

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## Working together

One seems to get the sense that everyone is on the same side in opposing the proposed Peel landfill sites on Halton Hills' border. At Tuesday's meeting between Halton Hills officials and concerned residents, all agreed on various strategies to use — challenging both the technical and process selection.

This camaraderie is refreshing. In the past five years, Halton Hills citizens and politicians have expended tremendous amounts of energy and money fighting the proposed Acton Quarry landfill and sometimes it seemed like they were constantly fighting each other.

This time around, the pace of processing has been quickened by the Interim Waste Authority (IWA) — the government body responsible for selecting the sites. We don't have time to squabble among ourselves as to how to exactly fight this proposal. Test drilling begins next week, the deadline for public comment is April and a hearing is expected by summer.

While some people proposed a delaying action until the next election, we support Mayor Russ Miller's warning not to put too much faith in a new government. All of us remember Bob Rae and Ruth Grier stating unequivocally before the last election: there would be no Acton Quarry landfill — and the jury is still out on that proposal, in part due to a reversal in political views.

This time around, it's the government-sponsored IWA pushing the landfill so it's imperative everyone work together right from the start to ensure a dump-free zone.

## Property rights

Dear editor:

In your paper dated Dec. 20, on page 5, there is a picture of a policewoman, Sherri McAdam, showing her holding up a machete and a handgun.

Behind her are many shotguns and rifles, that have also been turned into the police, due to the 'gun amnesty' created by our politicians.

Since when has a machete been considered to be in the same league as a gun? Perhaps only in the mind of some anti-gun fanatic.

The handgun shown does not appear in my blue book of guns. The only Raven handgun, according to this, has a barrel just over 27 in. long. A handgun with a barrel length of 27 in. was probably made for hunting or target use. This weapon shown has a short barrel. I assume the barrel was cut off, in which case the gun was illegal.

However, none of the other guns so proudly displayed would be considered illegal. Shotguns, some expensive ones by the look of it should not be destroyed. These guns

## Letters

to the Editor

are legal to own, so the practice of the police, at the whim of some politician, shows how much regard they have for our property.

The owners of these guns should sell them. They belong to private individuals, and no crime has been committed.

Ever wonder why politicians took away the right to own property?

Thank you.  
John Shadbolt, Acton  
Deputy Leader,  
Ontario Libertarian Party

## Successful event

Dear editor:

On behalf of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Volunteer Association I would like to thank all who helped to make our Christmas Dinner and Dance (Dec.

5) such a success. To all who attended thank you for giving us your support and we hope you enjoyed the evening.

The McGibbon House and staff catered a lovely buffet dinner and Dave Smallwood, D.J., provided the music. Thanks also to the ladies who washed dishes and to Carlos Domingos for assisting with table set up at Holy Cross Auditorium.

We are grateful to Dom Verto for the door prizes he donated and for being responsible for the rest from local stores — Woolco, Zellers, Belamys, Appleview Farms and Art Effects— thank you all! We appreciate the stores who put up our advertising flyers, Royal LePage Real Estate and the hospital gift shop for stocking the tickets, the members and spouses who helped out in so many ways. Special thanks also to Jane and Boyd Hoddinott and family who along with Ann Kennedy did such a terrific job of decorating the hall. Many thanks to the *Independent/Free Press* for their advertising assistance.

Sincerely,  
Bev Goss, vice president,  
Hospital Volunteer Association



## Don't get upset, it's winter and we live in Canada

I was really disappointed earlier this week.

In fact, my kids were even more disappointed.

You see, we were promised something, and didn't get it.

A snowstorm. A major, soaked in, buried alive, ice pellets and snow, sleet and totally immobilized, rip-roaring snowstorm.

And what did we get?

A joke, a little skiff of snow that was no more than a regular snow-fall.

Now when I went to bed Tuesday night, I listened to the weather man warn how terrible it was going to be the following day. In fact, he assured everyone the incoming storm would most certainly make driving virtually impossible, and I was certain I would be snowed in for at least a couple of days.

The kids were the same. And they went to bed with the joy of hearing about school cancellations floating through their little heads.

Next morning, they were up at the crack of dawn, with their radios tuned in to pick up the latest in school closings.

Nothing, not a word. Buses were running as usual.

"But Dad," they whined, "How could they have school today? After all, we were supposed to get the worst storm of the year last night. Why didn't the schools close?"

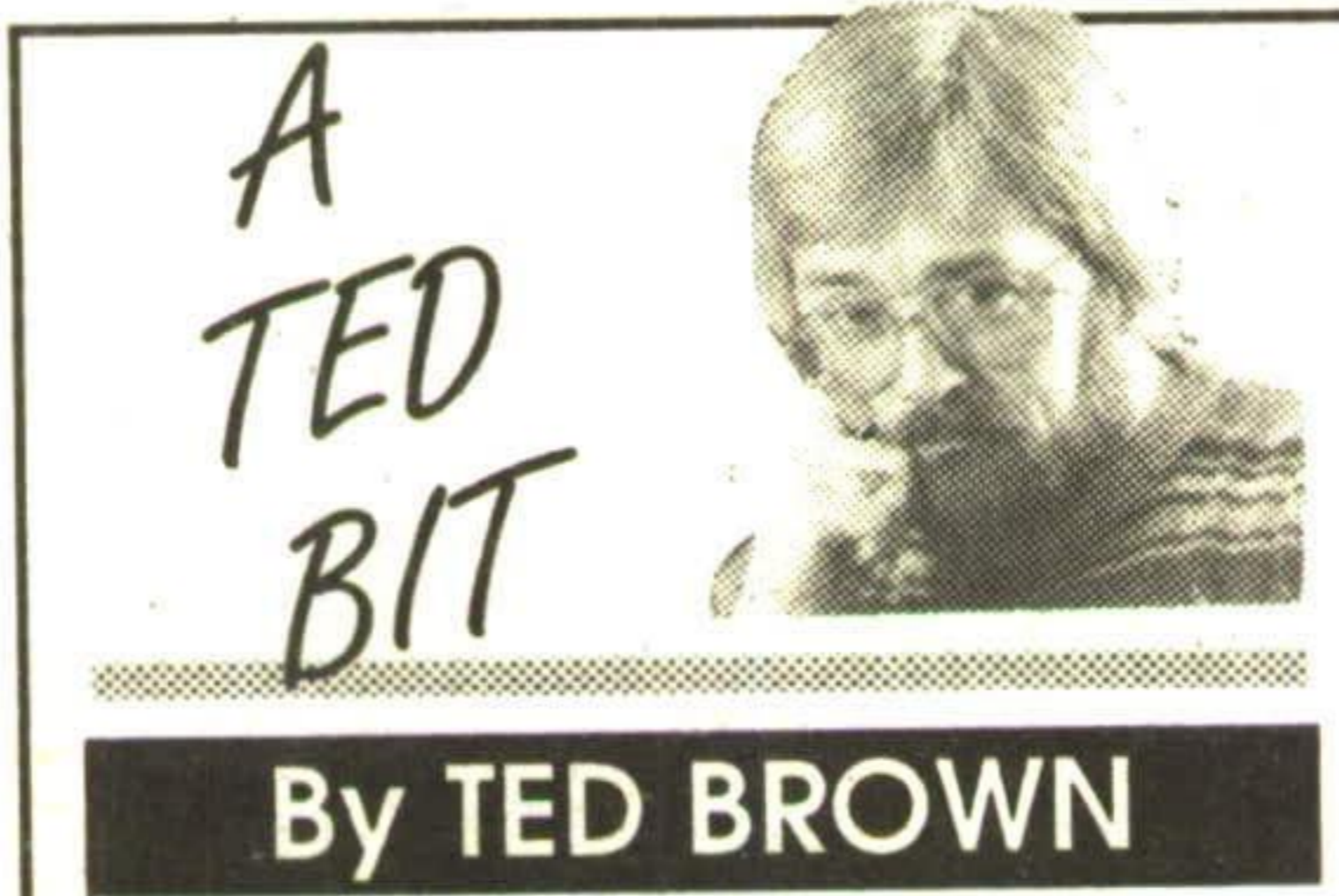
I peered out the window and looked at the light dusting of snow. It had hardly accumulated at all, and the kids were on the verge of starting into their very own snow dance, and try to bring about a blizzard.

But to no avail.

It occurred to me how gullible we all really are.

In what other profession can someone be as inaccurate as the weatherman, and still remain employed?

And what's more amazing, we believe them.



Weather forecasters carry an incredible influence over almost everybody, terrorizing them with forecasts of severe storms and icy roads, and yet no one takes them to task when they are dead wrong. The forecasters simply smile and say something about the severe low changed direction and we were spared the storm.

Ha! A likely story.

It's my firm opinion we are so used to being duped by meteorologists that we never even consider how bad their batting average really is.

Think of it for a moment.

Mankind has the technology to put a man on the moon, or shoot a missile at a target that they can't even see on the other side of the world, yet they can't so much as tell us with any degree of accuracy when the next storm is coming.

It baffles me.

I think the forecasts were a hundred times more accurate when our forefathers made their predictions based on the moss on the sides of trees or the way the squirrels gathered nuts or the color of the ring around the moon.

But not now. Today we see super deluxe displays of computer graphics depicting storm fronts approaching and color coded graphs of the precipitation levels. For all we know, it could be some kid's computer game graphics.

I become so irritated when half the population in the free world drops into a state of paranoia and fear when the weatherman even mentions snow.

Get with it people. They're leading us on, yanking our chain and rattling our cage.

Winter and snow are synonymous and it's to be expected. In the past, we never had severe winter storm watches; we just dealt with the storms when they landed.

Besides, technology is miles ahead when it comes to snow removal. Today we have snow plows mounted on trucks, which move at twice the speed of the old graders from years ago. And the sanders can have a road salted and sanded in a fraction of the time compared to 20 years ago.

Traffic reporters keep telling us of the snarls, as we are warned of slippery roads and constantly reminded to fill up the windshield washer antifreeze.

But there's one small fact I think has escaped everyone.

We live in Canada and we have winter. And because it's winter one thing happens — it snows.