

# the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

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## Town should practise what it preaches

It only makes sense the municipality of Halton Hills practise what it preaches, if it expects cooperation from its residents.

However, the Town appears to be slow in following this common sense approach to governing in the area of the 3 R's - reuse, reduction and recycling.

As the saying goes, environmental protection starts in the home; the Town's home being the Halton Hills Civic Centre. Sure people can find blue boxes scattered throughout 1 Halton Hills Drive. And yes civic centre cafeteria staff composts organic material and only uses stainless steel cutlery instead of the disposable kind.

What's the problem, then?

It's no secret a recycling program is only financially viable if recycled products are bought.

The public for long time now has been bombarded with press reports about how municipal recycling programs are in jeopardy because of a lack of markets for recycled products.

It's in this area that local municipal governments should take a leadership role, since they are prime supporters of recycling programs.

However, it's in this area where the people at 1 Halton Hills Drive appear to be lagging behind.

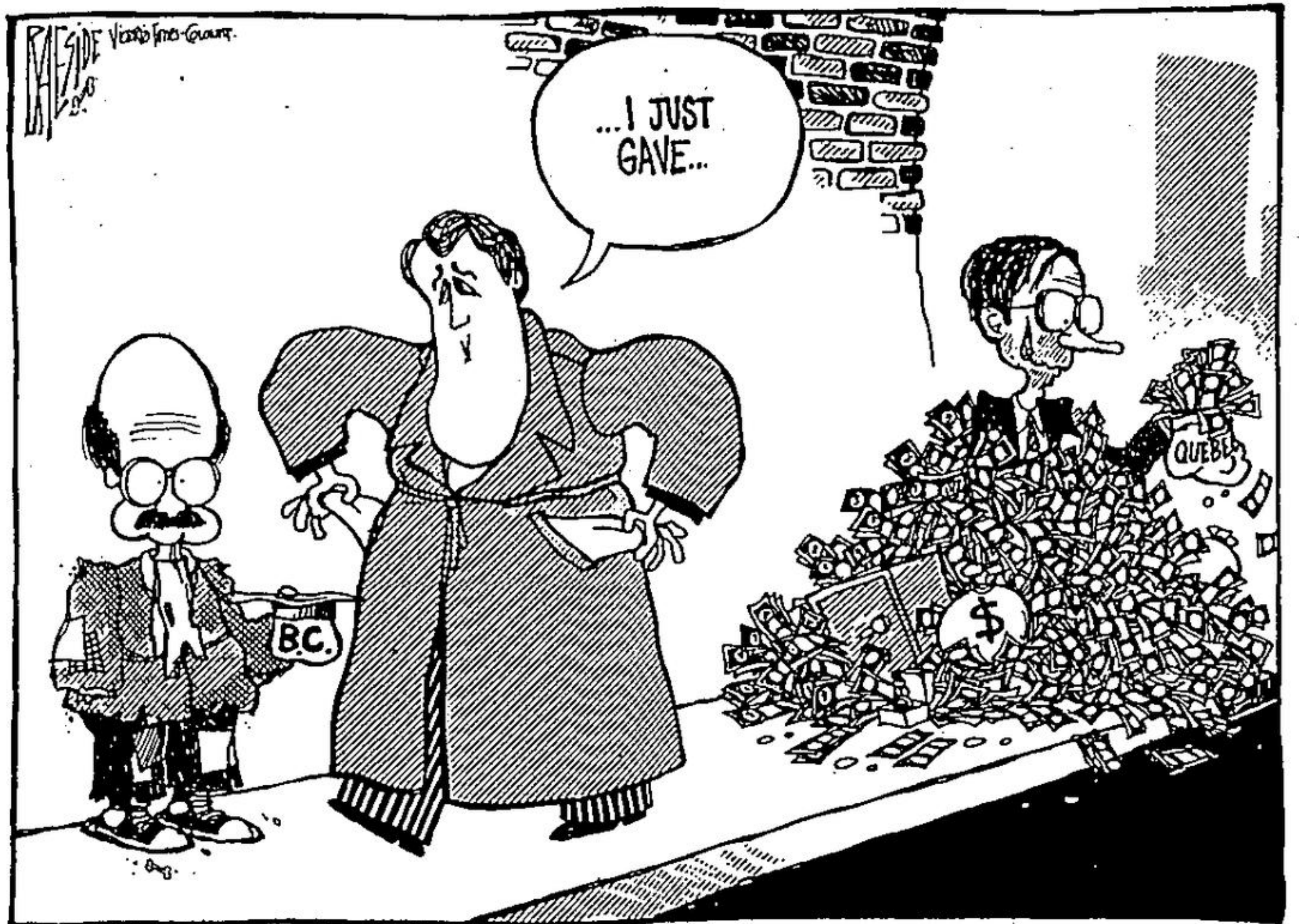
According to Stephen Thompson, Town Administrative Assistant, the Town purchases no recycled paper except for the envelopes it buys.

He explains the Town uses such a small amount of recycled paper because it is approximately 15 per cent more expensive than virgin paper. Furthermore, said Mr. Thompson, recycled paper doesn't laser print or photocopy well.

However, Halton Region has a policy that wherever possible only paper with a minimum of 25 per cent recycled content is purchased.

Kevin Jones of the Region's purchasing department couldn't say exactly how much recycled paper the Region buys, but he did stress it amounts to much more than the number of envelopes purchased.

Higher costs aside, Halton Hills councillors have said on several occasions the environment is of primary concern.



### People's Forum

## Letter writers take offence to column on gun control

Dear Editor,  
I think Mr. Sommer's article "Private ownership of guns should be outlawed" requires some comments.

Mr. Sommer mentions handing out hunting permits to everybody over a certain age. As my husband is Chairperson for the Hunter Education Programme in Halton County, I would like to point out that this statement is totally false.

Hunting licences are not just handed out when you reach a certain age. Anyone wishing to have a hunting licence must first take a Hunter Safety Course. Upon completion of the course, there is a written examination with the Ministry of Natural Resources, as well as, a test on the practical handling of a firearm. Only after passing both of these tests is a person qualified to receive their hunting licence.

If the hunters described in Mr. Sommer's article were doing

something wrong, they should have been reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Every gun owner should be judged by a few bad apples.

As far as determining who is a responsible person, there is no cut-and-dried method, and the same problem arises when someone sits behind the steering wheel of a car or is faced with alcohol and drugs. How do we determine who is going to act responsibly? Maybe cars, alcohol and drugs should all be outlawed so that we can have our peaceful neighborhoods free of fear. What about all the violence and sex on the television and in the movies which give the wrong people ideas which they copy? Shouldn't this too be outlawed?

I am also very concerned about the crime and violence in our society today, and agree that anyone using a firearm in a crime should be penalized severely. Gun control does not

stop crime; criminal justice does.

Mr. Sommer also goes on to malign gun collectors. How does Mr. Sommer know what security devices each collector has, or whether they are adequate or not?

I would also like to point out that there are many "responsible" gun owners who enjoy target shooting, trap shooting and other types of competition shooting. Why should they have to be deprived of their sport just because Mr. Sommer feels that guns should be outlawed? Taking all the firearms from legitimate gun owners would not stop crime and violence.

Legitimate gun owners are caring concerned men and women with families, who also want peace and happiness, the same as Mr. Sommer.

Yours truly,  
Marg Clow  
Acton

### Community Forum Meaning of Christmas



**CATHIE MARTIN, Georgetown**  
"Giving, love and Christ. The meaning of Christmas has been lost through commercialism, but I think we've demanded it, and commercially they (stores), have met our demands. It is not what it used to be."



**DAVE MADDIGAN, Georgetown**  
"Christmas is a time for family. We have a tendency to forget the real meaning of Christmas. It is like a start of something new."



**KEN MACDONALD, Glen Williams**  
"Christmas means goodwill and children always look forward to Christmas."



**CATHIE MARCOUX, Georgetown**  
"Family and sharing. Christmas has been exploited by making our kids believe they can have all the toys they see on T.V."

Letter to Editor:  
Mr. John Sommer's poisen pen strikes again. Your recent article suggesting the outlawing of hunting and gun collecting serves once again to display your narrow minded, left wing socialist attitude. You're fortunate that you have Canadian newspapers to write to because this kind of communist diatribe is not even tolerated in the Soviet Union any longer.

How dare you use your privilege as "art critic" for the Herald, to blabber on about outlawing anything! Your column is nothing more than your own personal opinion and of dubious value at best. If you really wish to serve the community then resign and spare us your mindless drivel.

Open your mind Mr. Sommer and realize that the world has a lot of things that we don't "need".

We don't need guns.  
We don't need fast cars, golf, baseball, alcohol, cigarettes, pleasure boats and a great many other things that people do and enjoy in their leisure time.  
We don't need another art

galleries either.

But the fact is that we have all these things. In a free society we accept varied tastes and activities, just as we accept people of different races. We as Canadians have the most basic right to enjoy activities or hobbies providing we do so in a peaceful and

law abiding manner. What we don't need is more government and more laws to tell us what we can't do. But that philosophy represents something you apparently don't understand... Freedom.

Al Fraser,  
Limehouse

### 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.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"