

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## Justice for all including children

This week, Halton Regional Police charged a 12-year-old boy with robbery and possession of a weapon. According to police he and four other boys surrounded a 10-year-old girl in Oakville, and demanded money pointing a seven-inch knife at her. The other boys were under 12 years of age and cannot be charged according to the Young Offenders Act.

Last week, it was reported a 11-year-old boy in Edmonton brags to his friends, and even to police, that he has stolen over 200 cars.. He too cannot be charged.

We can't believe these are cases of bad parenting. In this high speed, high tech age, despite parents' best efforts, children are becoming exposed to and involved in more crime, at an earlier age. Perhaps this is a good time to take a serious look at revising the Young Offenders Act. The act became law 12 years ago and in that time, as short as it is, society has changed. There is an alarming perception by some that crime is cool, crime is okay and crime is something they can get away with.

Agreed children should not be sent to jail. But they at least should experience the courts and the justice they should wield. Community service such as cleaning parks or sweeping arena floors could serve as punishment. Even children as young as eight should be responsible for and know the consequences of their actions. They should know that law and justice prevails for all. Why should justice begin at 12 years of age when the crime doesn't?

## Set up committee to deal with allegations

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

Attention: Mayor Russell Miller  
Dear Russ,

This letter is being written to express my deep concern about recent allegations of bribes being offered to councillor Bill Robson and councillor Heaton.

Councillor Robson announced the fact that he had been offered a bribe in a recent article in *The Toronto Star*, and this has cast a cloud of suspicion over local landowners, developers and business persons in the Town of Halton Hills.

If the article in *The Independent/Free Press* is correct it appears that no law enforcement agency has been made aware or have opened an investigation into these serious charges.

Because of the very serious

## Letters to the Editor

nature of these allegations I believe that you and council must be pro-active in this matter and put into place a mechanism for dealing with incidences such as this.

I would suggest that you set up a standing committee of council that would be able to deal with allegations of wrong doing that other councillors could report to, of course this committee would meet in-camera.

This committee would be able to alert council of potential conflicts or wrong doing, and then report these allegations to appropriate legal authorities.

It would allow councillors to have a sounding board of their peers and I think would eliminate members of council from keeping such allegations to themselves.

I am also aware from my deal-

ings with council in the past the need for developers and special interest groups to develop a rapport with members of council and I am sure that some step over the line in their lobbying efforts.

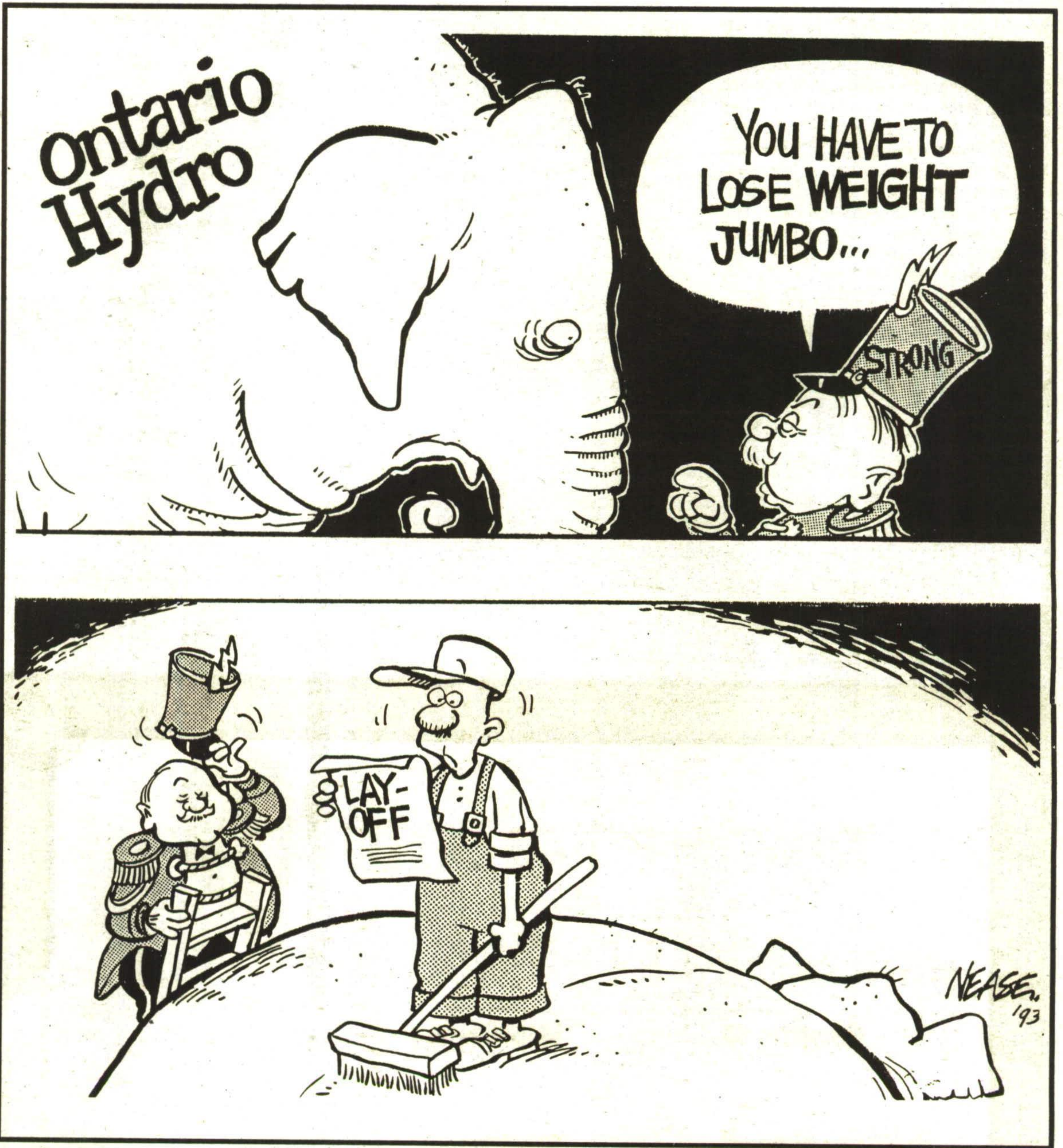
This committee could review what would be appropriate behavior for councillors and lobbyists in regards to gifts, dinners etc. so that the line is not crossed.

During my time with the Chamber of Commerce, the business community strived to have an open working relationship with members of council and allegations of wrong doing affect all business persons in the Town of Halton Hills.

I would hope that councillor Robson would reveal all details of this incidence to fellow council members so that may be vigilant in the future when dealing with these people and that police commence an investigation to apprehend the perpetrators.

I know you have always had an open approach to suggestions from the public and I hope you may consider my idea.

Best regards,  
Doug Penrice



## Ever try changing a headlight on an Aerostar? Forget it!

There aren't too many things I won't tackle when it comes to minor auto repairs.

I've always been that way, and don't mind changing a tire, or installing new windshield wiper blades. At one time, I used to tune my own car engine and I've replaced rear springs and shocks without even blinking an eye.

Of course, today, with electronic ignition and fuel injected engines, I shy away from tuning a car, but I still enjoy the little tasks, even something as mundane as changing a light bulb.

Until recently, Last weekend, it seems we had open season on headlights around our home. Almost simultaneously, a headlight in both our Aerostar van and Topaz died within hours of each other.

Around our place, if something on one of our vehicles breaks, I gotta fix it. (Or see that it's repaired.)

And headlights are no exception. When I arrived home from work

Monday night, a brand new quartz halogen sealed beam was waiting for me.

In the past, I've tackled replacing headlights in the Topaz. They're a piece of cake, consisting of a simple quartz halogen bulb, and can be replaced in the parking lot of any local Canadian Tire store without so much as a screwdriver needed.

So, I figured the van had to be much the same.

Armed with a number of different screwdrivers and a good flashlight, I headed out to the cold darkness of the garage, ready to do battle with the blown headlight.

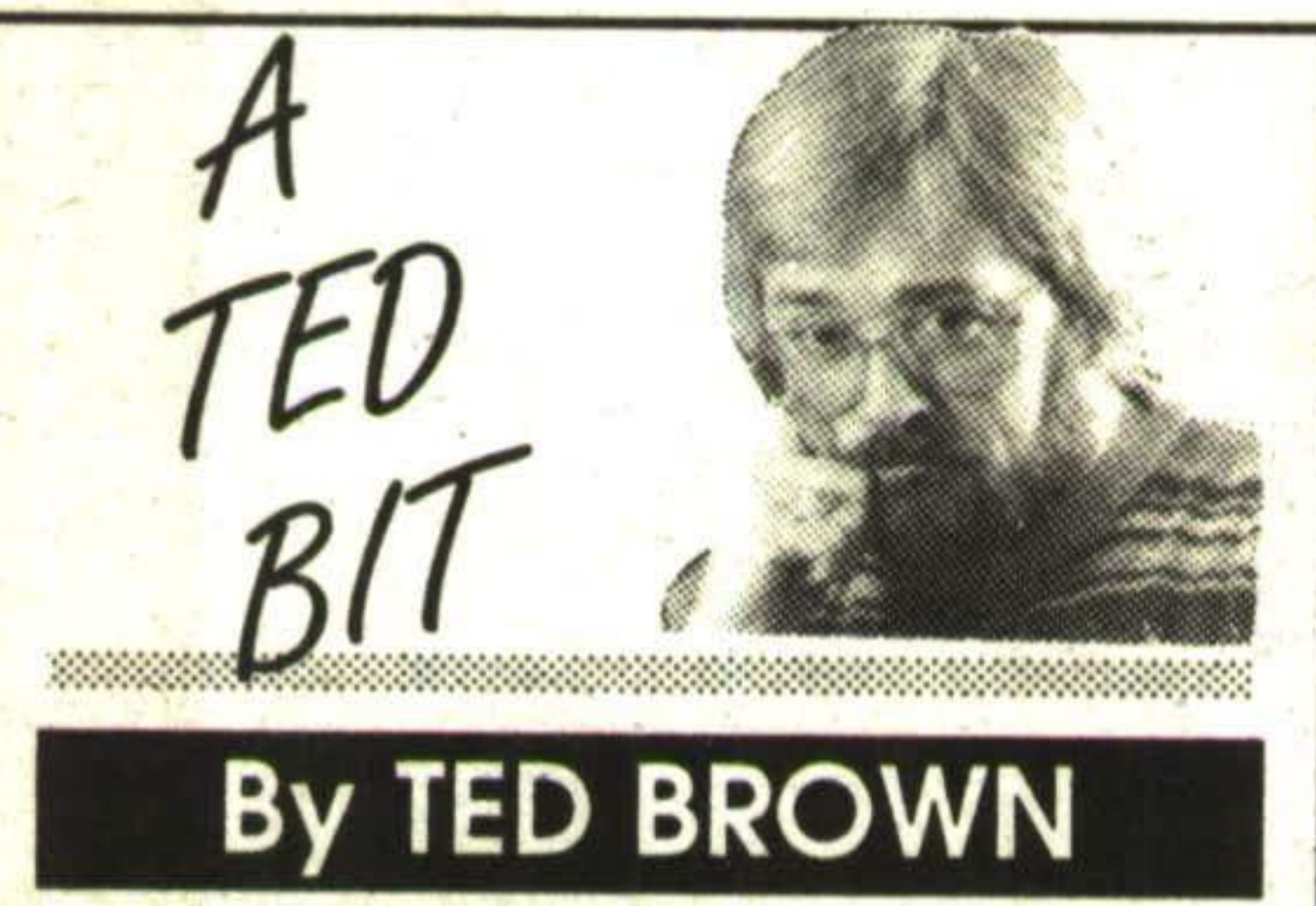
With freezing fingers, I felt for the screws holding the sealed beam in the grill of the van.

By standing on my head, they were just visible, hiding under a chrome bezel in which the signal lights of the van are mounted.

And there is no possible way of getting a screwdriver on them.

Okay, it was time to remove the bezel.

By now, my fingers had lost all



sense of feeling, as I tried to balance the flashlight with one hand, and operate a screwdriver with the other.

After a few minutes, I decided the situation was hopeless, and time to take more affirmative action.

I moved one of my 250 watt photo flood lamps out to the garage, and aimed it at the front of the van. I was ready to take on anything that stubborn chrome bezel could offer.

Four different screws stood between me and my headlight. After finding the proper screwdriver (a special one at that,) I finally removed the bezel, and saw my prize staring from under the old

sealed beam.

Two little screws, covered in rust.

The first wasn't too bad, and started to loosen as I turned the screw driver. I smiled to myself as the screw turned out of its resting place.

Almost there...

The smile broadened to a grin as I watched it loosen and the headlight move.

Just a little further...

And the air turned blue with profanity as the tiny screw fell to its demise in the darkness, somewhere under the van.

Over the years, I have come to believe lost screws are magic, and take on supernatural powers. They become invisible.

After a fruitless search on the garage floor, I decided to try the other screw, and look for the lost one later. A strong turn on the head of the screw caused it to start turning, followed by a sudden snap.

The head broke off. Now standing in front of the van,

with the frostbite edging into my wrists (never mind the fingers, they were frozen long ago,) I contemplated what to do.

This job was supposed to take a few minutes, not hours.

I headed into the house, in search of replacement screws.

After digging through my tool box, I found two screws which would fill the bill, and finally finished my headlight maintenance task.

It's ludicrous that the Ford Motor Company produces two very different vehicles; one in which a headlight change takes minutes, the other requiring dismantling the front grill of the vehicle.

I suppose it's just a ploy to make us return to a service station, rather than take a screwdriver into our own hands.

But after regaining the feeling in my fingers, I made a solemn oath, as I returned to the warmth of the house.

Wait for warm daylight to change the next one.