

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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First victory in long battle

Success!

That's what many people are feeling in Halton Hills these days after the announcement by the Consolidated Hearings Board (CHB) that they have no jurisdiction to rule on Acton Quarry dump proposal.

But what made this victory even more sweet is the knowledge that the town, citizens' groups and businesses worked together to achieve it. At the hearing, anti-development groups sat beside developers and town councillors and staff sat beside citizens' protest groups who in the past had seemed to be constant nemeses.

We agree with town lawyer Steve D'Agostino that everyone opposing the dump proposal played a role in this victory. "It was truly a group effort and everyone worked hard at it," he said. We congratulate all.

But be warned, this is only the first victory in what will be a long battle. Some say the ball is back in environment minister Ruth Grier's court, and past experience has shown that she cannot always be counted on. Others say Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) will now have to go through the step by step process of applying to various boards and agencies for approvals — something they hoped to avoid by asking for a CHB.

RSI has invested a lot of money in this proposal and it can't be expected that they will shelve it altogether.

The battle was won but the war will rage on.

Some sour notes at Grapes concert

Dear editor:

Re: Grapes of Wrath concert

First of all, we would like to thank the concert organizers for taking the time and effort to arrange Friday night's concert. It must have taken a lot of work to arrange for such a wonderful band as the Grapes of Wrath to come to our town to perform. It was a real treat, and we would like to thank you for planning such a great evening for the young people of Georgetown.

However, the unfortunate truth is that you'll probably have a difficult time finding another band that would willingly come and perform here. And after the events that took place on Friday night, we wouldn't blame them. It really is a shame that many of the young people in our town, and the surrounding towns, have no respect for anything,

Letters

to the Editor

or anybody. They behaved like idiots, and in the process they managed to wreck a concert, injure people, and give Georgetown a bad reputation.

We would like you to know that there are still some civilized fans in this town that know how to behave like normal people, and know how to respect other people, and property. It's a shame that things turned out so badly for you, and for everybody, and we hope that you don't thoroughly regret planning and organizing this event.

We feel that it is about time that these people learned how to behave, how to appreciate hard work, and also how to appreciate good music.

Signed,
a group of grateful, and devoted
Grapes of Wrath fans

Boorish fans were stupid

Dear editor:

I would like to "thank" the person or persons who provided the asinine antics and finish to The Grapes of Wrath concert.

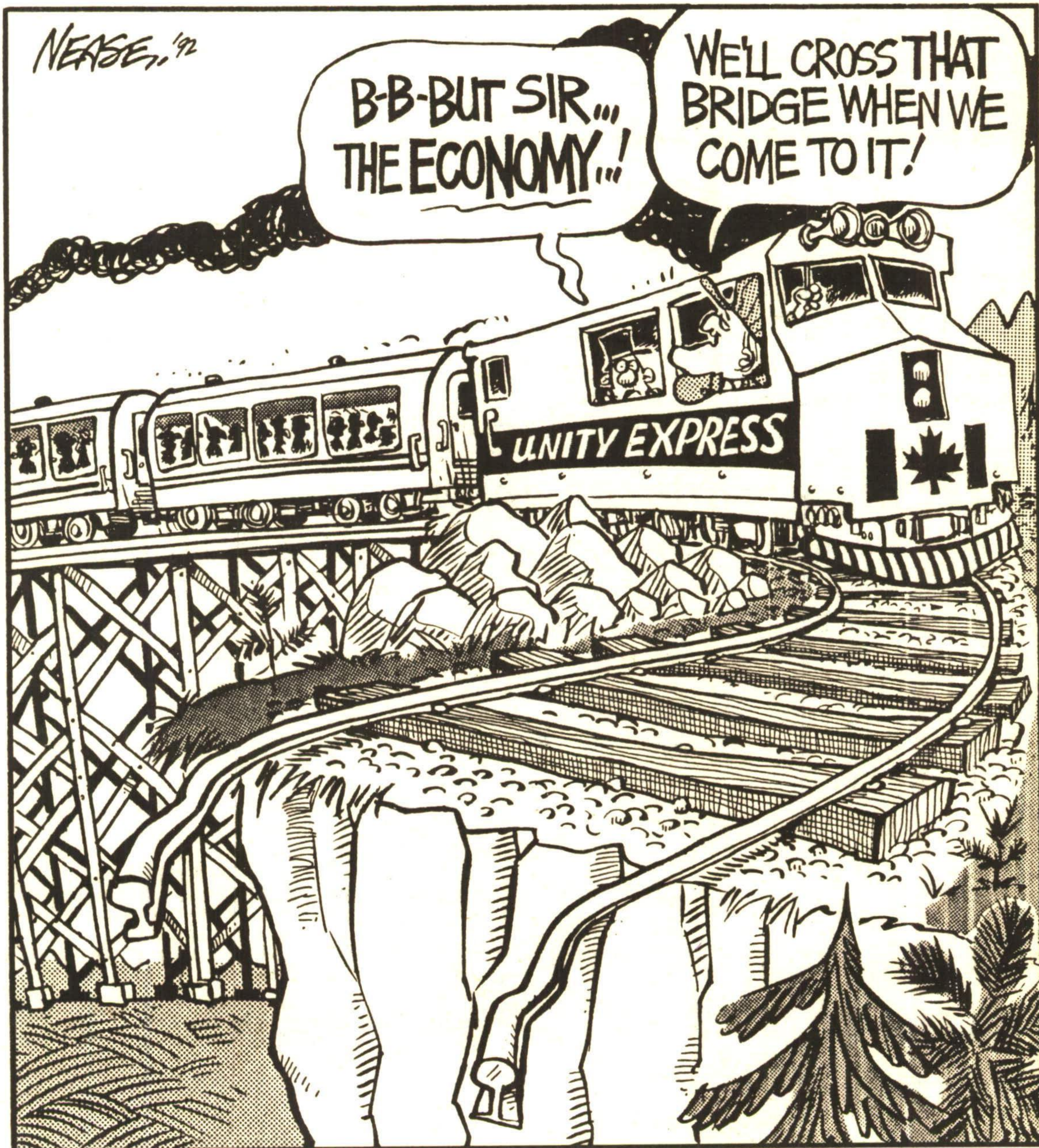
In one moment of stupidity, you have taken the hard work, time and effort of many people to provide something unique to this year's fair and turned it into an absolute joke.

It is obvious from your actions, that you were not there to see The Grapes of Wrath. Did you get Friday night's concert mixed up with someone else's where pushing, shoving and a "mash pit" are the norm?

Unlike you, I was there to see The Grapes of Wrath. I was not there to be pushed, shoved, crushed and almost hit in the face by a shoe that was being carelessly tossed about.

Next time, think before you act, your actions affect everyone and I for one, do not wish to witness your stupidity again.

Tammy Cripps



'Real' Grapes fans are good people, not 'losers'

Last weekend, I found myself in the midst of several hundred kids, eager to see the popular rock group, The Grapes of Wrath perform at the Georgetown Fair.

Before the show, the fans gathered on the field, waiting for the performance to begin. The moment came, the lights came on and the musicians took their positions, to the crowd of screaming, cheering fans.

It was great stuff.

I photographed band members, the crowd, the cops and everything around me, as the near deafening music pounded through mammoth speakers. It was good hard rock, with lots of punch, and the kids were having a great time.

Just one small problem.

Kids in the front row were being pressed harder and harder against the chain link fence in front of the stage as fans pushed forward for a closer look.

Suddenly one young lady collapsed on the ground, holding her chest. As people helped her, another

girl was pressed even harder against the fence, and an ambulance had to be called. It looked like her ribs had been injured.

Band members decided it was time to take action.

"We have a problem," one member said to the crowd, "We've had one person hurt already, and the concert won't go on unless everyone backs up three steps."

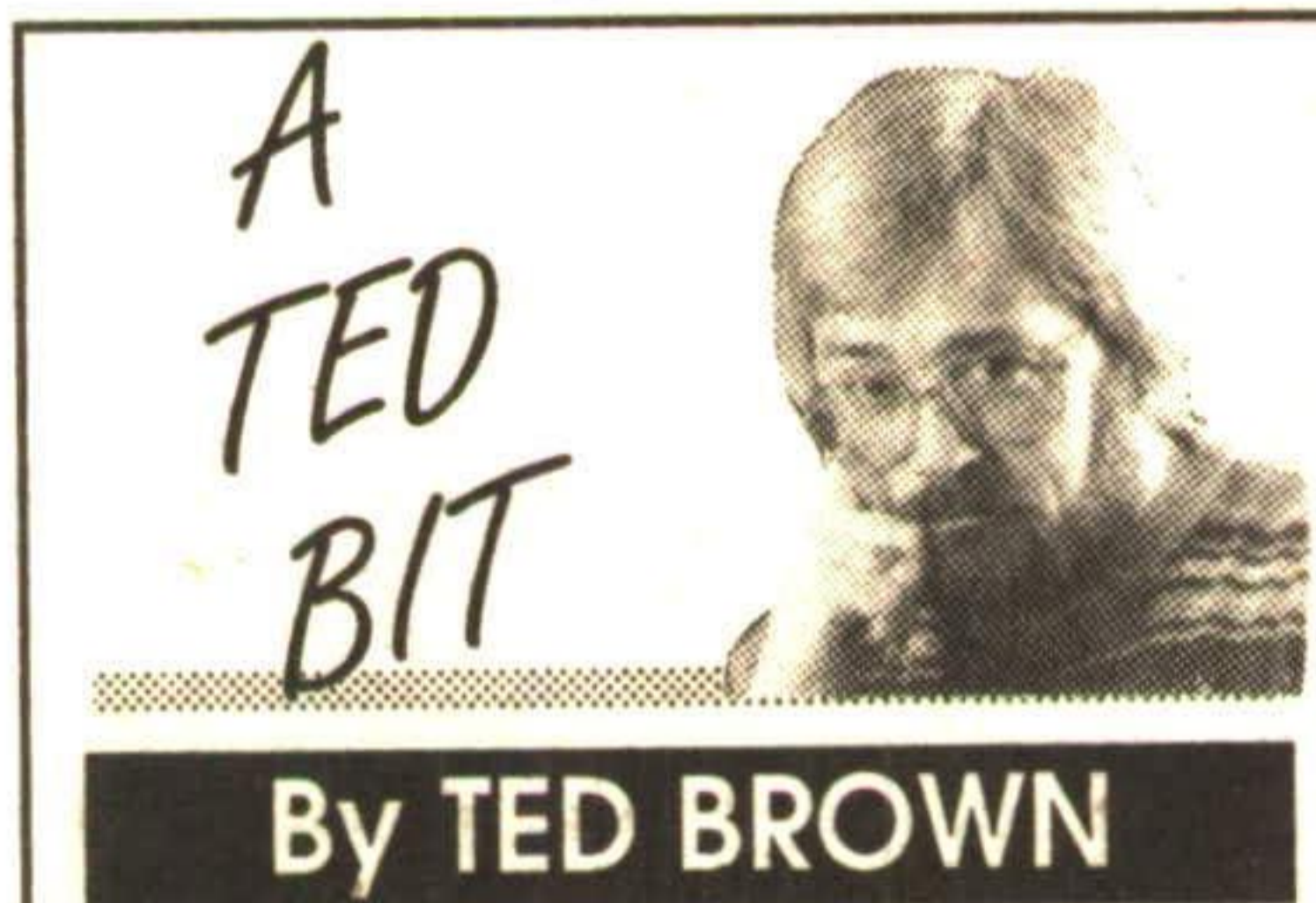
I was impressed. After hearing stories of other concerts having riots and injuries, it was a pleasure to see musicians who cared about the kids.

Later a few fans in the front row started bouncing some guys up and down, over their heads.

The band reacted again.

"If you think that's cool, throwing them in the air like that," said vocalist Kevin Kane, "then you're an a---. Try being the person who gets booted in the head when you come back down. It might look cool on TV, but only a---s do it at a concert."

It was a little earthy in the lan-



guage, but the kids got the message. So the concert continued, and the kids enjoyed the show—until the end.

As they finished the last song of the night, an explosion rocked the stage area, and smoke filled the air. The band left immediately.

Apparently someone had thrown a smoke bomb under the stage.

As the crowd dispersed, and police kept an eye on order, I thought how the concert had gone well, despite the minor incidents. Fair board members had reason to be pleased with the show. It was a success.

As I prepared to leave, I spotted

the first young lady who had been crushed. She and her boyfriend were joined by another couple as they chatted. We started to talk.

She told me she felt better, but was still a little sore in her ribs.

"So you're all big fans of this group?" I asked.

They all agreed.

"Oh yeah, I've been a fan for a lifetime," she said, "Ever since I was in Grade 7."

When she told me she was now in Grade 11, I smiled. By Grade 11, four years is nearly a lifetime.

As they were avid fans, I asked the girl the names of the band members.

After she looked at me like I had crawled out from under a rock, she told me their names, what they played and a complete history of the group.

I felt like apologizing for not knowing them.

"You kids enjoy the concert?" I asked.

"Oh yeah, it was pretty good," she replied, "It's just too bad there

had to be so many losers here. You know, real fans don't act like that, throwing guys in the air, or setting off (smoke) bombs. They just come to enjoy the show. We've been waiting since 6:30, and these idiots came in and ruined it."

When I told her there are morons in every crowd, she agreed.

"You're right," she thought, "But it still makes me mad."

She told me of other Grapes of Wrath concerts she had attended; more expensive concerts—"too expensive for losers to attend," she said. She was a devout fan; annoyed everyone else wasn't.

"Could you do us a favor?" she asked as I packed to leave.

"Sure," I replied, "If I can."

"Write in the newspaper how 'real' Grapes of Wrath fans are good people, who don't trash things or act like fools. They just enjoy great music and have fun."

So here it is; I've written it, for all to read.

And do you know something? I think she's right.