

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## Things still the same

In these tough economic times people are tired of hearing about rising taxes and how much it is going to cost to live in Halton Hills, but that's nothing new.

Things haven't changed in the past 15 years. An editorial that appeared in the Georgetown Independent on April 6, 1977, clearly attests to that fact.

At that time we printed this editorial;

Who's to blame for the escalating tax and service structure?

Those elected to operate the municipality, region and board of education make honest efforts to control rising costs and keep taxes and services reasonable. They've got reasonable answers for the increases.

Halton Hills councillors point to the board of education as taking a lion's share of the revenue, making their task more difficult. Board of Education trustees point out that over 70 per cent of their budget goes out in salaries to operate the school system.

The region says price increases in water are necessary because of faults in the system and severe winter weather. Councillors point to increases in various departments they oversee, all adding up to more dollars the taxpayer has to fork out.

Hydro commissions are handicapped by rates Ontario Hydro sets for power.

Practically every department can plead outside forces, over which they have no control, which forces them to keep increasing levies. The Province says the federal government does not hand over enough revenue. Of course, Ottawa replies the provinces are expecting too much.

Where does the buck stop?

It stops with us.

Until we stop demanding more services and more costly expenditures from all levels of government, taxes will continue to increase.

The responsibility also rests with our elected representatives. They should be advised to keep a tight knot on the purse strings until prices stabilize and residents can afford new programs and complexes.

If you haven't advised your elected representatives it's time for restraint, now is the time to do it while budget ink is still wet and we haven't yet got that increased tax bill.

Some things just don't change.

## Two opinions

Dear editor:

If you look at Garth Turner's "Ottawa Report" concerning pensions paid to MPs, you will see that Mr. Turner says the only thing needing changing is "double dipping" by MPs, that is a person should not get a pension and be paid for another government job at the same time.

He also complains bitterly that only about 200 MPs collect this pension, such a small number it really does not matter.

That's a bit like saying that the bank is being robbed, but it does not matter - there is only one robber. Good logic from one who is paid to help people, not put them in debt by overspending on things we can not afford.

Those of you who are interested in a different view, a very illuminating view, should read the Reader's Digest article in the April '92 edition, called "Parliament's Outrageous Pensions."

Examples of MPs' pensions in this article - Sven Robinson will be getting \$219,409 yearly when he reaches 75 years, Perrin Beatty will get over \$329,895 yearly at age 75.

Most people in their wildest

## Letters

to the Editor

dreams could not come close to this pension payout.

There are two sides to every story - pick yours.

Sincerely,  
John Shadbolt,  
Deputy Leader,  
Ontario Libertarian Party

## Bridal show thanks

Dear editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that contributed to making the 10th Annual Welcome Wagon Bridal Party of Georgetown the best show to date! Many thanks to the Cultural Centre and the Georgetown Independent. To Dan Wagstaffe of the Halton Cable TV for the videotaping of the show.

To my friends Cathy Dooley, Joanie Chaplin and Merle Carlton

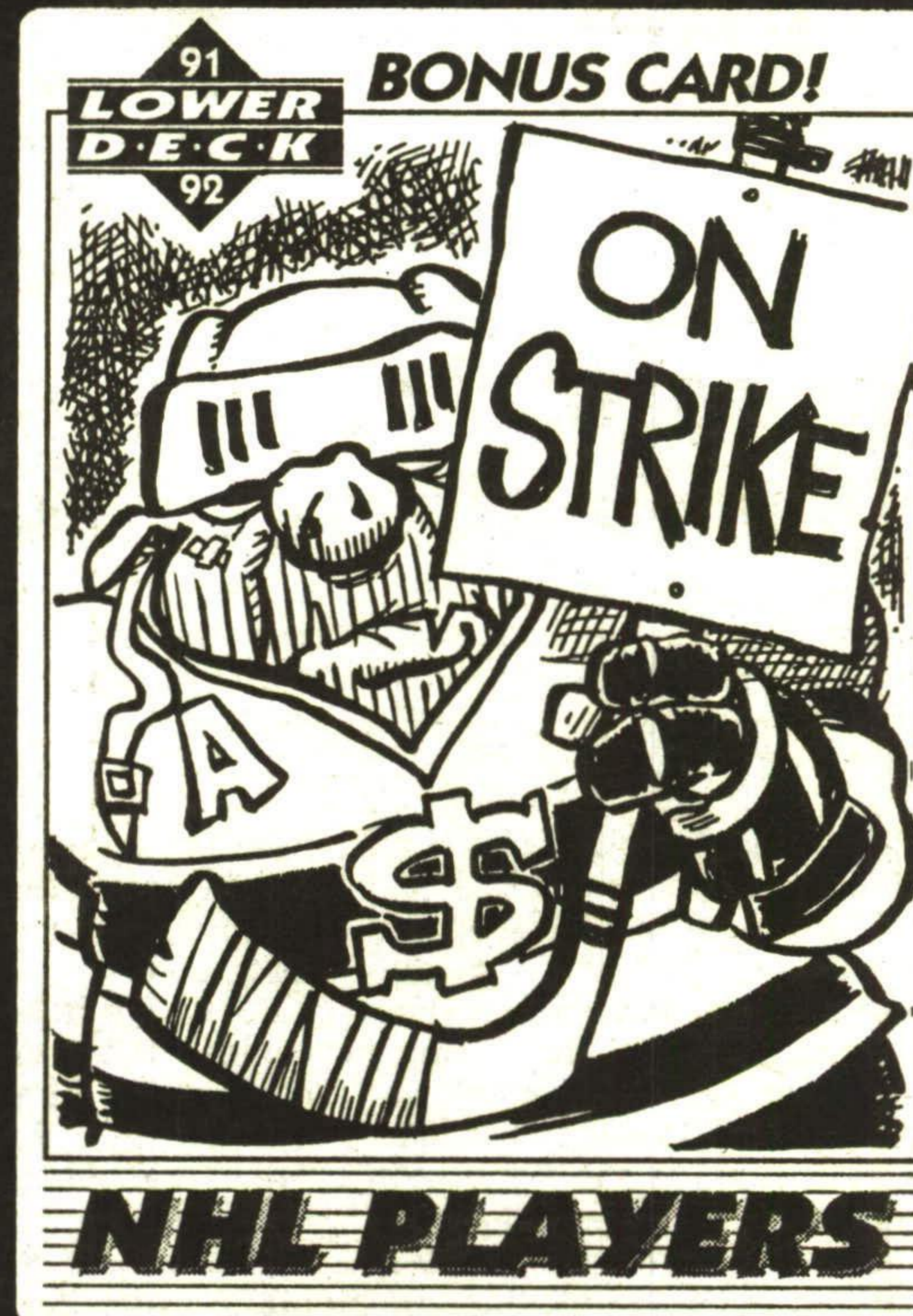
for helping out at the front registration desk, to assisting the models backstage. Thanks to my family, who all helped me organize this event. Special thanks to Cheri Lindsay and all the dance students from the Cheri Lindsay Dance Studio, who all were a great asset to the fashion show. Also thank you to Double Exposure - Bill and Janine Kent - another great performance!

And a very special thank you to all the Bridal Party sponsors - without all of you, this event would be impossible! Rhonda's Bridal Fashions, Floral Fantasey, Tuxedo Royale, Fantasia Lingerie - Terri Vanarragon, Up Up and Away, Cakes of Elegance, Tupperware - Joyce Stevenson, Country Cook, Reale Music, Roos Travel, Fifth Avenue Jewellery - Kelly Haggerty, Finelle Cosmetics - Marlene Forbes, Princess House Canada - Sharon Pshyk, Hallmark Greetings and Gifts, Office Magic, Silver Creek Photography, The Mutual Group - Peter Izzio, Star Cosmetic Make-Overs - Audra Armstrong.

On behalf of Welcome Wagon best wishes to all the brides-to-be on their upcoming weddings!

Sincerely,  
Debbie Butler,  
Bridal Party Hostess

# Hockey Fans!



Get out your scissors!  
Complete your collection!

NEASE '92

## Threats and 'hit lists' and other controversial things

It was bound to happen, I guess. Every serious journalist makes it there at some point in his or her career.

I was placed on a "hit list."

That's right, I was threatened with bodily harm.

It happened just this week, and I admit, it was traumatic. Almost as scary as losing one's virginity.

And all because I made a comment about the "Old Stone School" in Acton.

The "hitter" approached me at a meeting, and very coolly, looked directly into my eyes with his boyish smile and said, "Ted, (pause, for effect) you're on my hit list."

Just like that. No introductory, "How are you today, Ted?" or "How's the wife and kids?" Not even a "What's new?"

No sir. This was serious stuff. Just a plain "Ted, (pause, for effect) you're on my hit list."

I shouldn't be surprised. Or

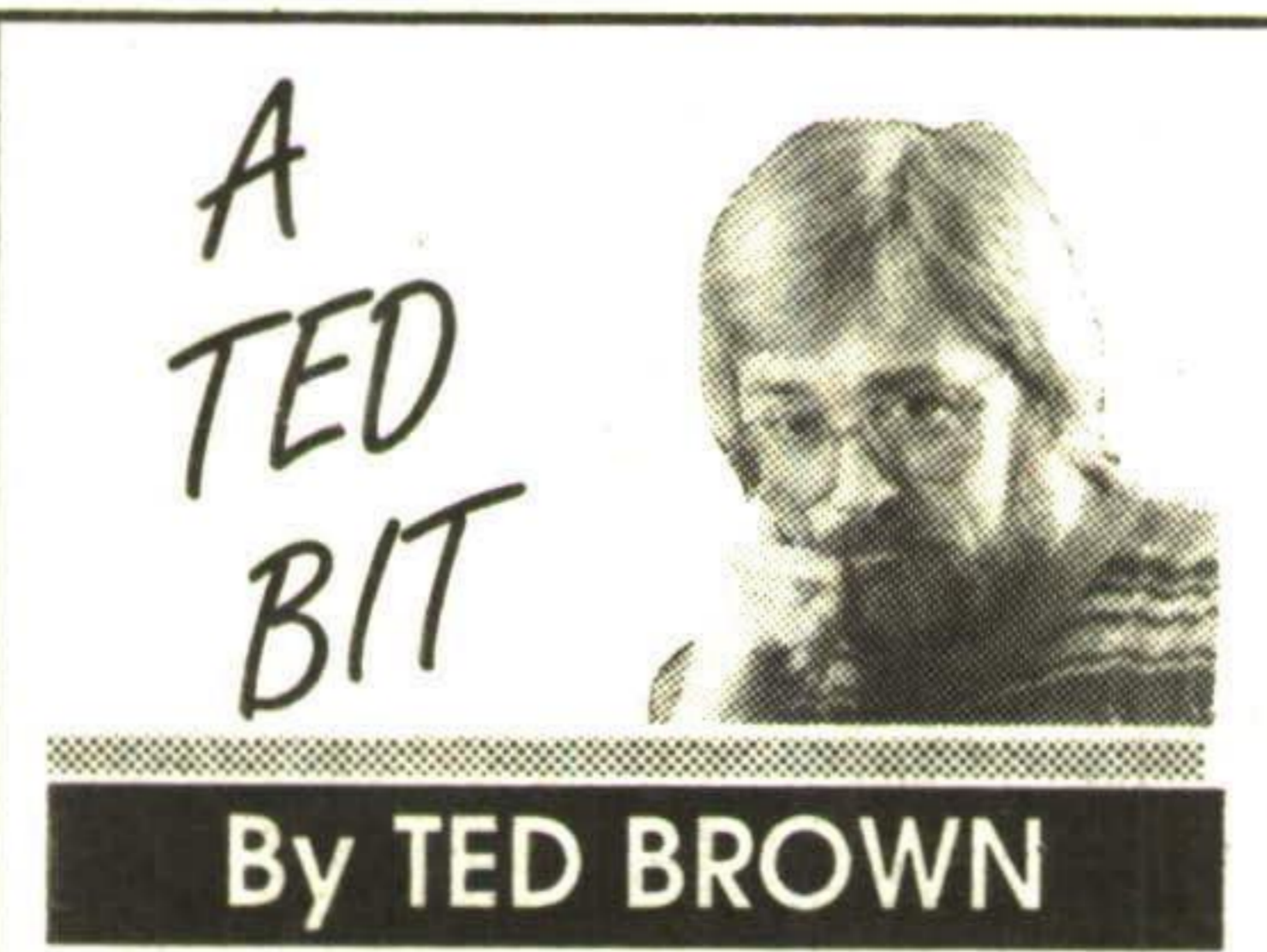
shocked for that matter. I guess if you play with fire, you're bound to get burned. (Unless you happen to be in the vicinity of the fire hall.) No sir, I was threatened. And finally, (thank God!) have become controversial.

Does that mean there will be threats made against my wife and kids? Will Metroland have to spring for day and night protection for me and my family? Does that mean I must be resigned to writing from the protection of some distant "safe house" and filing my stories by a fax machine?

I guess it's tough to be a controversial writer.

Will I become famous when my battered, tortured body washes up on the shore of Fairy Lake? Can I expect a camera crew from "A Current Affair" to drop by and produce a television program on me?

And will "The National Enquirer" run explicit photos of my



bruised body with the full story of how I was run down by a crazed hit and run driver in a red station wagon and thrown in the lake?

Does this make me a bonified columnist?

I can see it now. Cathy and the kids with their very own personal RCMP bodyguards and me acquiring a Norm Gardner-type gun permit. (Or is owning a Toronto bakery more dangerous than my line of work?) Next thing I'll be required to wear a bullet-proof vest.

It's unnerving at times, being a potential target. Behind every tree, hydro pole or fire hydrant I envision some assassin poised, ready to carry out a contract on me just because I said the stone school didn't need to be demolished this week.

When a target, where does one turn for advice? Old friend and former Independent editor Hartley Coles never prepared me for this part of the job.

I thought of dropping by the mayor's office, to see if he had any pointers. After all, he's been a target more often than most. But I don't think he was ever put on a "hit list."

I considered asking Tom Shepard how he deals with it. After all, the Acton arena issue has been a hot one for the last little while and I'm sure Tom has heard at least one or two negative comments.

I even considered going to the

police, but after some consideration, I decided not. After all, just because a guy's in a uniform, doesn't mean one can trust him. And this guy just might have some connections with the cops.

After exhausting all these ideas, I decided to just ignore the threat, live with it and consider where it came from. I'll be the martyr, Halton Hills' own Salman Rushdie with my very own "Satanic Verses" and face up to that threat holding my head high, ready for the contract to be carried out.

Who knows, maybe I can sneak in a few more biting columns about more controversial things, like should the new Acton arena be built in Guelph, or should the Fire Department paint their trucks hot pink, before that ominous ax falls.

Whatever the case, you can count on one thing.

I'll make sure I have the last word.