

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## Victory for the people

On December 2, democracy was put to the test by the people of Halton and according to the participants, "the people" passed with a gold star.

More than 600 residents made the trek to Halton regional headquarters that night to ask the politicians to change their minds on the implementation of region-wide market value assessment (MVA). Fifty six delegations spoke in a seven hour period to impress upon councillors the impact this new tax would have on their lives.

In a 12-12 vote councillors were split whether to even reconsider — but, regional chairman Pete Pomeroy of Norval broke the tie and MVA was officially on the agenda. Two hours later, councillors agreed to defer MVA for a year until a citizens' committee had a chance to look at alternatives.

While this may seem to be putting off the inevitable for a year, MVA opponents call it a "people's victory."

We applaud the Halton Hills people who journeyed to the meeting to have their views heard and we applaud the people who phoned and wrote letters to this newspaper about what impact MVA increases would have their lives. That was democracy in action, and only when people work for democracy will democracy work for the people. Battles are yet to come on MVA, but this one was a "people's victory."

## Firefighters thank 'Santa's elves'

Dear editor:

Santa arrived in Acton November 21 in grand style thanks to the enthusiasm, participation and support of many, many people.

We would like to say a very special "Thank You" to all of the following:

Businesses, industries and churches for their donations; Steve Dawkins and the Olde Hide House for sponsoring the Guelph Royalaires; to Mike Manes, and Acton I.G.A.; Dares Candies for supplying the candy for the children along the parade route; to Achilles Motors for supplying the cars for the dignitaries; to the Halton Regional Police Force; to the local newspapers for their coverage; again the Acton I.G.A. for sponsoring the live coverage on Halton Cable TV and Herb Dodds for his commentary.

Also thanks to the Acton letter carriers for collecting the letters for Santa along the way; to all who entered floats; to the float judges;

## Letters to the Editor

to the many clowns; to all the workers behind the scene; and especially to all of you for such a tremendous turnout.

The float winners are:

Best Overall - Robert Little School;

Best School - M.Z. Bennett;

Best Service Club - Acton Seniors Centre Community;

Best Other Commercial - Acton Junior "Y".

We look forward to seeing you again next year on November 20, 1993.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Acton Firefighters Association,  
William R. Spielvogel,  
Parade Chairman

## 'An outrage'

Dear editor:

In June 1990, despite vociferous opposition, regional council supported "a collaborative and coordinated approach to solving the solid waste crisis in the Greater Toronto Area." This resolution adopted at that time refers to SWISC or its successor, which we now know as IWA.

Even though the town's legal counsel, Roger Beaman, suggested that town council not support the SWISC concept and even though the town narrowly voted not to support the SWISC concept, all five regional councillors supported the resolution at regional council.

Of the five Halton Hills regional councillors that supported this resolution, four still sit on regional council. Now our town is seeking legal advice with respect to opposing disposal sites selected by the IWA.

It's funny how sometimes you get what you ask for.

The taxpayers of this town should be outraged.

Diane van de Valk, FOAD



## These days not even old Scrooge is sacred

"It was a strange figure — like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man, viewed through some supernatural medium, which gave him the appearance of having receded from the view, and being diminished to a child's proportions. It wore a tunic of the purest white; and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt....It held a branch of holly in its hand....and had its dress trimmed with summer flowers. But the strangest thing about it was, that from the crown of its head there sprang a bright clear jet of light, ....and had a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm."

Charles Dickens—  
A Christmas Carol

I don't think I shall ever forget the first time I encountered those words; magical words that painted a picture still etched in my mind.

It was in my Grade 7 English composition class at Limehouse Public School.

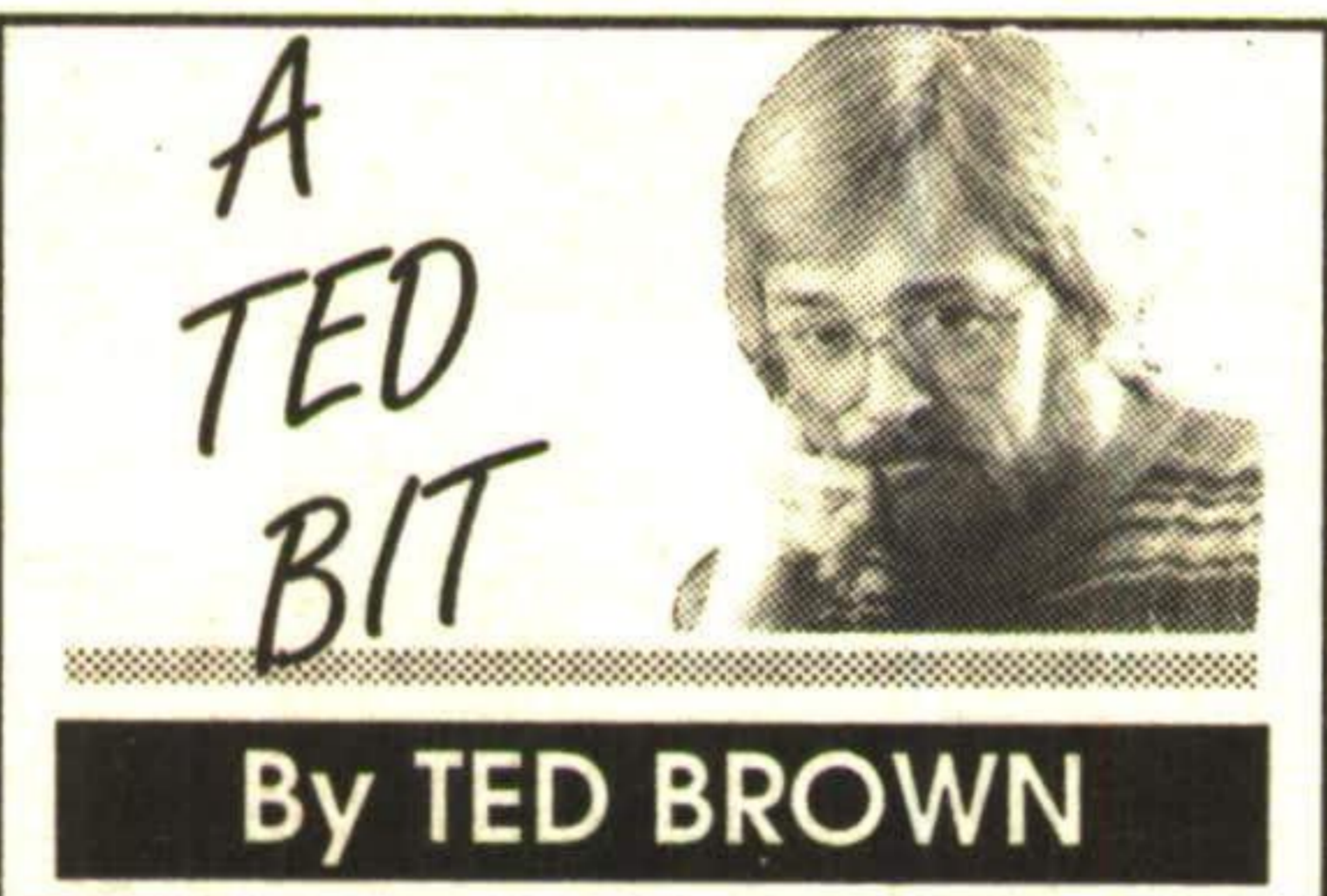
My teacher, Eric Balkind, read the words to the class, and asked us what we thought they described. After several kids made fools of themselves (me included) telling him it sounded like a science fiction character, or something equally bizarre, one of my classmates spelled it out: The Ghost of Christmas Past.

Wow! A ghost! And a Christmas ghost!

The passage was intended to be an example of descriptive writing, but it ultimately was the beginning of my lifelong love affair with Dickens' classic tale, A Christmas Carol.

I had never heard of A Christmas Carol before that time. But after hearing that passage, I searched out the book and dived headfirst into it, savoring the great descriptions Dickens used to tell his story.

I just had to see the movie and watched the TV listings until it was scheduled. After the first time, so



many years ago, I was hooked.

Every Christmas since then, I have sat down to enjoy the fine acting of Alastair Sim as he brings Scrooge to life on the screen.

I've watched a pretty good version starring George C. Scott, but for my money, Sim still comes out on top.

I often wonder if Charles Dickens had any inkling of the magnitude of the impact he would have on Christmas with his classic tale. Today, virtually everyone knows the story of the miserable old miser transformed into a kind gentleman by three ghosts on

Christmas Eve.

A few years back, I read the story to my kids, over a two week period, every night before they got ready for bed. Now they love the story, just like me, and look forward to seeing it on TV every Christmas.

But one thing bothers me.

I can't turn on the TV without encountering some form of commercialization of the classic. How many companies now use Scrooge to sell their products for Christmas?

We have seen "Scrooge-approved" prices for several years now and are bombarded with countless tacky advertising gimmicks using some aspect of the classic.

The latest depict Scrooge receiving calls from the ghosts on his answering machine, wanting to "do lunch," or watching his future Christmas with a VCR.

It's supposed to make us laugh. Instead it makes me sick.

Why must advertising people try to capitalize on tradition? Don't they have any sense of good taste?

Last year I heard radio commercials using the Three Wise Men to sell cameras.

Next thing we'll be hearing Baby Jesus selling disposable diapers or hay fever medication. Or angels selling RRSP's.

Say now, Santa's elves could endorse hair implants and the innkeeper in Bethlehem could rent condos in Florida.

Where does it end?

It's too bad we can't be allowed to simply enjoy the likes of Scrooge and other traditional characters of Christmas for what they are.

But as long as there is a way to make a buck, they'll be exploited.

For me, there's only one thing to do.

Go to the kitchen for a hot chocolate when the commercials are aired.