

the HERALD

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Exempt power from GST

We support Halton Hills Hydro Commission in its ongoing fight against the federal government to have hydro power exempted from the Goods and Services Tax, (GST)

The commission has our support, because like the local utility, we believe electrical power is an essential service.

Only those services and items the federal government considers "essential" are currently exempted from the tax.

How could a service, which is vital to all people in order to survive the Canadian winter, be deemed non-essential?

The federal government recognizes water consumption as essential, and therefore exempts it from the GST.

This recognition is presumably based on the simple and logical fact that people need water to live.

It only makes sense then that hydro electrical power be exempt because it too is essential in order to live, at least in Canada.

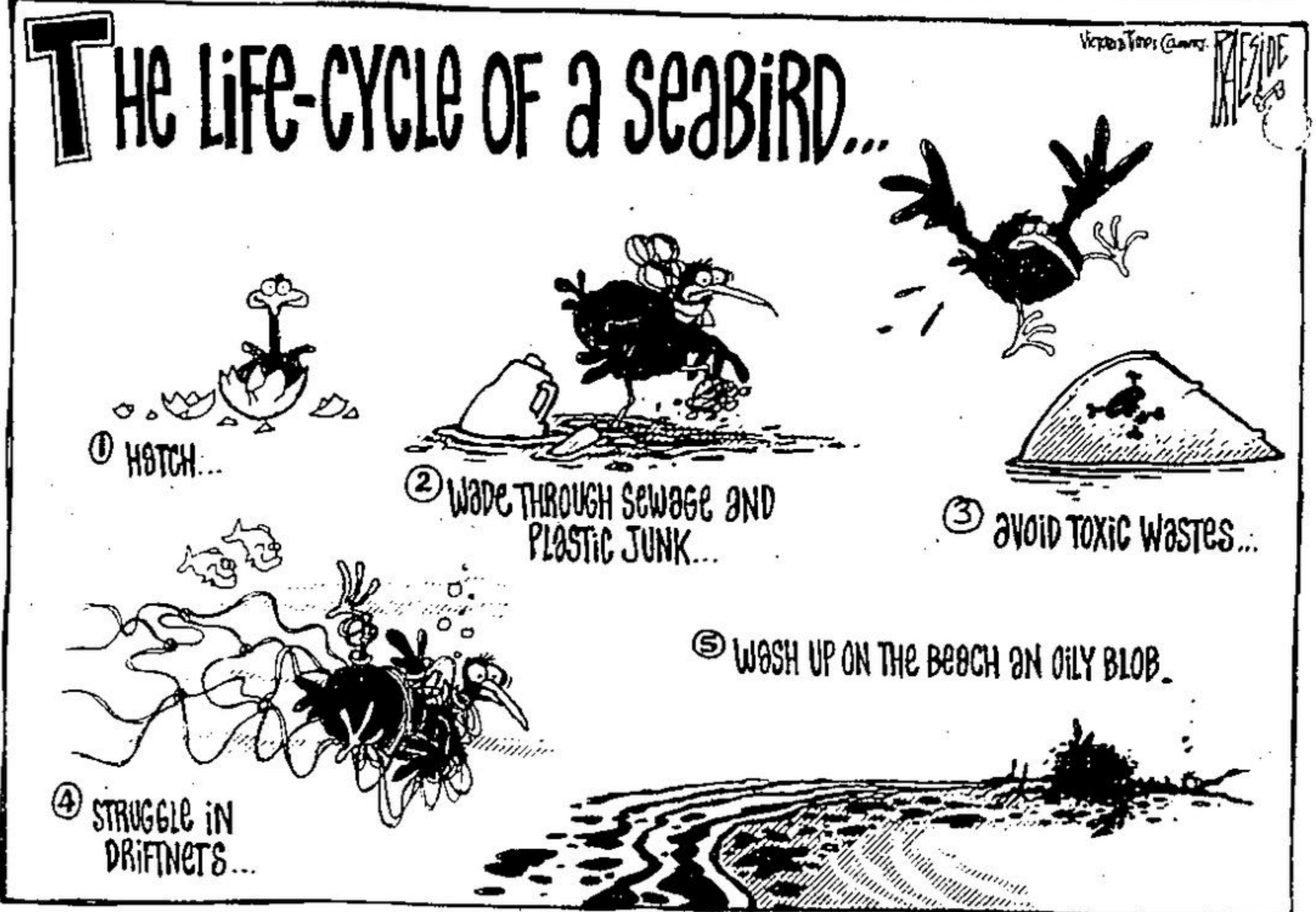
The only other possibility would be for the federal government to talk with the weather gods and see if Florida's weather could be transplanted up here to Canada.

If the government chooses this option, all we can do is wish it luck.

The federal government defends its position by saying, if it exempted hydro electrical power, it would be forced to exempt other sources of power, such as natural gas.

However, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize electrical power is still required to start up a gas furnace.

The point is, hydro electrical power is an essential service, and it's time the federal government realizes this simple fact.



Community Forum

Has Ontario's economy improved under the NDP



RAMONA BRAZUKAS, GEORGETOWN: "I don't think the economy has improved as such. But I think the NDP had a huge deficit to deal with when they got in power and it takes time to undo what has already been done. I don't think the NDP has had enough time to make a difference and I believe Bob Rae has some good ideas on how to stimulate the economy."



MARY KATE HAGEDORN, AYR: "I don't think the economy has improved but that's not because of the NDP. We're dealing with a Canada-wide and world-wide recession. The recession has been coming for a while and the NDP got into power at the wrong time."



AL MARCHAND, GEORGETOWN: "You've got to be kidding. The whole country is getting worse and I don't know what we can do to change things. I know the politicians don't listen to the people, they just do their own thing."



ANDREW HAMILTON, BRAMALÉA: "No, it has gotten worse. The NDP seem to be more for the big businessman than the middle class. They also put a stop to Sunday shopping which doesn't help the economy."

People's Forum

Criticism is not condemnation

Dear Editor:
It was interesting to see the reaction to Mr. Gibson's article regarding the activities of some of our environmental group supporters. In typical style, they have equated criticism of their actions with condemnation of their cause.

I can understand the frustration of these individuals - the Acton dump process has been a long drawn out affair, success has been slow and the community as

a whole does not appear to have rallied around their efforts. Outside factors, whether fair or not, have conspired against them. That does not mean, however, that they are immune to criticism. Lately, we have had calls for usurping the democratic process, mass-produced "protest" letters along with organizations with egregious acronyms (if you do not know, ask someone for the colloquial meaning of F.O.A.D.)

Some environmental activists should ask themselves whether they are eroding the gains they have made, by these extreme acts.

They may be squandering an opportunity to garner broader-based support for their movement, at a time when that support is most needed.

Sincerely,
Ian Wilson
Glen Williams

Support appreciated

Dear Editor:
The North Halton Distress and Information Centre would like to thank the members of the Georgetown Choral Society, host for the evening, Gerry Numan and the audience, who so generously supported their performance given on our behalf at Knox Presbyterian Church, on Monday, Dec. 16, 1991.

The proceeds from this performance will go towards the purchase of equipment to improve the services offered by the Centre to our Community.

The Centre greatly appreciates your support.

Thank you
Judith Rasanen
Executive Director

Thanks Santa

Dear Santa,
We really liked all the wonderful toys that you delivered to us. Thank you for being so generous to all of us. We were so excited when we woke up Christmas morning and saw all our super gifts!

We were so surprised when our gingerbread house arrived! It was beautiful. It is now almost completely eaten.

We think you and Mrs. Claus are a great team. We have been very busy with our super new games and books!

Our Christmas has been fabulous! Thank you so much. We love you.

Love from Bradley and Lindsay Holmes and Mommy

Preston Manning mixing metaphors

Dear Editor,
Preston Manning's call in his recent Hamilton speech for a return to "classic liberalism" in Canada was welcome ("Manning woos Copps' Liberals," January 20). But when he describes Prime Minister King as a "classic" liberal, one wonders if he has any idea what the term means.

Classic liberalism - the philosophy of John Locke and Adam Smith - stood for individual freedom, civil liberties, limited government, and a free market economy. By King's time, though, liberalism and the Liberal Party stood for none of this. When King described the socialist CCF as "Liberals in a hurry," he summed up best what modern Liberalism stands for: slow socialism.

A glance at his record confirms this. The King government brought the New Deal to Canada, thereby prolonging the Depression. It introduced conscription in World War II, despite repeated promises not to, and imprisoned Canadians of "enemy race" for the war's duration. It brought in the postwar tariffs that turned Canada into a branch-plant economy. It gave us C.D. ("what's a million?") How among other big spenders, regular deficit spending, and boondoggles like the CBC, the National Film Board, and the Canada Council. Is this what Manning really supports?

If King stood for anything, it was: Keep power at any cost. Say or do anything for a vote.

Perhaps that is what Manning stands for as well. Why else would he criticize the deficit while supporting the welfare state that produced it? Why does his platform call for a free-enterprise economy and for "appropriate regulation" of business at the same time? Why would he promise to end constitutional protection for French-language schools (as he did in Hamilton), when his platform supports "minority language education rights"?

No, the Reform Party seems to be based on the ideas of modern Liberalism: say anything that people want to hear; promise anything for a vote (in this case, for a Liberal vote). I hope that Liberal supporters are too intelligent to be seduced by this refrain again.

No wonder "liberalism" has become a term of contempt. That is why classic liberals have coined a new name to describe themselves - "libertarian" - and why many of them now are now working in the Libertarian party to restore the small-liberal values on which this country was built.

Sincerely,
George Dance
Leader, Libertarian Party of Canada