

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Defer decision

Dear editor:

Re: Metcalfe Court/Silver Creek Stormwater Detention Pond Proposal.

As a resident of the community, I am concerned that council has not recognized the interests of this community regarding the above proposal.

My numerous concerns include the following:

1) The above constriction will take place on environmentally sensitive ravine lands. To my knowledge, a full environmental assessment has not been undertaken to review the pond's effects on the area. This process, unlike others on ravine lands e.g. trunk sewer and Mountainview pathway, has not been the subject of broad public participation or input.

2) The potential long-term use of the affected lands for recreational purposes will be negatively affected by this proposal. It is imperative that council involve the Recreation and Parks Department, and Planning Department to evaluate this concern.

Letters

to the Editor

any decisions regarding the Metcalfe Court/Silver Creek Storm Water Detention Pond until all these, and numerous other concerns have been fully addressed.

Sincerely,
L.M. Saul

Thanks for help

Dear editor:

It is very gratifying while still in the throes of economic hard times, to find people willing to help us with fundraising for our hospital in Georgetown.

We would like to acknowledge the support given to us by Sheridan Nurseries, Arnolds Greenhouses, and the Turner-Fenton Secondary School Horticultural Program. Thank you all. Also many thanks to the downtown Georgetown merchants who donated items for the Penny Sale.

All of you and the people who came out on May 14 and 15 helped to make our Spring Bazaar and Plant Sale the success it was.

Sincerely,
Bev Goss,

Hospital Volunteer Association

Just a tax grab

It's being called the biggest tax grab in Ontario history — and we're all going to pay.

For the average family in Halton Hills, this budget will mean, at least, an additional \$350-\$1,000 a year out of their wallets, and out of the "recovering" marketplace.

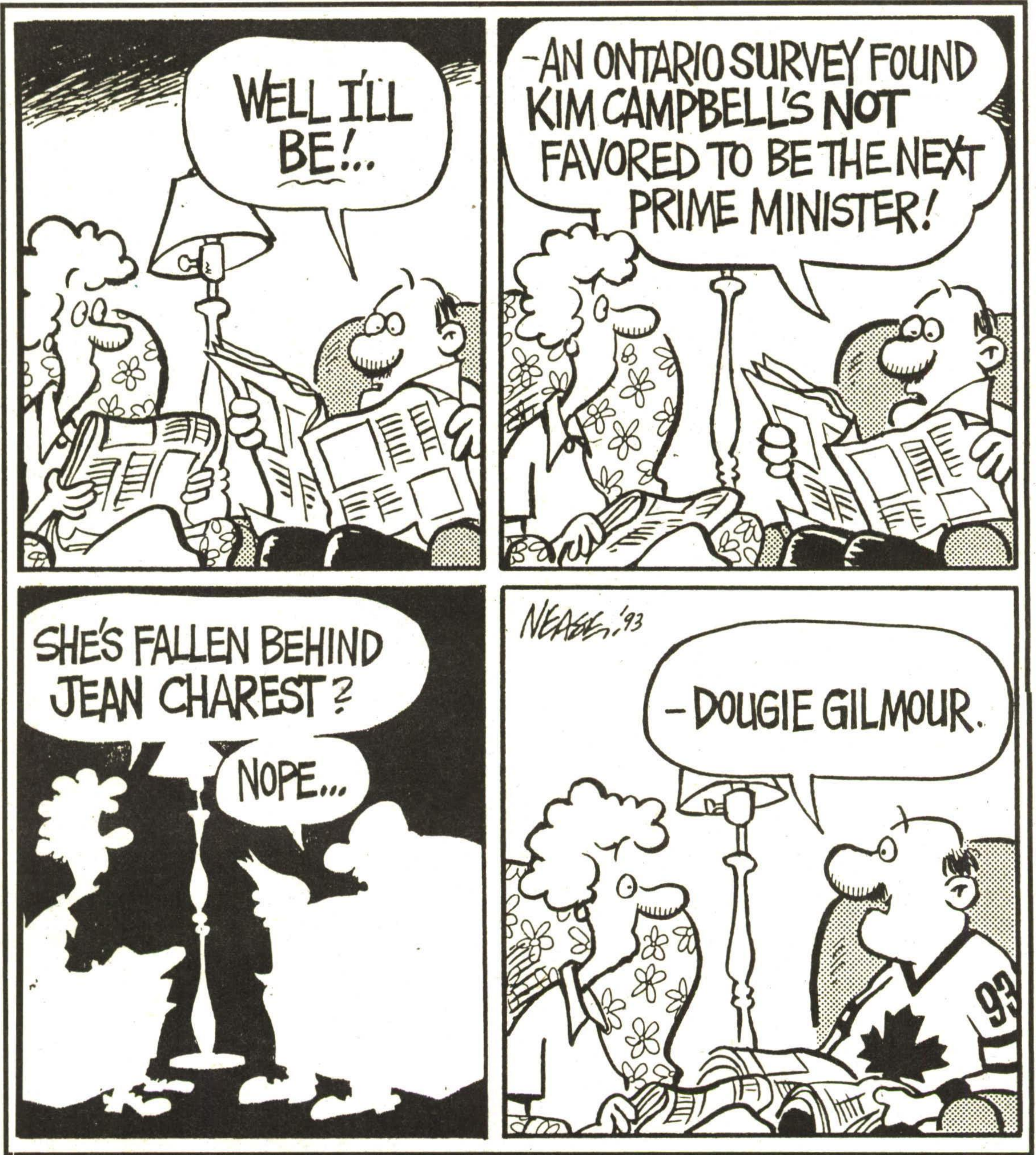
But it could get even worse. With the reduction of \$147,000 in provincial unconditional grants to Halton Hills, it could mean an extra \$15 on your already high town tax bill. That doesn't include possible tax increases resulting from expenditure cuts to the regional and school boards. If we don't feel it this year, we certainly will next year.

And then there's the social contracts. Even if you don't work for the provincial government directly or indirectly, you will be affected by any social contract agreement through reduced services. Lots of bucks doesn't mean lots of service these days.

In fact it seems the opposite, and that's what's got many people upset. Everyone realizes and accepts taxes are a part of life in a country with a high standard of living, but when they're grabbed willy nilly with little regard for the overall effect on the people, they become downright cruel. And overwhelming.

Just when we thought things were starting to look good economically we are saddled with this shock. And it won't stop; even with his expenditure controls this year, Laughren has already announced increased spending for 1994 and 1995.

How are we going to pay for it Floyd?



Seeing amber ... not red, or yellow, or blue, or green

There's an old game making the rounds of the newsroom; it's called "one-upmanship."

And, (as if it's any surprise to anyone,) I'm the most recent target.

The whole scenario centers around the capabilities of my personal computer, specifically the monitor.

You see, my computer at home is equipped with a monochrome monitor. The only colors I see on the screen are amber and black. And when one considers that black isn't actually a color at all, (rather the absence of color) then I only really see one color — amber.

Somehow, a few select members of the editorial staff have found this fact a means of making me feel a little less significant, perhaps even inferior, to the rest of the civilized world.

They have taken great delight in rubbing my nose in the fact I can't see "de pretty colors" on my screen.

The worst offender of late has been our co-op student, Jerry

Saunders.

You see, Jerry has a computer at home, with, you guessed it, a color monitor.

Jerry likes to keep stats on the baseball team he coaches. Knowing that, I gave him a copy of a baseball statistics program to install on his computer. It's the same program I use for my daughters' team stats.

Jerry promptly took the program home on a disk, and installed it on his computer.

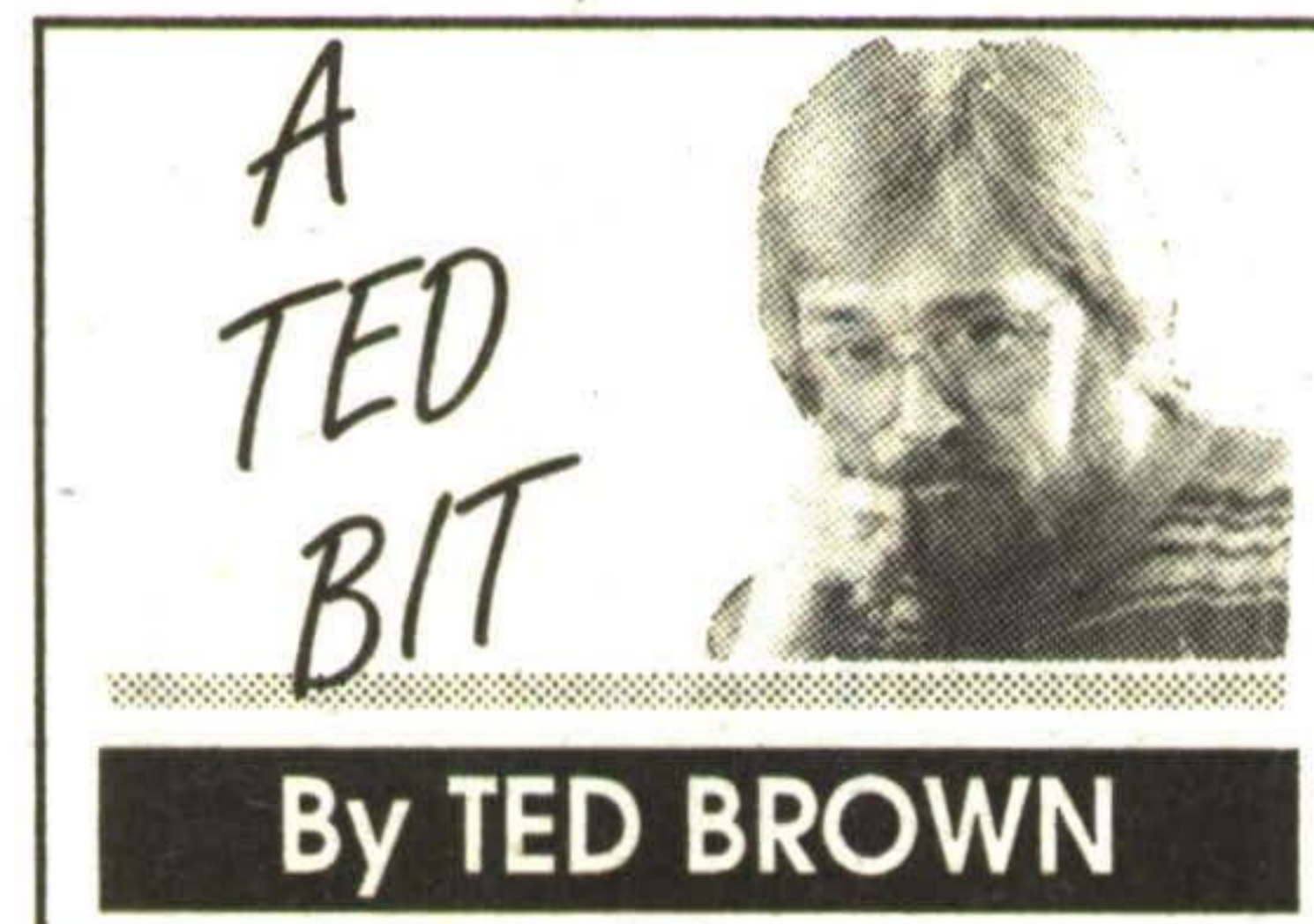
He returned to the office the following Monday, to tell me how great the program was and how it will speed up his calculations of team stats. He was quite pleased.

Then came the first round of one-upmanship.

"Say Ted," he grinned, "You should see the colors on the screen with that program. There's blues and yellows, and it's so much easier to read on a color monitor."

I tried to ignore him, until he leveled me with the giant killer.

"But I guess you wouldn't know



about that, would you Ted?" he said, grinning in his slow, good natured manner, "Not having a color monitor and all."

It was a low blow, I must say. Then managing editor, Cynthia Gamble got into the act.

"You shouldn't say too much to Ted about color monitors, Jerry," she smirked, "We all know how sensitive he is about... 'that' subject."

Sensitive? Me? About a little old color monitor? Pshaw!

I assured them I'm not the least bit concerned about the fact I can't run half the commercial software

programs available out there on my computer because they're written for a CGA, EGA or VGA color monitor. Nope, not in the least.

And as I don't play many computer games, it doesn't matter to me that much that I can't see high quality graphics on my computer.

I even managed to hide my green shade of envy when Cynthia told me that the graphics in the Pharaoh's Tomb game I gave her "weren't all that great in color." As a matter of fact, she said they were almost "disappointing," but added that a diagnostic program I lent her had "terrific graphics, with reds and greens and yellows..."

Nope, it didn't bother me a bit. Well, maybe a bit, but not much.

But it would have been nice to have seen it for myself.

Of course, it's still Jerry that enjoys the needling.

As he sat at a computer terminal next to my desk the other day, he made an ever so quiet comment.

"I'm not sure I can type on this

computer," he apologized, "Being used to a color monitor...."

So subtle but so effective.

And as I was out on assignment another day, I interviewed a pair of 13-year-old boys, who have been doing some interesting work on their computers; computers with color monitors, of course.

In the conversation, I happen to mention I wasn't used to seeing my program quite the same as theirs, because I have a monochrome monitor.

They looked at me like I was an underprivileged freak, and I fully expected them to ask me if "they still made monochrome monitors." They then went on to give me a full scale demonstration of their computers' capabilities with color monitors.

But I just let them smirk, and dealt with them the same way I handle Jerry and Cynthia in the office, coming back with my favorite question.

"Yeah - but do you guys have a laser printer?"