

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## Poor service on GO train

The following letter was filed with this newspaper for publication.

**Mr. Lou Parsons, Chairman**

**GO Transit**

Dear Sir:

I feel compelled to write to describe to you an incident that took place on the GO Train from Union Station to Georgetown on Friday, July 2. It occurred on the 5:45 p.m. train — the last run of the day.

As we were pulling into the station, I could see from my window that my "ride home" was still waiting patiently for me on the parking lot (despite our late arrival).

As the train rolled to a stop at Georgetown Station I was standing behind two other people. They were directly in front of the exit doors of the train. When the doors opened, those in front quickly exited and I proceeded to do the same. However, the doors slammed shut in my face and the lights in the car were turned off.

Even bewildered looks from the people outside the train didn't seem to register with the GO Train staff that there was a problem. Well, at this point I was getting a tad per-

## Letters to the Editor

turbed.

I quickly decided to make a run for the next car. Two other passengers (who had been trying exit too) followed in quick succession. Arriving in the next car I saw the exit door still open, but as I sprinted towards it this door too was closing with only inches of space left when I reached those doors.

It occurred to me the train staff were oblivious to the fact that there were three passengers stranded inside the train. I managed to grab the rubber casing between the doors before they closed completely, and was able to pry the doors open enough to get my left arm out. At least this way, I reasoned, if the train staff continued to ignore the efforts of those outside, surely they would be alert enough to question an arm flailing outside the train between closed doors.

Much to my chagrin this tactic also failed to bring a quick resolution to the problem. I decided to use another tactic — knocking loudly on the outside window of the train

door. By this time even some passengers who had disembarked were incredulous of the apathy and inaction of the GO Train staff.

Finally, at this juncture a GO staff member appeared outside the train and unlocked the doors. I exited expecting some sort of explanation or apology would be forthcoming but when it became evident that there would be neither, I headed immediately for the tunnel in the hope that my "ride" would still be waiting for me.

I emerged on the opposite side of the tunnel just in time to see my "ride" pulling out of the parking lot.

I have to wonder if this incident was nothing more than a mean spirited joke especially in view of the timing (the last day before reduced service went into effect on this line which will adversely affect some employees I suspect). If this was the case, I strongly urge those affected not to take out such frustration on the public.

The reduction of service is an inconvenience that some will have to endure, but to disregard public safety, common courtesy and conscientiousness would only serve to add insult to injury.

Let's hope that this incident is not indicative of the future (reduced) GO Train service.

Yours truly,  
**Stephanie Nichol**

## Good work

Finally some good news and it's the Halton Regional Police Service who brings it to us.

Crimes are down.

Theft, property damage (including vandalism), robbery, assault are all down.

In the first six months of this year, there were fewer than 1,000 offences reported compared to the more than 1,000 reported in 1992 and 1991.

The drop is being attributed to community policing, and especially the work of village constables, Cst. Nick Leoni for downtown Georgetown and Cst. Bill Riddle for Acton.

We agree. These two men have done wonders to promote policing and have become really involved with the people and their concerns on their "beats." Many times the two have gone beyond the call of duty to help.

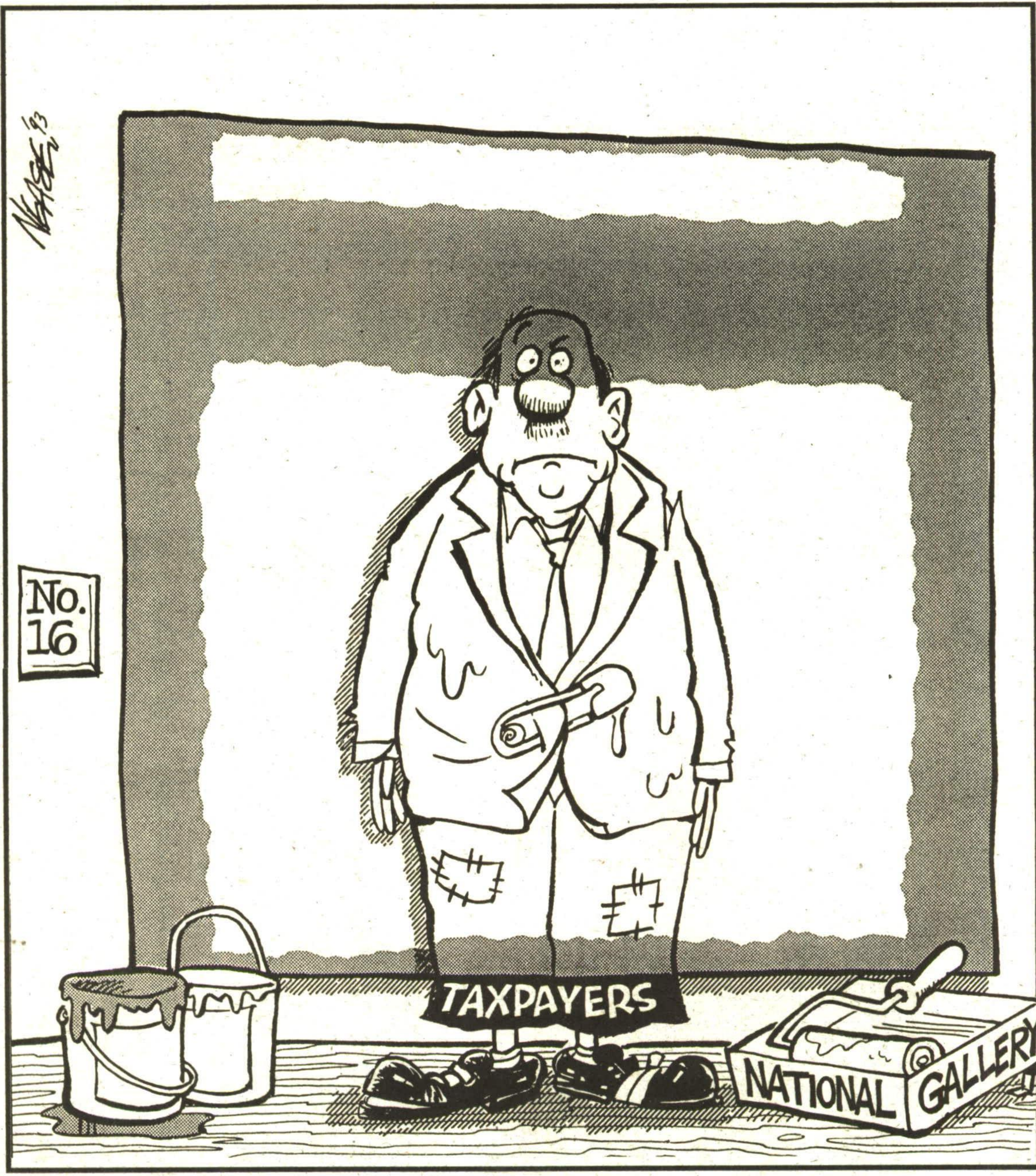
We remember not so many years ago the Halton Regional Police patrolled in cars, and the officers seemed to be isolated from the rest of the community. People just didn't know them and more importantly, the police officers didn't really know the people.

That's all changed.

There's new emphasis also on community consultation committees where local residents and businessmen discuss with police officers concerns in their part of town. There's three different committees for Halton Hills — get to know them, they're there to serve you.

Police officers have made concerted efforts to promote the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program to school children, have worked with safety patrollers, spoke at schools assemblies and visited summer camps.

Most of all, these statistics show we are well served by the Halton Regional Police Service.



## A 'tid' bit about Ted's columns

It has been a pleasant two weeks around the office. Ted Brown has been on vacation.

Now Ted is a great guy, wonderful friend and superb photographer, but ... He does have this one flaw.

He likes to write columns — about people.

About people in this office.

The editorial staff has learned over the years to carefully guard their words when discussing a particular issue. Because it usually ends up as a morsel in next week's paper under A TED BIT.

Since Ted began writing the column, he has documented many conversations and crises we have had in the office. We have read about whether men or women can remember dates better, whether

one colleague should be spending hundreds of dollars on medical care for her pets and about my affair with Mickey Mouse at Disney World.

Now let me take this opportunity clear up this misconception once and for all. I don't love Mickey Mouse — I love Goofy!

Ted has written just about everything from telephone techniques to losing the office's book of assignments.

Ted's penchant for recording these conversations in print, has made many of us in the office so wary of our words, that one of the first things we warn new reporters or young interns is "Watch what you say around Ted!" Unfortunately one young fellow



didn't take heed and found himself the basis for a column on "color monitor one-upmanship."

Now some people like to bait Ted with off-the-cuff remarks or incredible theories on idiosyncrasies of men, wondering whether he'll respond in a column. Often he will give his baiters his famous nonchalant shrug, and dismiss

them with the same wave of the hand he gives the advertising reps who pester around his desk like summer flies.

Recently The BOSS took exception to Ted's method of barbecuing which he had meticulously outlined in his column.

The BOSS came in next day, stating emphatically that Ted was doing it all wrong. For the next few minutes, the editorial department was a war zone of words as Ted and The BOSS shouted back and forth their favorite flipping techniques.

Often getting into a middle of these "conversations" is like trying to stop two dogs from fighting — it just can't be done.

So as the conversation ebbed, I carefully hinted to The BOSS that

perhaps he should make a retreat. If he argues too much, he'll find himself the subject of Ted's next column.

"I think he's bucking for it, don't you?" asks Ted.

"No, no, I don't want that," The BOSS says quickly as he leaves the department, "but the man must know he's barbecuing all wrong!"

Ted and I both look at the closed door.

"Oh, oh," I thought as I looked at Ted.

"Well, would look you at that," said Ted shaking his head. "He had to get in the last word."

And you know that is what really irks me about Ted and his columns.

He always gets the last word.