

# Opinion

## Sunday shopping: It's a split decision

Last month, we ran a ballot in this editorial space asking whether Halton Hills residents are for or against Sunday shopping.

Well, it seems that the community of Halton Hills is split on the issue. Both sides of the debate received 41 votes.

Last year when the same ballot survey was done, the numbers were significantly different — almost 2:1 against Sunday shopping. At that time, 180 were opposed to Sunday shopping and 92 were in favor.

This time we asked an additional question ... has anyone changed their minds in the intervening months with Sunday shopping? Well, according to our ballots only two people changed their minds — both from a NO to a YES.

Perhaps the more interesting aspect of the ballots were the comments. On the NO side, people maintained there should be one day of rest, and feared the loss of Sunday could destroy the family unit. Others argued that there were already enough days in the week to do the shopping.

Harry and Milly Roffel of Georgetown writes, "I'm from a large family. We all work in the retail business and none of us want to work or shop on Sunday." And Roy Warnick writes, "I value highly one day per week when commercial activity is minimal and relative peace and quiet prevails as a consequence."

Waverley Haist of RR2 Georgetown says Sunday shopping isn't "necessary at all with simple planning" while Peter Adema of Acton says he likes the convenience of Sunday shopping but his sympathies lie with the shop keepers, retail employees and their families.

Iris Irwin of RR1 Georgetown wonders, "Has this province and country improved anything since Sunday was made like any other day? A person who cannot make a living in six days is doing something drastically wrong."

Rita Bydevaate perhaps summed it up best for the NO side when she wrote, "no store needs to be open on the seventh day. Let it be a day of rest and enjoyment for people of all walks of life."

But on the YES side, comments resoundingly centred on the issue of freedom of choice and governmental interference. "Give us the freedom of choice — not legislation" seems to be their rallying cry.

Changing her mind from a NO to a YES, Sandra Nairn of Georgetown writes, "I am sick of being legislated to death. First you raise taxes by ridiculous amounts, now you want to tell us when we can give it to you and anyone wanting to shop Sunday will be under more pressure to go south of the border — it's killing our economy!!"

Lisa and Wesley Whitford of Acton say "as adults we should be able to decide whether or not to shop on Sundays. We do not need to be babysitted by politicians." They add, "being two employed people and only one day for shopping and recreation does not leave enough time. We must open on Sundays to save millions of dollars being spent south of the border. People will not stay idle for 36 hours."

Mark De Winter of Georgetown answered all the Sunday day of rest proponents by pointing out "hundreds of years ago, Saturday was the official day of rest, not Sunday."

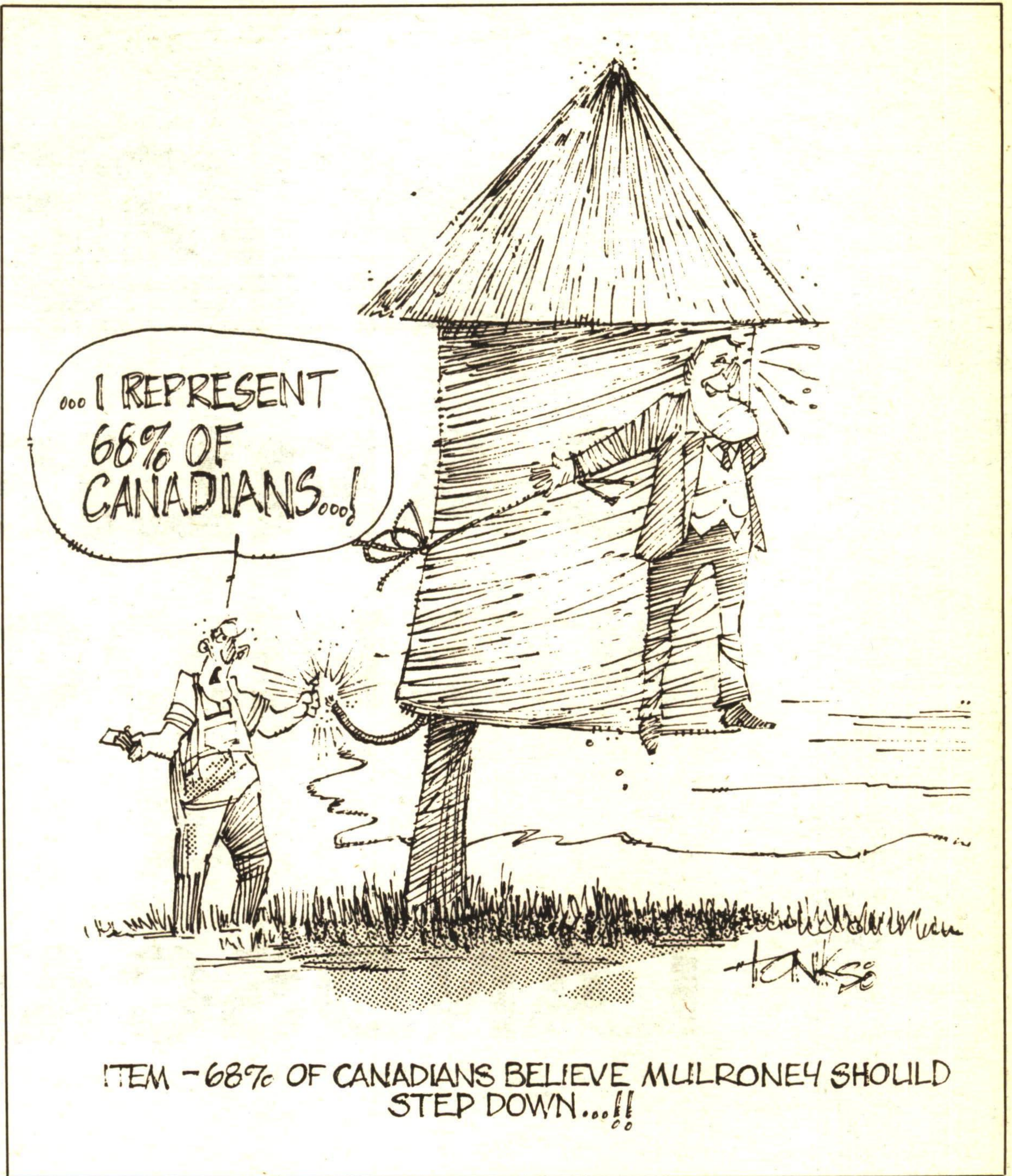
Single mother Brenda Hatcher found Sunday shopping had made her life so much easier and Merina McCoy of Acton writes that she doesn't shop on Sunday, "but the time has come to open all stores. If the regular department and grocery stores have to close, the convenience stores should be made to close also. It should be all open or nothing!"

And finally, Mr. and Mrs. G.C. Glaude of RR1 Georgetown write "Why not? Have 'you' ever gone to a restaurant, convenience store, gas station or hospital on a Sunday? I think people should be allowed the freedom of choice of whether stores could open or not."

In our own office at the newspaper, an informal survey found the YES side overwhelming the NOs. A few fence sitters, however, when pushed to make a decision, chose YES — not because they liked to shop on Sundays, but because they feel the government has no place in legislating their right to choose when to shop.

This perhaps is the proving to be the most important underlying theme of the Sunday shopping debate and as our survey ballots show, it's sure to become a divisive one in Ontario in the next few years.

—CLG



ITEM - 66% OF CANADIANS BELIEVE MULLRONEY SHOULD STEP DOWN...!!

### Our Readers Write

## New hope for Canada's future

Dear editor,

Your Ted Brown's article of June 29 gives new hope for the future of our country: here is a young man who really cares, and cares enough to put it on the line and sign his name.

In this age of throwaways, like pitching a Mountie's hat, tossing out the Queen, demoting the flag (we felt we had a flag in that great Red Ensign) and tearing up the railroad tracks to our Hithers and Yon-

ders, etc. etc. you may say that that one hat is a trivial thing but it is a part of a unique and world-recognized uniform. All are welcome to apply for the service but should surely be reminded that in doing so Canadian traditions will take precedence.

Could it be that some of Canada's problems in the present muddle have developed because when a country is not always aware where it came from, it follows that it doesn't

know where it is going. Our history does matter. And what a fantastic and colorful history it is! Traditions matter. This Dominion matters, from its sea-to-shining-sea. And our old cemeteries matter, after all, our dear country's very roots are buried in them.

We have much to remember and respect.

Good for you, Ted.

Sincerely yours,  
M.E. Maxwell

## Cancer Society says 'thanks'

Dear editor,

We wish to thank everyone involved with the "Classics Against Cancer Auto Show," which was held on Father's Day at Cedarvale Park and to those who helped with the Bill Smith Golf Tournament on June 24.

Both events were great suc-

cesses and we appreciate the support of the people and local businesses who attended and/or sponsored these events.

Once again, special thanks are extended to our local papers, the Independent and the Herald, who gave us excellent coverage of both events

and have been very supportive of all our endeavors to date. Your help is very much appreciated.

Marlene Kelman,  
Communications Chairperson,  
Halton Hills (Georgetown) Unit,  
Canadian Cancer Society

Halton Hills

# WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

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