

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Sidewalks are a safety priority

Dear editor:

Would someone please explain to me why, after weeks of sewer construction work on Churchill Road South, we are going to be left without sidewalks in the area south of Longfield Road?

Since I moved to Acton, 27 years ago, three apartment buildings have been built on Churchill Road South. The numerous children who live in those buildings have no choice but to walk on the road until they reach a sidewalk at Longfield. Traffic in this area is heavy and has been increased by the placement here of "igloos" for rural residents who drive by to drop off their recyclables.

Council member Rick Bonnette explained that \$700,000 being spent on Cobblehill Road is justified because basements on that street have flooding problems.

The safety of children is a higher priority, in my opinion, and we should not wait until there is an

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to the Editor

accident before treating it as a priority.

Another council member, Mrs. Serjeanson, told me that the delay in making improvements to Churchill Road is due to anticipated "future development" for Churchill Road. If this is the case, why was the sewer construction on our road even started? Having started it, why didn't council just finish it, instead of starting another construction mess at a later date?

I don't have answers to these questions. Both Mr. Bonnette and Mrs. Serjeanson were going to look into this matter and get back to me. I haven't heard another word from either one. Perhaps one of them would care to respond to this letter in your paper.

Yours truly,
Margaret Mackenzie

Too much government

Dear editor:

One out of every five employees in Ontario is a civil servant. This is too much government. We are talking about reducing the deficit and yet we are having to pay huge taxes in order to pay civil servants at all levels of government. The Conservative government several years ago introduced regional government. This is an unnecessary level of government and should be done away with.

Recently in your newspaper you reported that the position of town administrator had been advertised with a salary level of \$78,000 to \$91,000. This salary for a small community with a population of 36,000 is excessive. A similar position in private industry would not warrant this salary. Before the government starts cutting back on medical and social services, they should clean up their own house.

Yours truly,
Sue Logan

Have a safe Halloween

Tonight's the night that ghosts and goblins — and Ninjas and Bart Simpsons — prowl the streets in search of that ghoulish treat. But as fun as the night is for all of us, danger can lurk in the shadows.

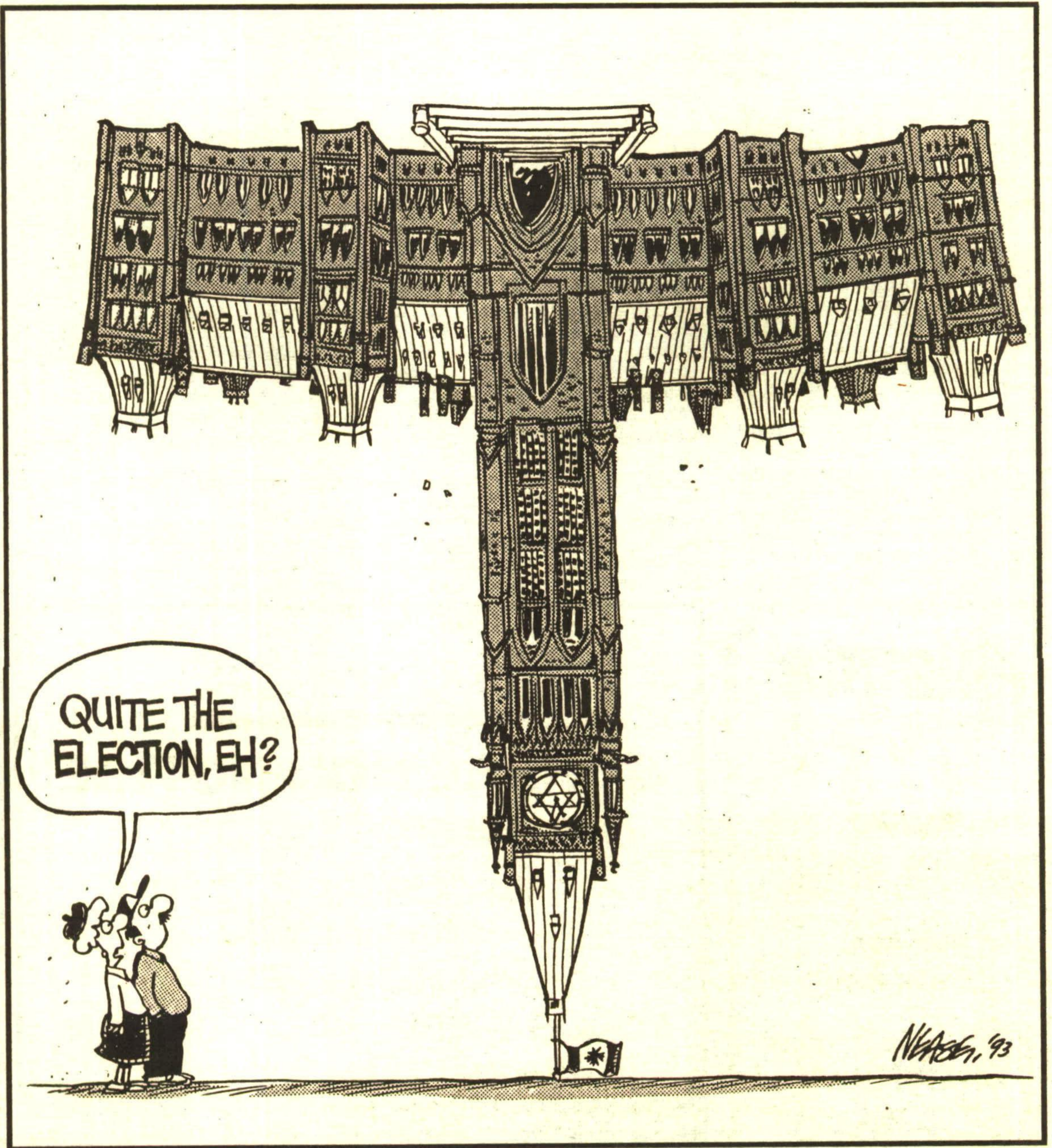
We'd like to suggest a few tips to keep our trick or treaters safe.

Motorists must remember that young trick or treaters are more apt to be thinking about that next candy apple or lollipop rather than cars, so be prepared for the unexpected.

Young trick or treaters should be accompanied by parents or an older brother or sister. It's important for parents to make a point of discussing safety before children leave the house. Children should be cautioned to stay in well-lighted areas in familiar neighborhoods, travel with a group of other children, stay on the sidewalk, and never go inside a home alone.

Being seen is the key. So begin trick or treating before dark, or carry a flashlight. Retro-reflective tape, an easy and decorative addition to costumes, shows up brightly in headlights. Costumes that make it easy to walk and see are a must. A face mask may keep youngsters from seeing well, so they should remove masks before crossing streets. Makeup is an even better idea.

Halloween is a night for the youngsters — make it a safe one!



Big sister was not the least bit amused

Well, the witching night is once again upon us and the little ghosts and goblins will be out tonight, terrorizing the neighborhood.

As my wife recently put the finishing touches on my youngest daughter's Princess Jasmine costume, I was reminded of a Halloween night about 20 years ago, when my eldest sister was scared half to death.

You see, it happened that my other sister and her husband dropped into my parents home, dressed up as an old man and woman.

Of course, they cross-dressed, in other words, he was a she and she was a he. I must admit, they fooled me, as they came walking into my parents' kitchen, her wearing a suit and fedora, complete with a mask with a big nose and moustache, while he was adorned in a beautiful dress, with an overly accentuated bustline.

They made the perfect pair.

After discovering who they were,

we all laughed about Mom and Dad being fooled by their wonderful disguises.

The conversation continued as they talked about who they should visit next. It came as no surprise when we all agreed my older sister and her husband would be ideal candidates for a visit from the 'mystery couple.'

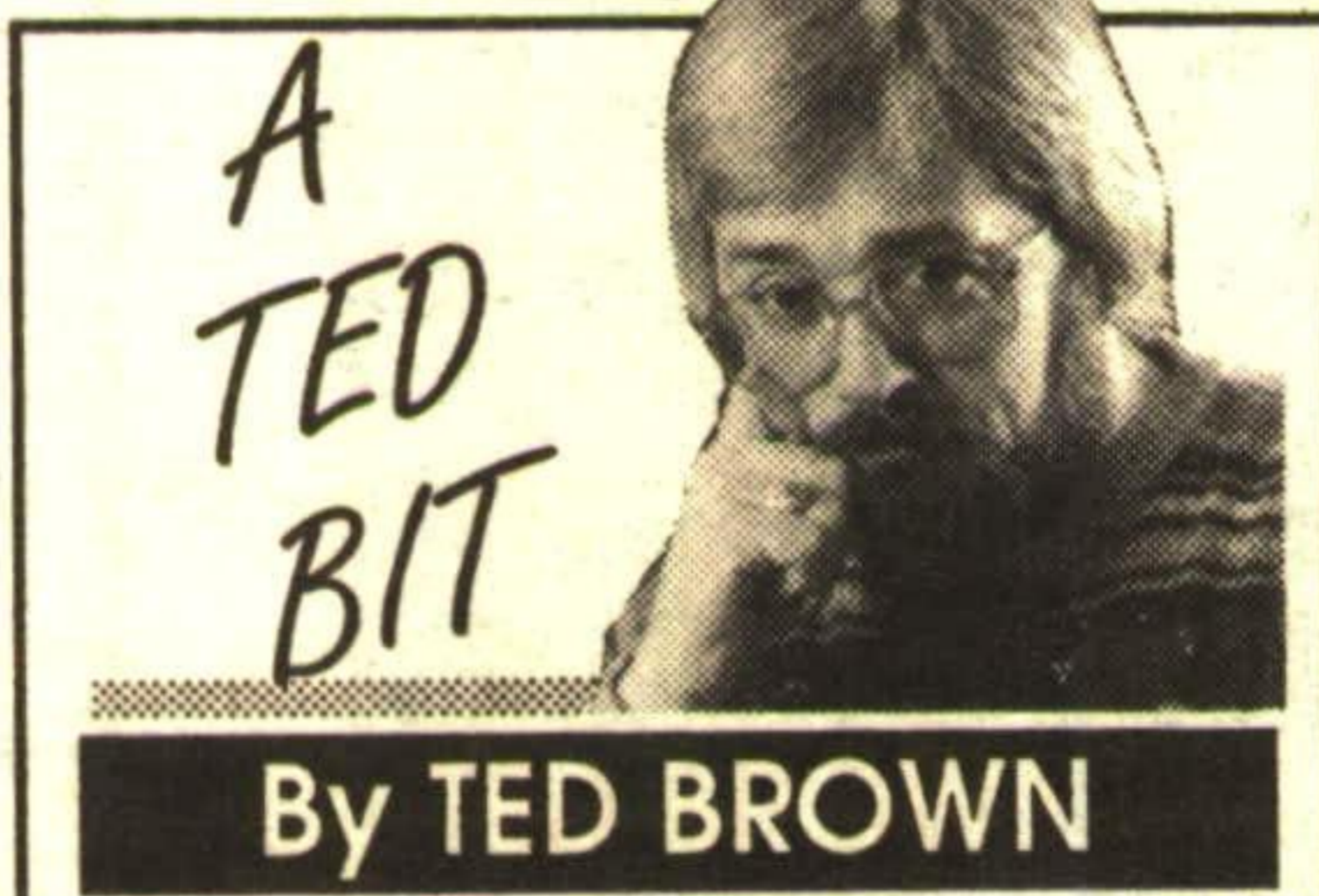
I agreed to drive them to their home, which was situated out in the country, a tad isolated.

They lived in a farmhouse at the time, and power to the house was switched with a main breaker, located on the hydro pole in the yard. I watched my costumed sister and her husband shuffle towards the front steps of my older sister's home, and knock on the door.

My brother-in-law answered, greeting them, grinning through the screen door.

They said nothing, rather stood staring.

As he and my sister chatted with their visitors in a rather one-sided



conversation, he looked down in the driveway, and noticed the interior light shining inside his car. Fearing it would drain the battery, he decided to walk down to the car, and shut off the light.

He stepped out the door, and, not being too sure who the costumed couple were, flipped the lock on the screen door, making sure they couldn't get inside the house as my older sister stood trying engage them in conversation.

Only one small problem; she didn't realize hubby had flipped the lock, so she flipped the little lever the opposite way, actually unlocking

the door.

Now I wasn't aware of the unlocked door scenario, as I waited and watched in the shadows, nearby the hydro breaker, ready to douse the lights at the opportune time.

As my brother-in-law passed by me on his way to the car, I reached up and hauled down the lever.

The house was plunged into darkness as the light of the moon was the only illumination in the yard.

Hardly two seconds passed when the air was cut by a blood curdling scream at the house.

I don't believe I have ever seen my brother-in-law run that fast, before or since, as he bolted back to the house.

Not sure what was happening, I decide I should shed a little more light on the issue, and flipped power back on.

I figured the joke had to be over, so I headed for the house, to see what had happened.

As I entered the front hall, the floor was covered with jelly-beans,

Halloween candies, books and, for that matter, just about everything that regularly sat on the hall table.

It seems dressed-up sister had approached the door, turned the knob and walked in, just seconds before the lights had gone out.

And big sister, scared to death by her visitors, had her whole life flash before her and decided she wasn't going to be taken without a fight.

You see, she had thrown just about everything but the hall table at her intruders, and I expect the table would have been next, had I not turned on the lights back on when I did.

Now I wouldn't say good ol' Sis was in a state of shock, but she made it damned clear she wasn't amused. Of course, that was many years ago, and she says she's forgiven us all.

But I always tend to sleep lightly with one eye open every Halloween night.

And keep an eye on the shadows around the main breaker.