have vacant. Well, why not. Knowledge is always useful. Now, what will council do with that information? Stop issuing building permits? Reduce taxes? Burn some buildings? the possible lines of action open to our municipality are really none. But what the heck, knowledge is always useful.

We are now to have street numbers in the sticks. Why? You guessed it, for safety reasons. (I found it a bit strange to receive the notice of the new program together with flyers from two manufacturers of street signs, but that is just a matter of taste).

Can I stand up and say we need

street numbers like another note in the head? No, but we lived well enough without street numbers that I hardly find a reason for littering the countryside with a string of utterly meaningless numbers. The project was proposed by one civil servant, who learned about it from another municipality, and so on.

Conclusions: the more municipalities, the more ideas, the more programs, the more employees, the more cost, the more taxes. And all programs are needed. And more people are getting involved in non-productive work. But all will look plenty busy when our learned prof will conduct his next study. Believe it or not: two levels of government cost more than one: why do you think Moslems are giving up on having two wives?

## Community Focus



### Pail fishing

These three Georgetown youngsters took a unique approach to fishing at Cedarvale Park in Georgetown Friday afternoon. Although their results were less than successful, their spirits were

high and a good time was had by all. From left to right, Timothy Tysoe, 3, Aaron Booker, 4, Jonathan Tysoe, 5. (Herald photo)



### Lifejacket safety

Halton Hills swimming instructor Leslie Scarth teaches three children, left to right, Anna Mansfield, David Goslin and Chris Shepard how to do the HELP position using lifejackets during the water show at Dick Licata Outdoor Pool on Friday. The method (Heat Escape Lessening Position) is used to help retain heat when in cold water. (Herald photo)



### No 'R and R'

A day of 'R and R' didn't seem to be on the minds of Acton youngsters Rachael (on top) and Caleb Bosma, as the two kept active on the playground at Cedarvale Park Friday afternoon. (Herald photo)



### Arctic Charlies now open

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller cuts away a ribbon to officially announce the grand opening of Arctic Charlie's, a new frozen foods store which opened Tuesday morning at the IGA plaza on Main Street in

Acton. (From left to right), store owner Mike Manes, store manager Monica Manes, Mayor Russ Miller, employee Jennifer Scott, and Dave Manes (Mike's father). (Herald photo)