

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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He served us well

His temper can be a tinderbox. His rhetoric can be scalding. His strategies can be opportunistic. His ego can be an albatross.

But his courage is indisputable. His commitment to his constituents was indefatigable. His legacy in area politics will serve as a shadow over any lesser lights who will follow. And it will also prove, in many important ways, an inspiration to those who would do as well for their community as Bill Johnson endeavoured to do.

Johnson's political career as a Halton regional councillor out of Nassagaweya was not noteworthy for its longevity—a baker's dozen of years. It was a career instead noted largely for its intensity.

As a politician, Johnson cultivated as many controversies as he did friendships. But unsolicited came the admiration, grudgingly, even from his enemies.

At times he was at odds with this newspaper and damned for it. But Johnson, while capable of holding a grudge, never proved particularly adept at nurturing one. The storms would pass.

William Andrew Johnson retired from regional politics in November. Last Saturday evening, in the company of hundreds of friends and admirers at the Campbellville Lion's Hall, he celebrated his 70th birthday.

They came as witness and participants in modest tribute; Halton Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy, former area MPPs Walt Elliot and Julian Reed, current MPP Noel Duignan, Halton planning commissioner Rash Mohammed, a handful of municipal councillors, probably 200 others.

Some, perhaps many, had at times clashed with former councillor Johnson.

But in the spirit of the evening and of the man being honored, they tilted a glass to him instead, because he had served, and served well.

—from the Milton Canadian Champion.

Thanks to Optimists

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to make a special thank you to the members of the Optimist Club of Georgetown. They assisted Santa in making calls to over 649 households in Halton Hills in just two evenings. This represents 52% of all the children in Kindergarten and Grade 1.

The program was organized through our Department. All Halton Hills schools in the Halton Board of Education and Halton Separate School Board participated. All children in Kindergarten and Grade 1 who returned an information sheet received a personal call from Santa.

Many Optimists, some Kiwanis Club members and Town staff, provided Santa with the necessary enthusiasm and dedication he needed to make every call a success. I look forward to next Christmas when we can once again work together on this worthwhile and enjoyable project.

Thank you, Optimists — Ho! Ho! Ho!



Yours truly,
Debbie Miethig,
Supervisor of Community Programs

Santa receives 'thank you'

(Our readership stretches from coast to coast and even as far north as the North Pole. The following was filed with this newspaper recently for publication.)

Dear Santa Claus:

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 Bradley & Lindsay Holmes
and Mommy (Jayne Bell)

Editor's Note: This week we received a letter from a concerned parent, but unfortunately, it was unsigned. It is the newspaper's policy that all letters must be signed with an address and telephone number.

Names can be withheld at request, but the editor must know who wrote the letter before it can be published. If the "concerned parent" wishes to come to the office and sign the letter we'll then be able to place it in this column.

Remember we welcome all letters, but they must have a signature, address and telephone number.



Waging my own war on wrinkles

I hate wrinkles.

Wrinkles in my clothes, that is.

The subject came up just the other day, as one co-worker strolled through the office and commented on my shirt.

"I've always liked that shirt, Ted," she smiled, "In fact I liked it so much I went out and bought one just like it for my husband for Christmas."

I thanked her for the compliment. It's a regular \$10 cotton and polyester shirt I picked up at Bi-Way and really comfortable to wear.

And it doesn't wrinkle.

"And it's a great shirt," she continued, "I just pull it from the washer, throw it in the dryer, then stick it on a hanger and it's ready to go."

"Uhh, you mean you don't iron it?" I asked.

"Nope," she replied, "My husband wears it with a tie, and I never iron his shirts."

I was shocked.

"What about the nice sharp crease down the arm?" I asked, "Doesn't he like his shirts ironed with that crease?"

"What difference would it make?" she replied, "He always wears a jacket over top of it."

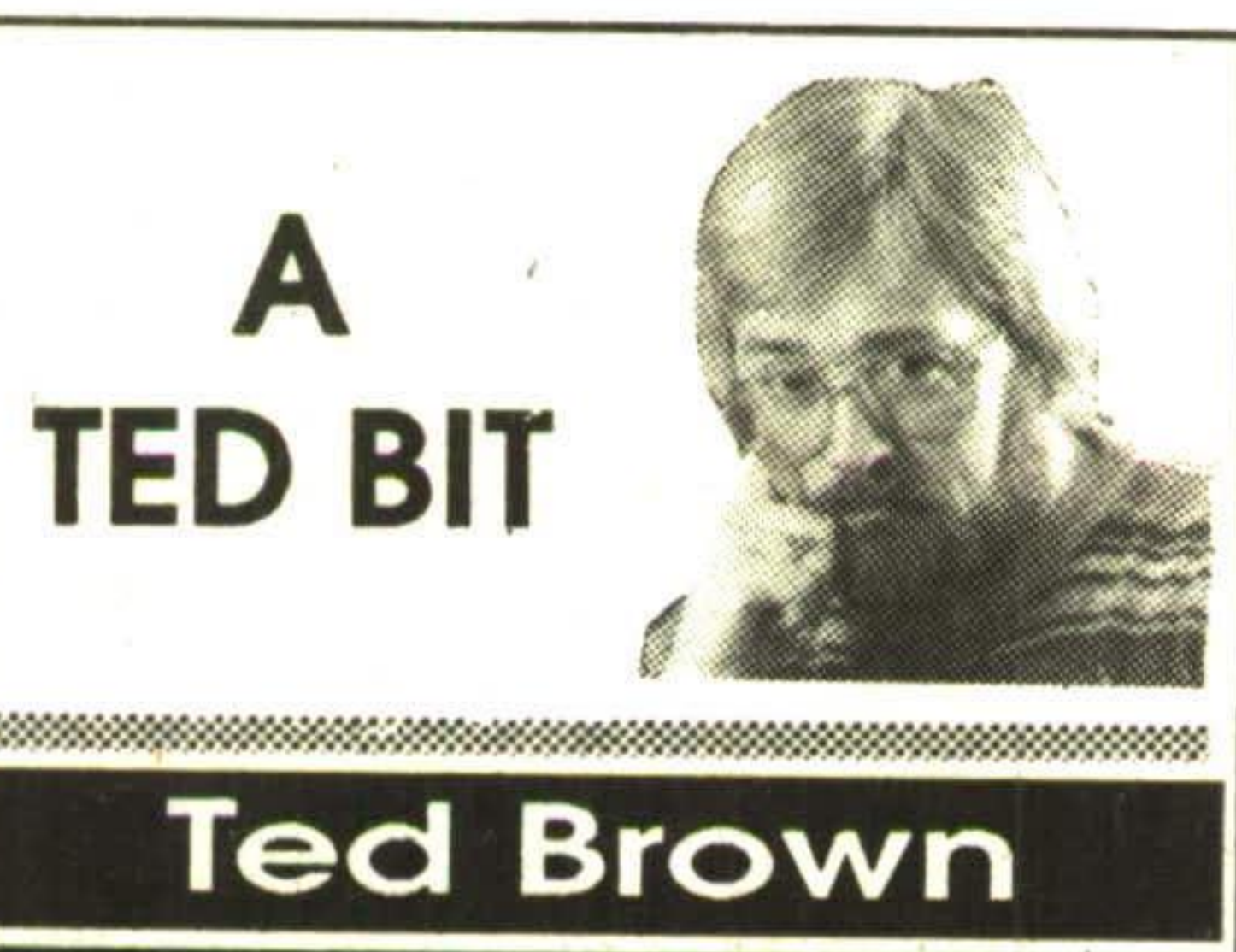
Co-worker Stuart Johnston jumped into the discussion at that point.

"Of course he always wears a jacket," quipped Stuart, "He's afraid to take it off for fear of the wrinkled mess of a shirt under it."

The gloves came off when I agreed.

"And I suppose you iron all your own shirts, Ted," she retorted sarcastically. "Or do you expect your poor wife to do all the ironing?"

Now, I can honestly say I'm no stranger to the ironing board. Giving credit where credit is due, I'll admit



my wife irons more of my shirts than I, but I do press many of my own, and all my pants as well.

"Actually, I enjoy pressing pants," I replied. "When my pants are nicely ironed, I feel well-dressed."

There's a certain satisfaction turning that wrinkled mess of cloth into a tailor's pride and joy.

As she hung her head in shame and left feeling totally inadequate as

a wife, discussion about ironing clothes escalated.

Stuart agreed with my insistence of a sharp crease down the arm of the shirt and told me he always irons his shirts before wearing them.

"Absolutely, Ted," said Stuart, "I wouldn't think of wearing a shirt without ironing it first."

And we agreed no one should wear a shirt more than one day.

But when the discussion moved to the topic of pants, I suddenly felt like I was a little bit fanatical about wrinkles.

It was innocent enough. All I said was, "I iron my jeans."

"You iron jeans?" echoed Stuart in disbelief. "Why would anyone iron jeans? They come out of the dryer wrinkle-free. Gawd, Ted, people spend a fortune for jeans that look half worn out and wrinkled. And you

iron them?"

He looked at me like I was a freak when I also said I ironed them with a crease down the front of the leg, and hung them on pant hangers as well.

But I do. Always have. The final straw came when I admitted to running the iron over perma-press pants, "just to sharpen the crease." He was sure I'd gone around the bend at that point. He just shook his head — end of discussion.

As he went back to work, I wondered if I was a fanatic. Was it really that important to have a crease in my pants? Are blue jeans with a random texture of wrinkles from the dryer all bad?

Should I have kept it to myself about ironing perma-press pants?

In retrospect, I was thankful for one thing.

I didn't mention anything about ironing socks and underwear.