

# Opinion

## Lifting ban right

We have to agree with the decision by Halton Hills council Monday to lift its ill-advised tentative two-year ban on development. It's no time to discourage private initiative when the economy needs all the help it can get.

At the same time council approved an urban review study which will re-examine land-use policies in Acton and Georgetown, a necessary step if unpopular policies are to be replaced. The study will take less than a year to complete and another year to implement. This should give adequate time to stave off any developments which might be construed as unsuitable.

The study will determine appropriate locations for housing types, designations for residential and commercial developments as well as compatibility with existing neighborhoods, a sore point in both Georgetown and Acton at present.

Changes to planning policies contemplated as a result of the study, of course, would have to be incorporated into the town's official plan.

Planning Director Ian Keith was concerned that lifting the proposed development ban would find council always reacting to developments rather than directing them, a very real possibility. Under ordinary circumstances Mr. Keith's fears would have to be given more study but with economic conditions today rocky, cutting back on private building initiatives would only damage the economy more.

A two-year freeze could very well result in a building shutdown in Halton Hills as developer Dave McNally suggested to council. Not only developers would lose, the town would miss the assessment it provides.

Continuing the study and lifting the tentative ban makes sense at this time. - H.C.

## Tobacco sales banned

Those who questioned how pharmacies could sell health giving drugs on the one hand and disperse health destroying tobacco on the other, will be glad to hear the Ontario College of Pharmacists is working towards the elimination of tobacco sales in pharmacies. The College governs the practice of pharmacists in Ontario.

In June of 1989 the College issued a policy of disapproval on the sale of tobacco products in the near future. Recently, after hearing from the Canadian Cancer Society and the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, the College Council noted it is committed to barring tobacco sales in Ontario pharmacies. "It is consistent with the pharmacist's role as a health care professional to put the health of the consumer first," said the Council president.

In view of the fact pharmacists have long been well aware of the injurious effect of tobacco on people's health, some may well think the College is late arriving at the table. But the important thing is they are now dealing with it and are on the side of the angels. - H.C.

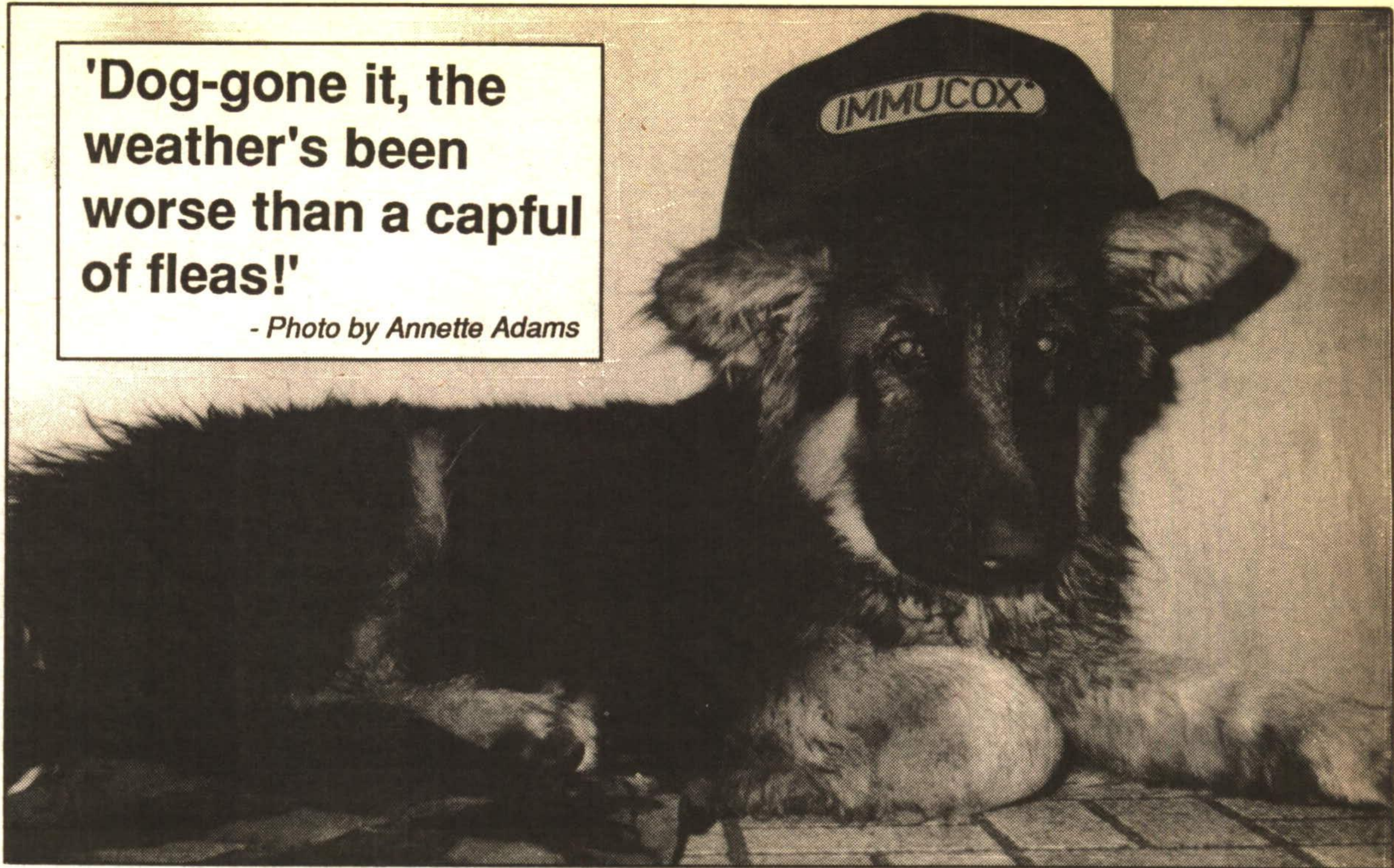
## Want to be healthy?

Want to be healthy? Follow Canada's guidelines for healthy eating:

- Enjoy a VARIETY of foods.
- Emphasize cereals, breads, other grain products, vegetables and fruits.
- Choose low-fat dairy products, lean meats and foods prepared with little or no fat.
- Achieve and maintain a healthy weight by enjoying regular physical activity and healthy eating.
- Limit salt, alcohol and caffeine.

'Dog-gone it, the weather's been worse than a capful of fleas!'

- Photo by Annette Adams



## Our Readers Write

### 'Crotchety old cranks' may yet save democracy in this country

Dear editor:

Please excuse my delay in writing this letter which is in reply to MP Garth Turner's letter printed in your Weekend issue of Oct. 6.

With all due respect to Mr. Turner and the work he has done on behalf of his constituents, I must disagree completely with his reasoning and resentment over the Senate's perceived rights to block the GST legislation already passed by the MPs in the House of Commons.

Mr. Turner's implication that the Senators' actions are undemocratic seems to be political over-reaction.

If democratic government was a perfect system implemented by perfect human beings Mr. Turner's resentment might be valid.

However, democracy, no matter how well-intentioned, is a man-made political system flawed by man's own inherent failings and further damaged by man's inept implementation.

Democratic government, as we know it, requires checks and balances to prevent it from going too far off the rails. Sometimes these checks and balances may seem to break the basic rules of our democratic system, but, in actual practice they help to assure that true democracy really is possible.

Democracy is not the sacred cow of our society and must not be considered to be beyond criticism and above reform. True democracy must be government according to the requirements and wishes

of the governed and when any action is taken by a government to force its will upon the governed then democracy ceases to exist.

Only when some mechanism (such as an unelected Senate) exists and can intervene and act on behalf of the wishes of the people against the politicians they have elected to serve them can a system be reasonably democratic.

The people of Canada, via numerous polls, have overwhelmingly indicated their opposition to the GST, but our "democratic" politicians refuse to listen. They even refuse to listen to those who agree that this country may need more taxation, but on a fairer basis and one that is negotiated between the provincial and federal governments so that provincial and federal taxes are not one atop the other.

But we the people are not allowed to participate in any way or influence the present government to at least consider some revisions that may make a GST more palatable.

So much for "democracy" as practiced by our elected representatives.

The GST legislation is perhaps one of the most ill-conceived and poorly planned pieces ever forced upon an unwilling public in this country.

But thanks to a bunch of crotchety, obstinate old cranks who help comprise the Canadian Senate, democracy in Canada may yet be saved.

Trev. Icton,  
Norval

### Postal System a disappointment

Dear editor:

As a businesswoman in Georgetown, our company relies on our postal system to send information to our customers.

Upon hearing of a threatened postal strike, I feel the need to comment on their service.

In August of this year, 1990, information packages were sent to all of our customers in Georgetown and the Golden Horseshoe area. To date, over 20 per cent of these have not yet arrived!

Duplicate information packages have been sent to customers wondering where their mail was. Many of these have also gone astray.

A phone call, I felt, to the Postal Complaint Dept. was in order.

The postal employee on the phone told me that

20 per cent of our mail not delivered was not an excessive amount!

When I told her we were out of pocket \$165 she basically said *too bad!*

So it seems, we have to pay to send mail with A. NO guarantee it will arrive

B. with NO compensation or regrets by our Canada Post.

It seems to me, that before they consider a strike, they might like to consider getting to work, like the rest of us and see to it that our mail gets delivered!

A Disappointed Citizen  
Patricia Coe

Terra Cotta Cookie Co. Limited

THE GEORGETOWN INDEPENDENT /  
THE ACTON FREE PRESS

# WEEKEND

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