

Opinion

Why the big bash ?

There was much to-do about nothing at the Halton Board of Education on Tuesday.

Educators from four different institutions grasped the "Official Pen" (that's what they called it) and put their John Henry on an agreement. The Halton Roman Catholic Board of Education, the Halton Board of Education, Mohawk College and Sheridan College agreed to work together so the transition from high school to college would be easier for students.

It's a worthy goal, since 60 per cent of high school students don't continue on to college and 40 per cent of college students drop out. Canada needs a workforce with the skills and education to compete in the world economy and people need to feel their work is valuable.

But why create such a fuss when educators and politicians are only agreeing to work together? It's not as if the four institutions have been arch enemies, disagreeing over an important issue and this is a breakthrough. The communication link has been neglected and they've acknowledged a problem. That's no big deal, no cause for fanfare.

Even the Premier of Ontario was paraded in—you could recognize him; he was the only one in a beige suit, although a few others wore red ties.

He didn't announce funding, and the change is still far off in the future, since they don't know what they are going to do about it yet.

This was an empty event staged to bring attention to education. It would be far better for politicians and educators to munch on shrimp and pate and say nice things about each other when their plans are concrete and they can say how they will help students in the classroom.—JB

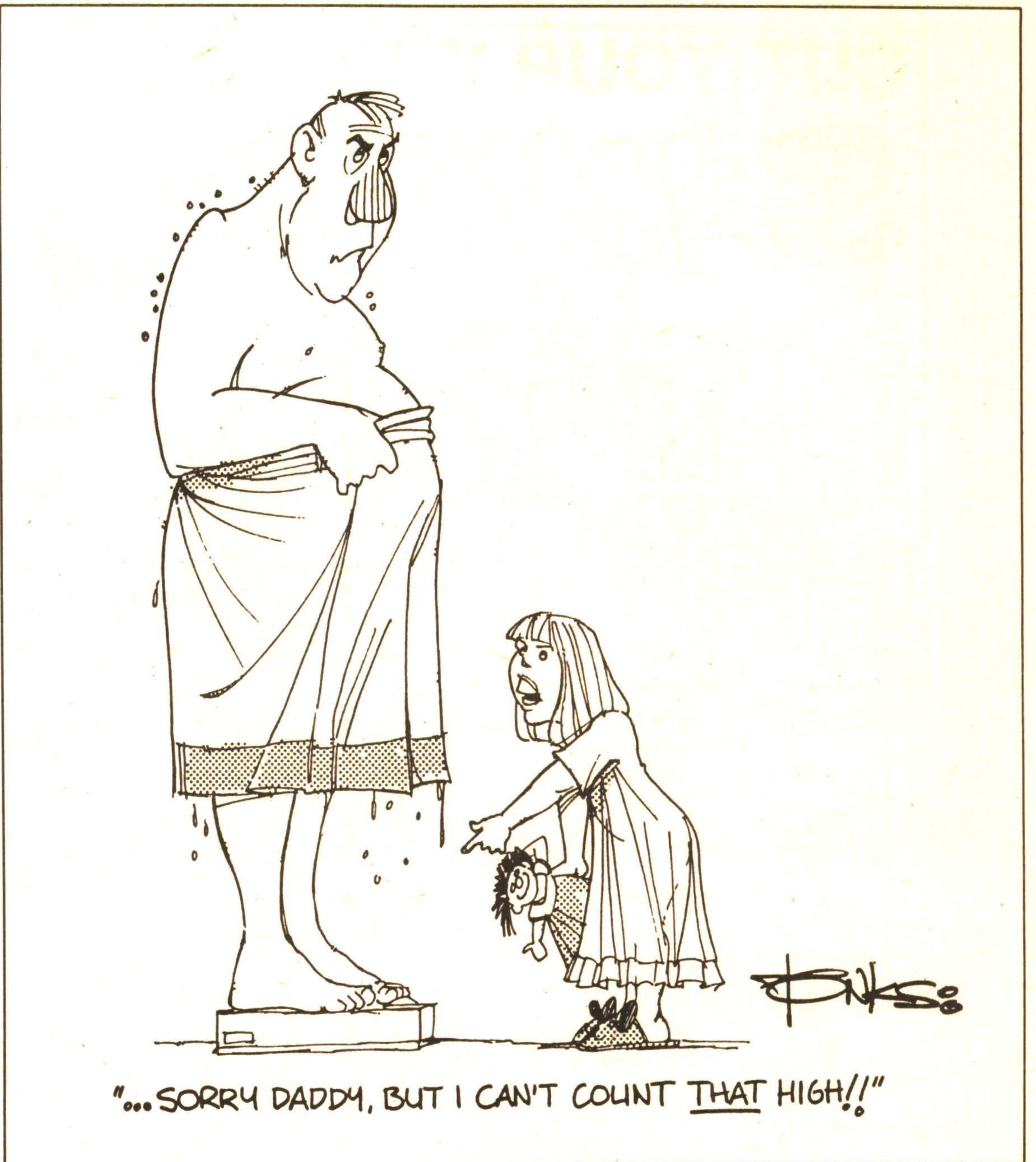
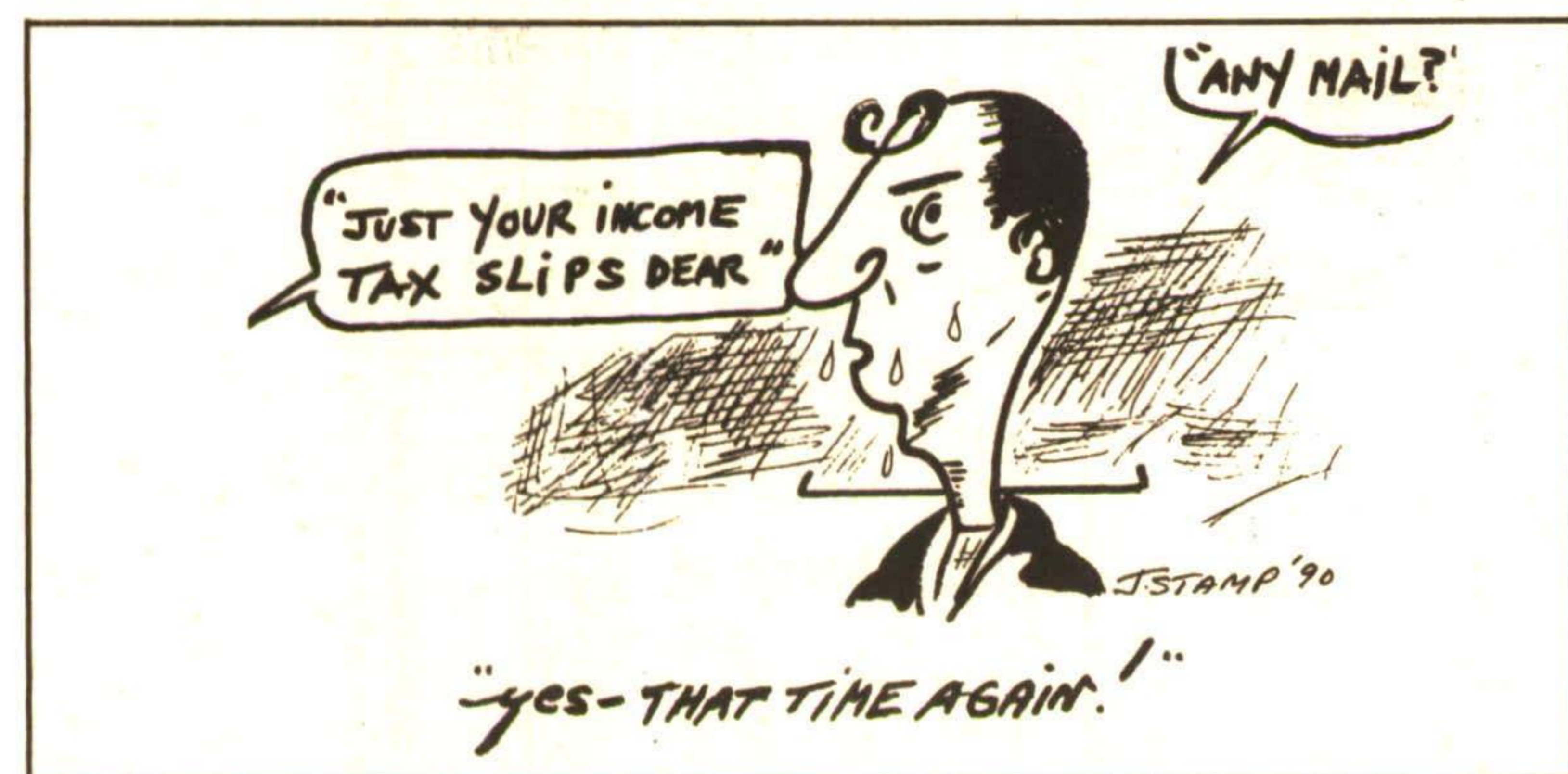
Prophets and profits

By the time this issue of The Week End is being read the weatherman has predicted we'll be basking in a warm flow of southern air replacing the deep freeze which arrived on the coat-tails of February and hung on well into March.

Few were surprised by the turn-around from balmy January and February. After all, Canadians are superstitious enough to know that we "pay" for the warm days we have in the winter months. Of course we pay with higher gas and oil bills.

But others who rely on the groundhog to prognosticate for them are losing faith in the furry creature's ability to forecast. After all, who has seen a groundhog during the cold days? Opossums, maybe, but groundhogs no. They're probably all down in their burrows chuckling at the absurdity of people relying on the appearance of a shadow, or its non-appearance, as an omen of the weather.

We're really not far off the early Romans who used to slay sheep and goats and forecast the future from their entrails, are we?—H.C.



Our Readers Write

The cement carpet unrolling our way

Dear editor,

The future is here now! The decision makers are hard at work as to what the region of Halton is going to look like. And if you don't like the cement carpet that is rolling in from the east, then now is the time to sing.

Recent history (Elmira, Hagersville) shows us that the Provincial Government really isn't too concerned about protecting the environment. The jungle drums say there is a possible fall Provincial election; we need action, not false promises and "Tours" of the Legislature.

Take a close look at the "Parkway Belt West" plan. When you get finished putting the hydro lines and freeways through, there is not much "Park" left in this belt.

If the proposed sanitary landfills on the protected Niagara Escarpment got approved and the northern half of Halton's (Milton, Halton Hills) water supply gets polluted, whose taxes do you think will pay for the drinking water brought in until the "Big Pipe" is in operation?

Speaking of the big pipe, guess who is going to pay for that, let alone pay for chemicals needed to clean the water and keep the water intakes clean of the scourge that is plaguing water intakes in southern Ontario.

If the quarries were used as water resources, there

would be water for further growth, without the cost in taxes to us that the big pipe would bring. And finally, how about protecting some green space for future generations of Halton.

Since flood plains can not be built on, and there are several water courses running through our region, it would seem a likely resource to save. If a small belt of land on either side of a waterway valley is kept from development, then the creek/river can be maintained naturally.

Again, who do you think pays for and maintains these concrete ditches with the fences around them?

Think of the benefits to our community having a series of trail systems linking Lake Ontario to the Bruce Trail through unspoiled valleys.

You can do as I did as a high school student in the early 70s in Mississauga - nothing...Or fight! It's your future! It's your children's future! Grade schoolers, high school students, parents and seniors, everyone!

Unite our voices over the call of the dollar and quick fix. Write letters, attend meetings, pull no punches, united even we can bring down some walls.

Remember...the cement carpet is unrolling our way.

Jeff McColl,
264 Sydney St.

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KEN BELLAMY
Publisher

30 MAIN STREET, SOUTH
GEORGETOWN, L7G 3G4
877-5266

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EDITORIAL - 877-5266, 853-2219
Managing Editor: Hartley Coles
Staff Writers: Cynthia Gamble, Dan Ralph, Stuart Johnston, Janet Baine, Scott Kline, Robin Inscow, Paul Dorsey
Photography: Ted Brown

BUSINESS OFFICE - 877-5266, 853-2219
Manager: Jean Shewell
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Sherry Mitchell, Bev Nelissen

ADVERTISING - 877-5266, 853-2219

Advertising Director: Sandra Dorsey
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CLASSIFIED - 877-5266, 853-2219
Manager: Carol Hall
Staff: Barb Izzio, Arlene Bellamy

DISTRIBUTION/CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS - 877-5266, 853-2219
TORONTO LINE - 451-9024
Manager: Nancy Geissler
Staff: Lesley Miller, Mark Prevost, Jean Brander, Mark Esposito