

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Get all the information

Most people already have some idea how they will vote in the October 26 referendum, but we encourage everyone to get all the information before marking their ballot.

There is going to be many opportunities to do this in the coming weeks. MP Garth Turner is offering free — on a first come, first served basis — copies of the Consensus Report on the Constitution. Copies are now available at his office, 27 Main St. S. in Georgetown. Call his office at 873-4673. Copies will also be available at his town hall meetings on the Constitution. The first will be held 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 5 at the North Halton Golf and Country Club on Maple Ave., Georgetown. The second, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 15, St. Joseph's School, Acton; the third, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 20, Nassagaweya Centre, Brookville. In addition Turner will host a live phone-in television program on Halton Cable 4, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19. As well, drop into the Yes office at the corner of Guelph and Mill Sts. in Georgetown — they're sure to provide more information.

This is an issue too important to allow politicians and media decide what is the right way or the wrong way to vote. Get the accord, read it, ask questions, and decide yourself. It's more than your future at stake; it's your children's and their children, and all future generations of Canadians.

Vote is no until text is available

(The following was filed with this newspaper for publication.)

Garth Turner, MP
Dear Mr. Turner,

I'm pretty passionate about Canada. I chose to become Canadian rather than remain a U.S. citizen. I have never regretted that decision and still don't.

Until yesterday I expected to vote "yes" on Oct. 26 - believing that a constitution is a living thing - that it has to be worked with, lived in and defined by the society it serves. Until yesterday I believed that was possible and necessary.

But that was before the legal text of the document we have not yet seen, the part that deprives native women of the protection of the charter, was made public.

Now, unless I can see a legal text that amends that wrong, and assure myself that the rest of us are not also being deprived of funda-

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mental rights, I will have to vote "no."

How can responsible, elected officials ask anyone to make a binding decision on a contract they haven't even been allowed to read?

Your government is trying to make a yes vote a test of loyalty to Canada. In my view loyalty to Canada, to the ideas that define Canada, among them the rule of law, dictate that we should know and understand the law that is going to govern us.

All the governments and leaders who have participated in creating the Charlottetown Accord have failed the first and fundamental test of democracy - they have not produced the actual law they are asking us to accept.

To me a no vote is now a vote of

"no confidence" in the Accord - not because I agree with the arguments of any political action group - but because it would be criminally irresponsible for me to approve something I haven't read or understood.

Please prevail upon your colleagues to either produce the legal text before October 26, or delay the vote until the text is available.

Yours truly,
(Mrs.) B.R. Cornwell

Thanks

Dear editor:

Just a short note to express our thanks for your cooperation and hospitality regarding the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department's program visits.

As I'm sure you observed, the children greatly enjoyed the newspaper and learned a great deal from this experience.

We hope we can contact you with regard to continuing these visits in future summers.

On behalf of all SAC participants - thank you!

Sheri-Lyn Roy, supervisor
Summer Activity Centres



Leaves on the lawn? They go with the territory

A story in last week's paper caught my eye.

It was about falling leaves.

At a recent Halton Hills council meeting, a spokesperson representing some 60 people in Georgetown's Park area appeared before council to complain about the town cutting its annual leaf cleanup service in that area this fall.

Over the past decade or so, the town public works department has cleaned up leaves every fall in the area with front end loaders, drawing them away in dump trucks, after residents raked them onto the street. And now they've discontinued the service. Residents must now rake their leaves into clear plastic bags to be picked up on designated dates.

Group spokesperson Molly Monahan told councillors the area is "a heritage neighborhood" with special needs, so the service shouldn't be looked upon as preferential treatment.

I think she's half right.

The area is indeed a beautiful heritage neighborhood with its tall stately homes and mature maple trees. It's a credit to Georgetown.

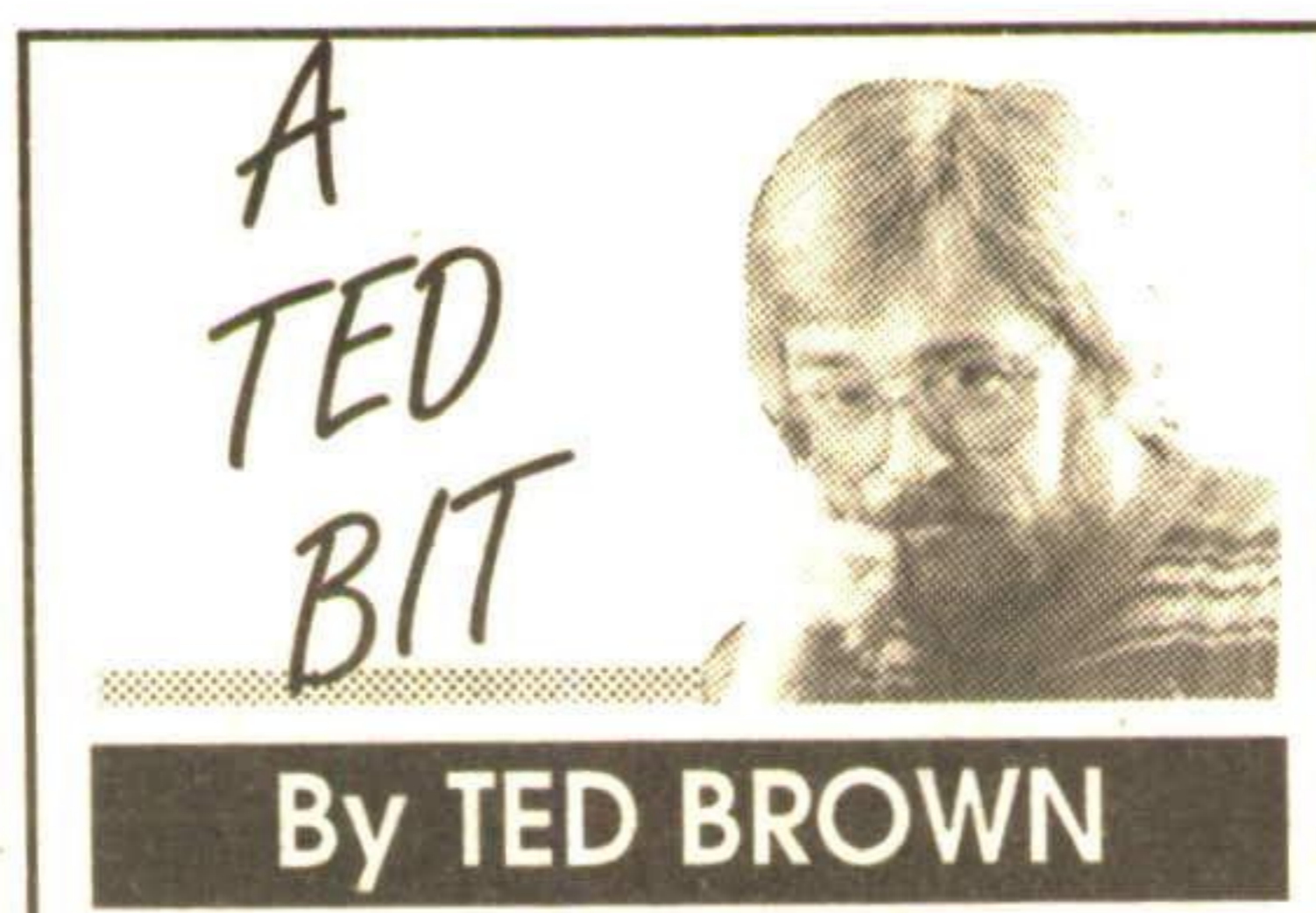
But it doesn't have special needs as far as leaves are concerned.

What makes the Park Ave. area special? What gives those residents the right to receive a special service every year, just because they happen to have a number of large trees, some of which are located on town property?

There are other residents in Halton Hills with town trees dropping leaves on their property, and they're not receiving any help.

The old part of Georgetown in the Queen, King and Durham Streets areas have mature trees as well. And they lose their leaves, just like on Charles.

What about those residents in Acton's Prospect Park area, or on Church Street? How about Bower and Poplar Streets. They didn't call it "Poplar Street" for nothing, you know.



By TED BROWN

Then there's side streets in Glen Williams, and Norval. They all have big trees.

And Limehouse has its share of residents with town-owned trees overhanging their properties.

But Georgetown's Park area has had this service for years, and now it appears it will be discontinued.

I think it's long overdue.

Who benefits from those trees in the Park area? Who enjoys their shade on hot summer days? Who benefits from enhanced property values because the trees line the street?

It certainly isn't the town. If

anything, the trees could almost be considered a liability when the cost of cleaning up the leaves is considered.

Nope, the residents are the winners on all counts, and the price of enjoying those trees is cleaning up after them. I'm sure there are many residents in other parts of town who live in much newer developments who would give their eye teeth to have an established maple or two to clean up after.

It doesn't matter where one lives, life is not perfect.

Myself, I live in the country, and consequently, I'm responsible for my own garbage disposal, my own water, my own septic bed and my own leaf disposal. I'm not complaining; it's the price I pay to live in a rural area, just as Acton's residents along Fairy Lake must endure a mess of "goose goo" on their lawns with the hundreds of Canada geese on the lake.

It all goes with the territory. Monahan, in her presentation to

council spoke of other municipalities like Oakville and Burlington, and how they dispose of leaves with more efficient methods.

After a couple of phone calls, I learned Burlington has a \$450,000 budget for leaf disposal alone. Halton Hills couldn't possibly allocate those monies for leaf disposal; there isn't that kind of tax dollar available. Comparing the budgets of the town of Halton Hills to the city of Burlington is like comparing apples and oranges.

As a result of the presentation, Halton Hills council has asked for a report from the engineering department to study the costs of the service.

Whatever the outcome, I'm sure Park residents won't be happy. And I'm equally sure Molly Monahan and her 60 or more Park residents will be out there raking and packing their leaves in plastic bags, for pickup on the six designated days.

Just like everyone else in Halton Hills.