#### KEN NUGENT

Publisher

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## Reason to smile

Residents of Halton Hills found a way to beat the winter blahs on Thursday and if the initial success of Lighten Up, Canada day is any success there will be many more to come.

Hats off to local radio personality Jack Carpenter, who spearheaded the campaign to get area residents to forget about their troubles, taxes and the snow for a few hours.

All over town people were wearing red noses on Thursday. Schools were supplying them to students, or at least to those who hadn't painted up, and local stores were having a heck of a time trying to keep enough of those sponge things in stock.

Local merchants got into the swing of Lighten Up, Canada day in a big way. They were pumping gas, cutting hair and serving customers with painted faces and smiles all day long. Crossing guards and letter carriers got into the act and even a few new cars were wearing red balloon noses for the occasion.

Mayor Russ Miller has already proclaimed that the Town of Halton Hills will back the venture again next year announcing that Lighten Up, Canada will be celebrated on Friday, Feb. 6, 1993. Carpenter was quick to point out that with St. Jack's Day taking place on a Friday it should be the start of a holiday weekend.

The only potential hazard of the day was averted when a rubbernecker brought his truck to a stop in laughter after seeing one of the participants wearing their bright red nose:

With Halton Hills leading the way Lighten Up, Canada day may find its way from east to west coast, as Canadians look for some way to brighten up their day. And we can take pride in knowing we helped make many of them smile.

Now, if we can only find a way to keep them smiling the other 364 days of the year.

# Granddaughter speaks out Letters to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to the driver of the car who hit a person on Friday, January 31 at approximately 7 p.m. on Confederation Street in Glen Williams.

Since you have not cared enough to turn yourself in or even inquire as to the condition of the innocent pedestrian you hit, let me give you some information.

The 72 year-old woman you hit is my grandmother. She's a loving, caring, wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She also happens to be a very caring friend. As a matter of fact, she was on her way to visit the elderly woman across the street, who is very ill. Nana would go and sit with this woman in the mornings and in the evenings to keep her company. She was on her way to do this when you hit her, right in front of her own driveway. Thank God for two young girls walking down the street who found Nana, otherwise who knows how long she would have been laying there.

Instead she's know laying in the Intensive Care Unit in Toronto Western Hospital with internal injuries, her pelvis broken in three

places, her left hip dislocated, her right leg broken above the knee, below the knee and her kneecap

while you were going about your business Friday night, Nana was in surgery for 7 1/2 hours after losing half her blood volume within

I just wish that you, as we do, had to look at this woman we love so much laying there with rods, plates, and screws holding her together. you don't know how heartbreaking it is to not even recognize your own grandmother because her face is swollen to three times its natural size. At least she doesn't have to see us cry because she can't open her eyes due to the swelling. Nor can she answer any of the questions we have because she can't talk because she is on a

All we want to know is what happened and how you could leave her there? I'm sure that you are scared what might happen to you, but you can't be any more scared than my grandmother is about what's happening to her.

respirator.

Please, just d the right thing and turn yourself in. It will bring relief in many ways to everyone involve. I'm sure it will also bring relief to you, think about it.

Andrea Dool

## Don't make same mistake

Minister of Environment Honorable Ruth Grier

I am a Norval senior citizen and have always enjoyed having good drinking water, and hope to have it for, not only myself, but my children, grand-children and greatgrandchildren.

I can't believe a person of your stature can hold your head high, and pretend to be doing nothing wrong. Simple sense that even a child could solve.

Fooling around with the God given underground water supply of halton Hills is very 'serious'. Does your inner-self not tell you RSI are taking advantage of yourself and Premier Rae, as well as the people of Halton Hills?

Water is a special commodity that many countries in the world are lacking because they didn't use 'common sense'. Please don't make the same mistake. 'Stop the Dump, Now!', before it goes to a hearing and taxes go up again for people.

Thank you, Mrs. Dorothy McLean



## Farewell Gary, it's been a privilege knowing you

This past weekend held a sad note for me when I heard of the death of Toronto Star columnist Gary Lautens.

I never had the pleasure of meeting him in person, but I, undoubtedly like many others across Canada, felt as if he was a close personal friend.

His lighthearted column on Page Two of The Star was a favorite for everyone, as he discussed the pros and cons of everyday subjects from world peace to his family's Christmas plans. His readers heard it all.

And loved every word of it.

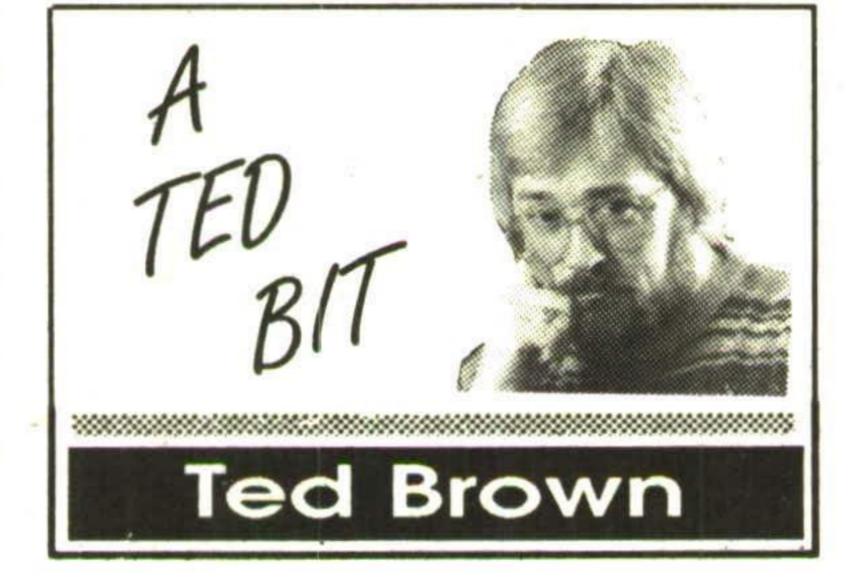
Writing a column myself, I admit I wasn't as regular a reader of Lautens' column as my wife, (for fear of unconsciously picking up something from his style,) but I always had the "good ones' read to me in the evening at the supper table as I enjoyed my last cup of tea.

"Ted, you just have to read Gary Lautens today," she would say, "it's a hoot. And he just tells it as it is."

And he invariably did, in his own humorous way. Columns that struck a chord, reminded us of our own little foibles, or perhaps columns that made us think about something on a much broader scale; they were the trademark of Gary Lautens.

I could relate, on a much smaller scale, to the feelings behind those columns, especially the ones regarding his family members. Believe me, writing about the private activities of one's family in the newspaper can be tricky, as one places their children in the public spotlight every time they do something humanus are the

As a result, there's a fine line those columnists walk between providing entertainment for their read-



ers and embarrassing family members.

But Gary was able to stick right to that line, never wavering either

Readers have spent the past 30 years reading about Lautens' wife Jackie, and his three children, Stephen, Jane and Richard. We have heard about his pets, his cottage and invariably about some insignif-

icant happening that occurred which just happen to illustrate the focus of his column while laced with a liberal dose of humor.

And I have nothing but respect for a writer who could spend years publicly referring to his wife as the "Resident Love Goddess" and get away with it.

All the time, Lautens had the rare ability to laugh at himself as well, yet still get a distinct point across.

So why am I writing about Gary Lautens?

I'm not sure, and for that matter, I don't even know if it's appropriate to write about him in a weekly newspaper.

But I felt a need to express the sadness I felt when I heard of his death.

I wanted to take a brief moment to recognize a man who has contributed to making this province, this country, and perhaps the whole world, a little bit happier place to live in with his lighthearted but decent outlook on life.

I wanted to recognize a man who has made it fashionable to be a family man, with his wife and a host of kids surrounding him.

And I wanted to salute a columnist who has over the years, sat down at his typewriter and managed, through his artistic energy, to create so many thousands of columns that entertained with that unique Gary Lautens approach.

And last, but certainly not least, I wanted to say farewell to a good friend and mentor, whom I never had the pleasure and privilege of meeting.

Cathy and the girls join me in offering our greatest sympathy to Jackie, Stephen, Jane and Richard.