

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Keep calling

For the past two weeks, we have urged Halton Hills residents to call the assessment office, and then let us know if their taxes are going to go up or down. We've had a tremendous response, and some of the tax hikes are outrageously high.

We've had letters from homeowners telling us their taxes were going up as much as \$1,700. Businessman Dave McNally reports in our story on page 1 that MVA will create hardship for the Halton Hills business community and stifle incentives. Remember, these are tax hikes automatically added to your bill before the town, region and school boards set their 1993 budgets.

The information we receive will be passed on to your regional councillors, spearheaded by Acton's Rick Bonnette, who are going to try and stop, or at least change, the new tax. But, they have to first convince their colleagues from Burlington and Milton (who voted in favor of it). To do that, they need the community's support behind them.

Many of you have responded by calling the provincial assessment office number to find out the effect of market value assessment on your tax bill for 1993. Many have also called us to say they can't get through. Don't worry, folks, the provincial assessment office number is still in use, but the phone has been ringing off the hook. According to Dick Humphries of the assessment office, almost 2,500 calls per day from Halton Region residents have been pouring in — that's about five times the normal amount. If the line is busy, please be patient and keep trying, he said.

So, please call 1-800-387-5909, or 270-8050, and send us, the Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, a fax or a letter to tell us what you found out. Our address is 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, L7G 4X5 or fax at 873-0398.

Thanks to the soldiers

To all those we honor this Remembrance Day — thank you.

I have never had to fire a weapon in my life, never had to learn, never had to join the armed forces in any capacity. For bringing peace to my lifetime, thank you.

I continue to meet with old school chums and the friends of my youth. They, like me, have grown up, tasted life, lived and loved and learned. Some I have lost, due to misadventure, injury, or disease, but I have not lost them in droves, massacred on some field of battle. For letting me grow up among friends, thank you.

I have grown up in a country which is the envy of all others, a place that immigrants strive to reach. In a world where an ideology of hate and oppression reigns in most countries, freedom and acceptance is found here. For fighting to make that possible, thank you.

I consider myself well read, and at this time of year especially I read books about the times in which you fought. I read books about Vimy, Cassino, Normandy,

Letters to the Editor

and Dieppe - well written books, full of personal descriptions of the conditions, the hardships, the fear, the pain, and the tragedy. But even as I read these well-crafted sentences, I know that I will never really understand what it was like to experience those days, to really appreciate what you all went through, the pain and deprivations you all felt.

For my ignorance of such things, thank you. Thank you for all of it.

James R. Collier

It's the little things that will save farmland

Dear editor:

No one wants a dump site, on good farmland, or near their home.

If everyone, who is so passionately dedicated to Stop the Dump, and rightly so, would devote their energies to create less garbage, we wouldn't need more dump sites.

Ellen O'Neil



The meaning of life could be printed on a cereal box

I'm one of those people who reads cereal boxes.

You know, sit at the breakfast table and read off the ingredients in the cereal, the prizes you can win with a dozen box tops, and then attempt to read the French side as well, all the while feeding myself a heaping bowl.

I used to read the little single serving envelopes Quaker oats came in, but became disillusioned because someone always ripped them in half right where I wanted to read about animals of Canada.

It's simply amazing what you can learn from a cereal box. You can see how much energy there is in a 30 gram serving, (even though I don't know a single person who measures out 30 gram servings of cereal,) and how the cereal is the source of seven, (count 'em) seven essential nutrients.

But there's so much more infor-

mation to be garnered from that package. Heavens, the meaning of life could be printed on a cereal box.

Why just the other day, I learned Tony the Tiger of Frosted Flakes fame is actually celebrating his 40th birthday.

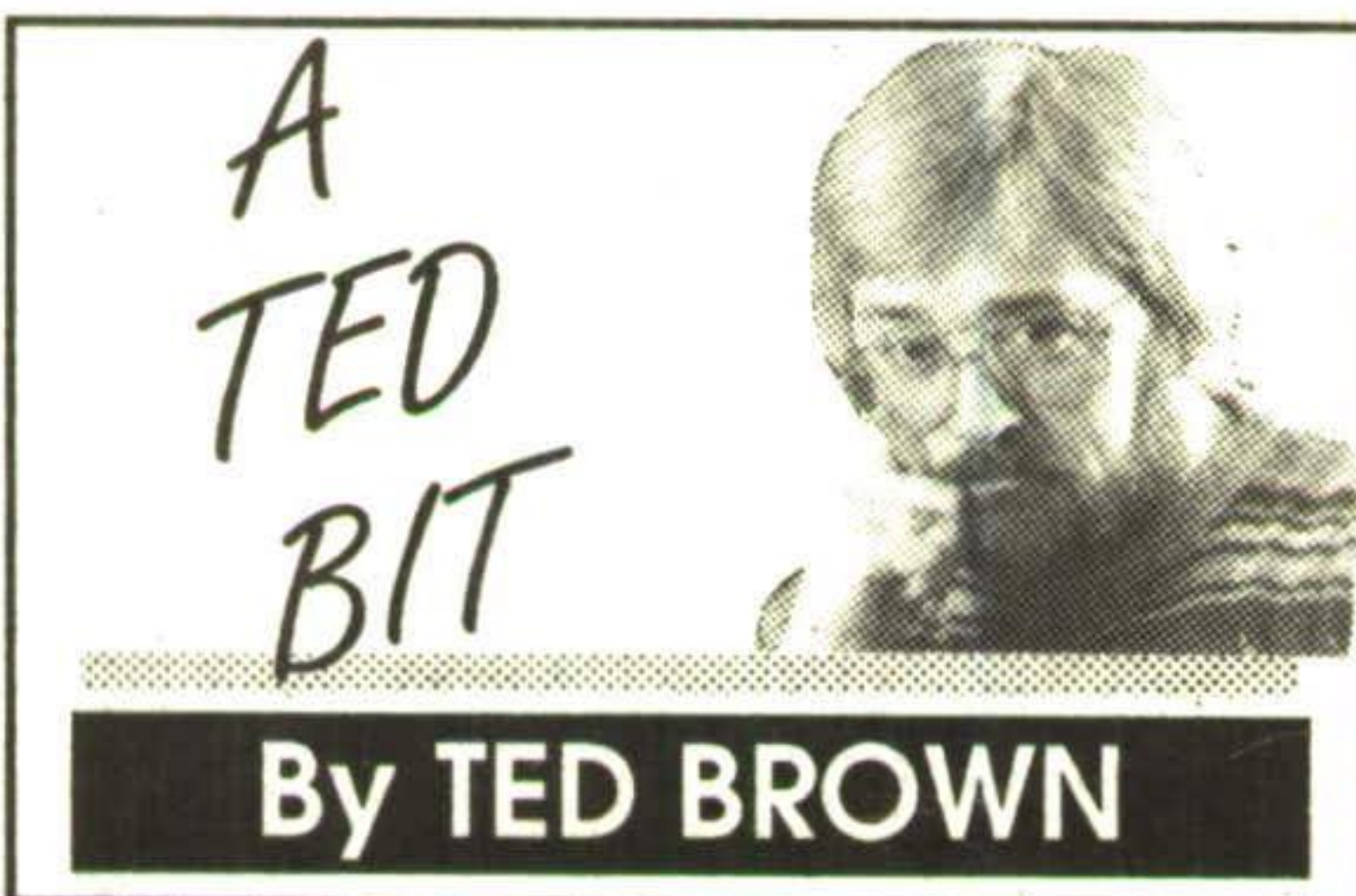
Now imagine that, good old Tony's hit the big four-oh.

I looked at Tony, with his big "It's greeeeeat!" grin across his face, a party hat planted firmly on his head and the familiar red scarf around his neck and thought how well he'd aged.

My kids agreed.

"Geez Dad," they said, "Tony's almost as old as you. Do you remember when he was born?"

I pointed out to the kids how I didn't recall a whole lot about the blessed event, seeing as I was the ripe old age of one year when Tony came into being.



But they persisted.

"Dad, you mean there were Frosted Flakes around when you were a kid?"

Yes, I assured them, there were Frosted Flakes when I was a kid and Tony the Tiger was preaching the same message about that sweet sugar loaded cereal all through my childhood. (I was tempted to tell them we had electric lights and flush toilets as well when I was a kid, but figured they'd probably think I was exaggerating.)

They stared at the cereal box.

"But Dad, he doesn't look 40 years old," they said. "In fact, he looks the same as he always has."

"Of course he looks the same," I replied, "Cartoon characters never age."

"Daaaad," they persisted, "If he's 40 years old, why doesn't he have any gray hairs? You have lots of them."

"I dunno," I returned, "Maybe he colors it."

They studied the cereal box once again.

"Naw, couldn't be. If he does, it's a greeeeat dye job."

I was beginning to dislike the effect Tony the Tiger's 40th birthday was having on my kids.

Anyway, I read the box a little further and learned about the celebrations planned for Tony's 40th birthday.

I was surprised to learn, that by collecting only 10 tokens from the

There are so many ways to achieve this:

Stop littering. Leave grass clippings to decay on your lawn, to enrich it. If you must garbage your leaves, use Kraft Paper Bags, which can be composted. Better yet, cover your flower beds, planter boxes, with a foot of leaves. They will stay weed-free, so saving you work. Also cover your vegetable garden with a foot of leaves, to till under in the spring — great fertilizer. Or plant rye grass in the fall, and till under in the spring.

Save money by using cardboard boxes for garbage.

Check the newspaper's classified section for bargains.

Garage sales are fun, second hand stores also. Make your own toys, crafts, from instructions in library books, videos.

Carry your own bag when shopping.

Be inventive: Bales of flattened pop cans make colorful retaining walls!

Swap. Repair. Reuse. Recycle. Compost.

Huntsville is recycling all plastic.

Your neighbor's junk is someone else's treasure.

Together we can save the farmland.

Ellen O'Neil

side panel of the box, one could be the proud owner of a free Tony the Tiger hologram watch.

As my kids continued to read all about the Tony the Tiger hologram watch, I envisioned my family on a steady diet of Frosted Flakes for the next two months as we accumulated the necessary 10 tokens for each of the kids.

I decided it was time for affirmative action, change the subject, take a stand, and make a statement.

As I looked around the breakfast table, I spotted my opportunity.

"Kids, did you know that Nabisco Shredded Wheat is 100 per cent whole wheat, with no added sugar or salt and is cholesterol free and you can win INSTANTLY a \$100 Canada Savings Bond in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Nabisco Shredded Wheat?"

See back panel for details...