

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Heaton's stand supported

Dear editor:

Reading in the Weekend paper (May 31) that a new "contingency committee" was formed by the Town to fight the RSI dump proposal, but that councillor Robert Heaton was not part of it, was upsetting. Reading that he was not even asked, was more upsetting. Reading further that he was not even informed that such committee would be formed "until it was time to vote" definitely smells of political infighting, once again.

Myself, Mayor Miller or other councillors may not agree with councillor Heaton on all issues, but if all of us are really against the RSI proposal, this is the time to work efficiently AND together, by sharing openly all the accumulated knowledge and evidence against this proposal. In the interest of expediting the decision-making process it is understandable that such a committee would be formed. However, it is paramount that the citizens of this part of the woods be fully represented. While the town is bound to spend \$1 million fighting the proposal, the residents of the rural area between Acton and Georgetown have already paid

Letters

to the Editor

more than that in house depreciation just because of the "proposal" of a dump. If the dump were to go ahead, we would lose millions, from one day to the next, in property values alone. This is why I believe that picking one councillor per ward, in this case, may not be the best decision.

Let us make sure that those who know the ins and outs of the proposal are called to contribute, or are fully represented. In this case, "knowledge" is the key, not necessarily "equality of representation by ward." One piece of information, if it's the right one, may overthrow the hearings altogether.

Of all councillors, perhaps Heaton has the most experience. This is his second mandate in office and he has worked hard to inform himself, research the quarry/dump problems and represent these concerns at council meetings. The residents of this area, organized in groups such as POWER, EAGLE,

FOAD and others, have collected many pieces for the final puzzle. Although Robson is already part of the committee, the amount of material that has started circulating and the amount of parties involved in the hearings suggest that perhaps all three councillors would be needed. We cannot risk losing this battle, in the interest of appearing "fair" or "expedite."

Sincerely,
Giuseppe Gori,
Acton

Thanks firefighters

Dear editor:

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the 911 operator, the Halton Regional Police and the fine members of our Volunteer Fire Department. Their fast action and professionalism averted near tragedy.

We all know that fire does not care about the lives of sleeping children, only to leave horror and devastation in its path of destruction. A safe and restful sleep tonight just knowing that you are out there.

Paul Hess,
John St.,
Georgetown

Thinking green

Isn't it ironic that the preliminary hearings on the proposed Acton quarry landfill are being held during Environment Week.

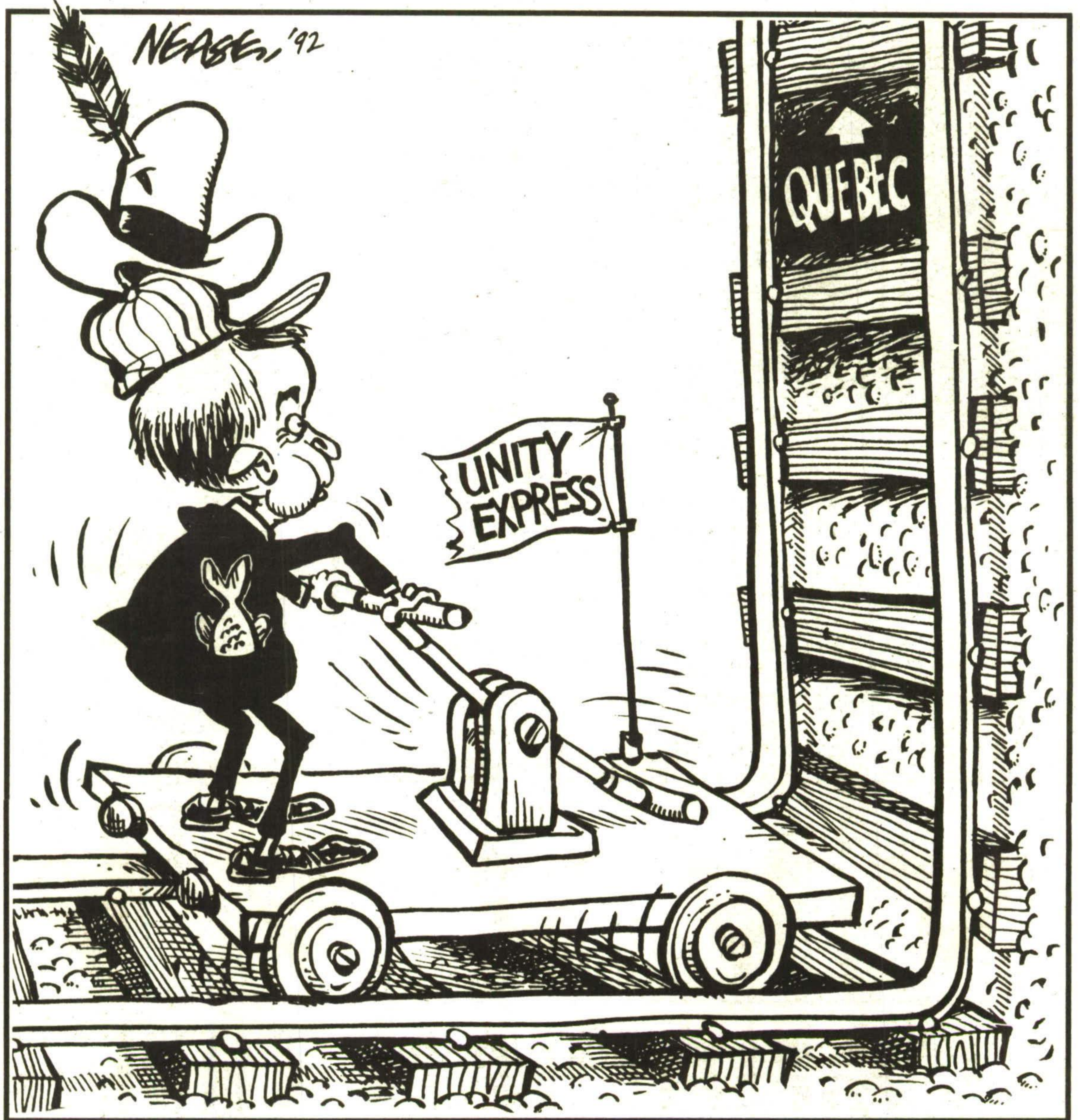
Environment Week, June 1-7 is set aside each year to focus Canadians' attention on the need to protect the environment. Yet this was the week that the Ontario government began consolidated hearings on a proposed landfill in the Niagara Escarpment.

The Escarpment, which has always garnered the admiration of its many visitors, has now achieved international recognition by the United Nations as a Biosphere Reserve.

What sort of message are we sending to the rest of the world when we even consider putting garbage into an ecologically significant area? The world has recognized the beauty of our environment. Will we?

Thinking Canadian

On the front page we ask our readers to send us a birthday wish for Canada. We ask you to make a wish and why it's important to you. We encourage you to drop a line, we're really interested in your feelings about Canada and we're sure many others would be interested in reading them in our special edition, July 1. Looking forward to hearing from our neighbors.



Quick guys: when's your wife's birthday?

Wendy Long had a birthday last week.

You remember Wendy; she was our student from Sheridan College who was on placement at the Independent/Free Press for the spring semester.

Well, Wendy is now our summer student, working from now until fall, to lend a hand with the work load in the newsroom.

But back to the birthday.

You see Wendy just had a birthday, and as she came in, she was all excited, and told me of her receiving a phone call from her father.

"It as so sweet, Ted" she grinned, "My dad is out of town right now, and he phoned me from Chicago just to wish me a 'Happy Birthday.' Isn't that sweet?"

I agreed, it was a nice gesture, and also wished her a 'Happy Birthday.'

"You know, Ted," she continued, "That's really something, him calling me like that. You know men

can't remember dates, as a rule, so it's really special."

That last statement grabbed my attention, and co-worker Stuart Johnston's as well.

"Men can't remember dates?" I retorted, "What do you mean men can't remember dates?"

"It's true," she replied, "Men can never remember dates, like the date of their anniversary, or their wife's or girlfriend's birthday. It's just a fact of life."

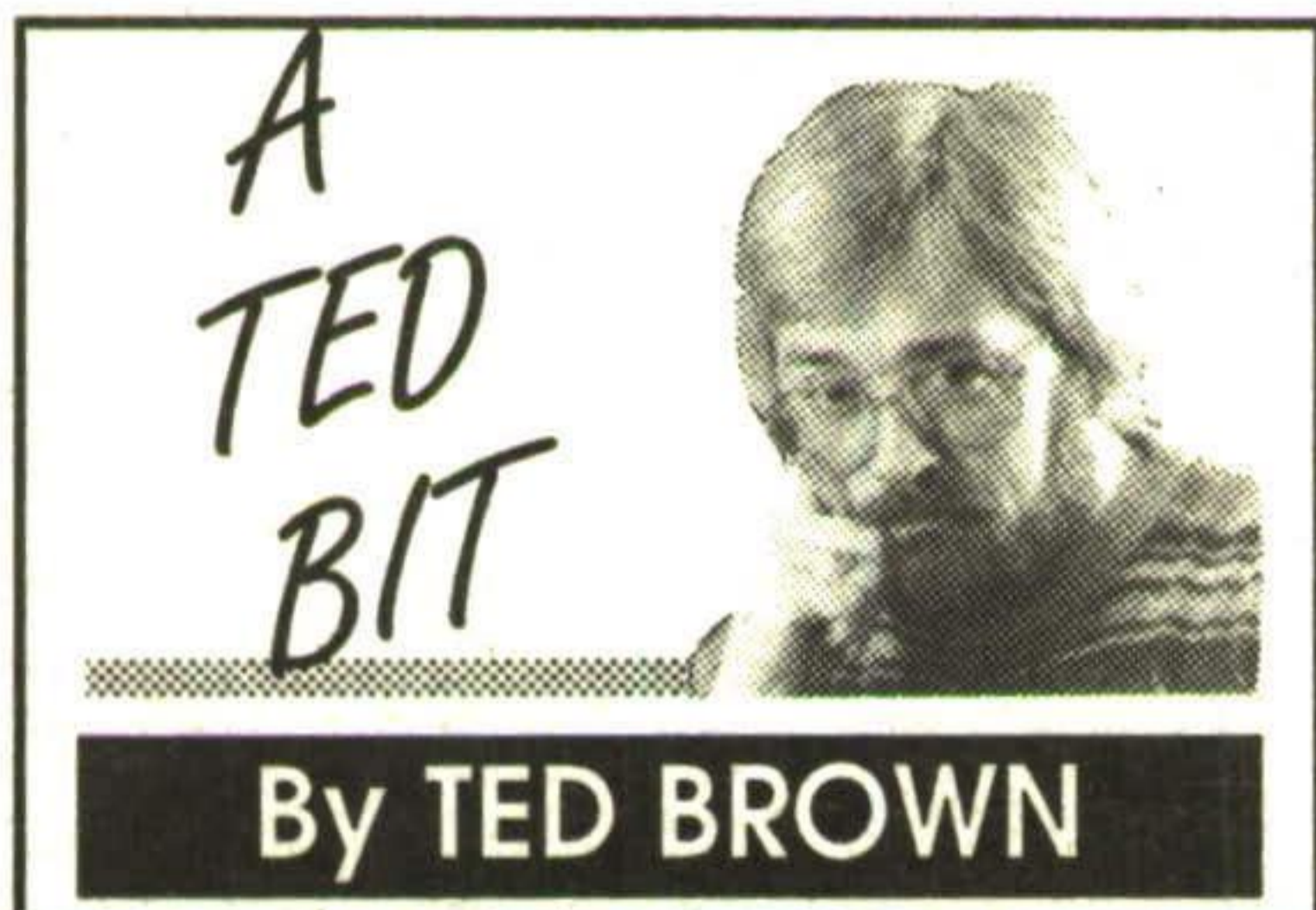
I disagreed. As did Stuart.

"Okay, we'll see" continued Wendy, "Quick, Ted, what's the date of your wedding anniversary?"

"October 18, 1975," I replied, "We were married at 11:30 a.m. at Limehouse Church. The day was cold, but sunny, and it rained later in the afternoon."

"Well then, tell me the date of your wife's birthday. Quick now, don't think about it." (She wasn't going to be easily convinced.)

After I rhymed off that date, I also added my two sisters' birth-



By TED BROWN

days and the dates of their husbands' birthdays.

Of course, I then added the dates of all my daughters' birthdays, and mentioned both Lindsay and Mary Ann were born on Mondays, Maggie was on a Tuesday, and Jennifer was born on a Friday, and added their birth weights and the times they were born, just for good measure.

To top it off, I told her what the weather was like each day, and how the kids were sent home from school when Jennifer was born, because of a blizzard.

And just to prove a point, I men-

tioned my second daughter Mary Ann was exactly 14 years younger than my co-worker Stuart Johnston, as their birthdays are the same day. From there, I was on a roll.

The dates of both my sisters' weddings, followed by my six nephews' birthdays and my parents' birthdays and anniversary rounded off the presentation.

I wasn't going to show any mercy to this girl!

Imagine, suggesting men can't remember dates!

Wendy was just fortunate I didn't start reciting the dates of my grandparents' birthdays or anniversary, or when I started working at the Independent.

Or my first day of school at Limehouse.

Or my last at GDHS.

I could have told her about April 6, 1974, when I took my wife on our first date, and that we attended a folk concert at Georgetown High School, and there was full moon that night. (I remember that well;

the werewolves were out.)

Or how about the fact we drove to that concert in my 1970 Chevelle, which I bought at Andrew Murray Motors in Georgetown, on February 28, 1973?

Or how about the date of July 20, 1969, when the first man walked on the moon. I remember that date well; it was the day of my sister's birthday, and the day after my older sister's wedding, and we had a pile of friends in to watch the moon walk on TV and later went for a drive in my friend's pickup truck and ended up sitting in a cemetery, outside of Acton, telling ghost stories, and.... Well, you get the drift.

So after I had dusted off Wendy with my talent for remembering dates, she just brushed it off with a simple statement;

"Well obviously, Ted," she smiled, "You're just an exception to the rule."

I hate it when women win arguments that way.