

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

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Distressing statistics

Statistics Canada, through its Media Relations Communications Division, reports that from now through the year 2001, children under the age of 15 will number about 5.5 million and make up approximately 19 per cent of Canada's population total.

Declining birthrates appear to be affected more and more by changing social climates and more and more families report households where both parents are working. Lone parent households are also increasing, forcing children into the mainstream of society at an earlier age.

Statistics Canada reports there were about 5.6 million children under the age of 15 in Canada in 1990, making up 21 per cent of the population. This was down from 6.4 million and 30 per cent of the population back in 1971.

According to the report, Canadian children are healthier than ever. Infant to age one deaths in 1988 fell almost 25 per cent from as recently as 1981. Death rates from age one to 14 were less than 50 per 100,000 in 1988, also down from levels in the early 80's.

From a medical standpoint then, Canadian children are in good shape.

Other statistics in the report, however, would seem to indicate that family life, as it was once known, might be going the way of the dinosaur.

Divorce, and the loosening up of social constraints, show that more and more children are growing up in single parent households.

As of statistics from 1986, single parents raised 13 per cent of all children, up nine per cent from a decade earlier.

In 1988, custody allocations concerning 50,200 children were made after parents had been divorced. More distressing, for 69 per cent of those children in a lone-parent household, the family head worked. For 64 per cent of the children in a husband-wife household, both parents worked.

Statistics can make dry, boring reading.

However, these statistics paint a chilling picture of children either in limbo or being used as pawns in a society that just doesn't quite know how to treat them.

Suffer the little children - and so will the future of our society.

The Herald's 'Yes I care campaign' concerning the upcoming November municipal elections, is going great guns. The response from Herald readers has been tremendous and staff reporters have been busy tracking down those elected officials to get them to answer the questions posed by Herald readers.

Next Wednesday's edition of the Herald will have a special section dedicated to those questions and answers.

Get involved! Show you care.

Yes I Care

Question to: _____

Question: _____

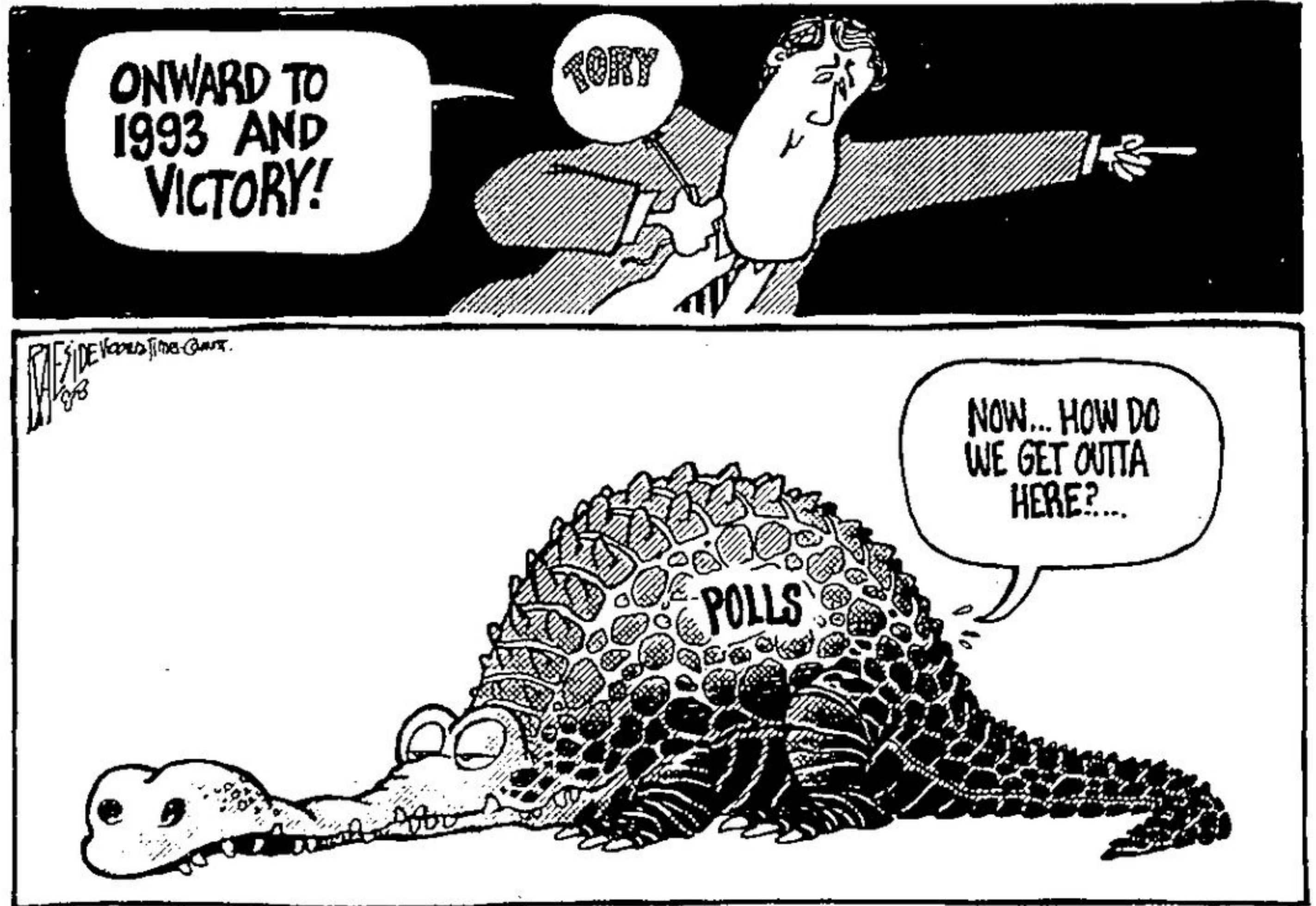
Question from: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Send Questions To: **Yes I Care**
c/o The Halton Hills Herald,
45 Guelph Street, Halton Hills, Ontario, L7G 3Z6



People's Forum

Times they are a-changing

Dear Editor:

Halton Hills is and hopefully always will be a leader in finding ways to save the environment.

One most important way is to intensify housing in the region. Sound contradictory? Well, it isn't.

By building "attractive" and I deliberately stress the word "attractive" condominium apartments which take up only 1,000 square feet of land and that includes parking areas, as opposed to one bungalow on a 50' x 100' lot that takes up 5,000 square feet, you can put more people closer to the centres of industry and commerce where they work and shop and play. By doing so, it relieves the pressure of spreading out and taking up more land than is necessary. Do you know what people in condominiums have? Pride of ownership. Ask anyone

who lives in "The Sands". One of our secretaries lives there. So does the courier who brings our mail. So does the mayor.

Times have changed. We can no more be reckless about land use than we can about clean air and clean water.

We must conserve our land. Our town needs places for our families to grow and to stay close to each other. Do you know what I mean?

When it's time for the kids to leave home, wouldn't it be nice, wouldn't it be comforting to know they could live in decent affordable housing right here in their home town? Wouldn't it be a relief if there was affordable housing for your parents right here close to you but still independent of you? Wouldn't it be nice if after all your years of hard work

you could live in a luxury apartment with a beautiful view and still live in a small town atmosphere? Possible? You bet it is.

Our area is unique because of the forward looking attitude of our town leaders and planners. They are doing their level best to give you the best of both worlds, not an easy task when they're getting opposition just for the sake of opposition.

There is a place for the old and the new side by side. This is what makes history, the stepping forward, a blending, the old and the new, the young and the old.

A visual and gradual change is taking place in our town. Appreciate it, enjoy it, discuss it but don't bicker over it.

Nancy Kelman,
Georgetown.

Postal workers get support

To The Editor:

I am writing to you in regards to "The Community Forum" on Wed. Aug. 7, 1991, about the possible postal strike.

I think it's about time people realized just because a person is employed by Canada Post does not mean he is over paid, in fact the opposite is true.

I personally know if I had not had a raise in over two years and having spent that time trying to negotiate a contract that was acceptable and as of yet not succeeded, I would be tempted to strike.

As everyone knows that the cost of living continually goes up it's hard to make ends meet and it's even harder with no raises.

Postal workers are just the same as you and I, and we like to receive our yearly raises, so why wouldn't they.

So let's give postal workers a break and take your anger out on the appropriate people.

Yours Truly,
Connie Rees,
Georgetown

P.S. I do not work for Canada Post.

Less government only way to go

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to Garth Turner's recent column and open letter concerning the Glen Kealey affair.

Mr. Turner blames Mr. Kealey's allegations of wrongdoing as the reason for a momentary decline in the value of our dollar until it was propped up again by the Bank of Canada. The event happened and it cost you and I in excess of \$320 million to clean up the mess.

The reason it dropped in value is because it is supported by political hot air in the first place and is therefore affected by anything political in nature. Blaming Kealey is like blaming the wind that blew down your house made of straw.

This is scary stuff when you think about it. The purchasing power of your savings and pension can take a nose-dive when a politician catches a cold!

There are implications we should quit complaining because our taxes are pretty good compared to gross domestic product. However, taxation has gone up

beyond acceptable limits as Mr. Turner pointed out in his own well written tax revolt report to Mr. Wilson earlier this year.

A quick look at "the books" proves the point. Since the PC's took office the population of Canada rose from about 25 million to an estimated 26.5 million in 1990 - an increase of 6 per cent. During that same period, the dollars collected in taxes went from about \$67 billion to over \$110 billion - an increase of 64 per cent. The cost of collecting those tax dollars rose about 51.5 per cent in the same period. And all of this is before the GST came into effect!

The Liberals increased their tax "take" by 1,388 per cent over 20 years in power so they aren't any better and we can all see what the NDP is in favor of when it comes to taxation.

The Glen Kealey accusations point out the fragile nature of our dollar and future security which are too dependent on politics. Implying we aren't as badly off when it comes to taxation as the U.S. for example is not correct.

Continued on Page 12