

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Wednesday, at 211 Armstrong Ave. Georgetown Ont., L7G 4X5 is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Georgetown Independent and The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, The Barrie Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Collingwood Connection, The Etobicoke Guardian/Lakeshore Advertiser, Halton Hills Week End, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, The Uxbridge/Stouffville Tribune.

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Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Georgetown Independent is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

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## Columnist irks reader

Dear editor:

In the October 17th issue of your paper was printed a column by Patricia Hretchka entitled Whine, whimper and moan of Canadians. In this column she states, "if we as Canadians were to stop whining and assigning blame and come up with solutions, maybe we could realize the stunning potential that is Canada. That the major drawback to living in this wonderful country is having to put up with the carping and complaining of Canadians."

Ms. Hretchka must be a Progressive Conservative for these are statements reminiscent of our illustrious former leader Brian Mulroney as he was putting his hands deeper in our pockets and further eroding the Canadian families' ability to take care of themselves with their hard earned money.

It sounds to me like Ms. Hretchka's freelance writing career must pay pretty well or that her husband has a well paying job and they don't have to worry about where or how the next meal is to be forthcoming, let alone how they are

## Letters

to the Editor

going to clothe or house their family. More power to her and her family, I am happy for them, however, this is not the norm across Canada in the current hard times we are facing.

Most Canadians realize how lucky they are to be living in such a beautiful country and at peace, not war. However, most of us have seen our hard earned wages depleted by our self-serving governments (provincial or federal) to a point where we don't know how we are going to buy our next loaf of bread let alone take care of our families in other areas.

With our wages taken from us to fund minority causes at an ever increasing alarming rate, especially here in Ontario, it leaves precious little for us to live on after taxes.

We don't have the high tax free salaries and perks of our politicians nor do we receive on top of our meager earnings, the clothing allowances, the back to school

allowances, the Christmas allowances, the summer camp allowances etc., etc., etc., that our welfare recipients receive. Note by the way that all the above is paid for by the tax dollars that are taken from us working class citizens, the same taxes that leave us unable to properly care for our own families. We don't get to live in subsidized housing and must pay for all the expenses related to having a job, ie: for a vehicle, for gas to run the vehicle, for insurance on the vehicle and for vehicle upkeep.

No, Ms. Hretchka, we are not whiners and bitches by choice, all we are asking for is to be left enough of our hard earned wages to care for our own children. I do not think it is asking too much to not have all our earnings seized to pay for someone else's family over our own. If all Canadians had the salaries and perks our politicians do and the benefits the welfare recipients and minorities have at our expense, I some how doubt that this so called whining would exist.

In closing I will state again Ms. Hretchka, I am very pleased that you and your family are in a position not to worry about finances, this however I must restate, is not the current Canadian norm.

Sincerely,  
John D. McConnell

## Your tax dollars get a break

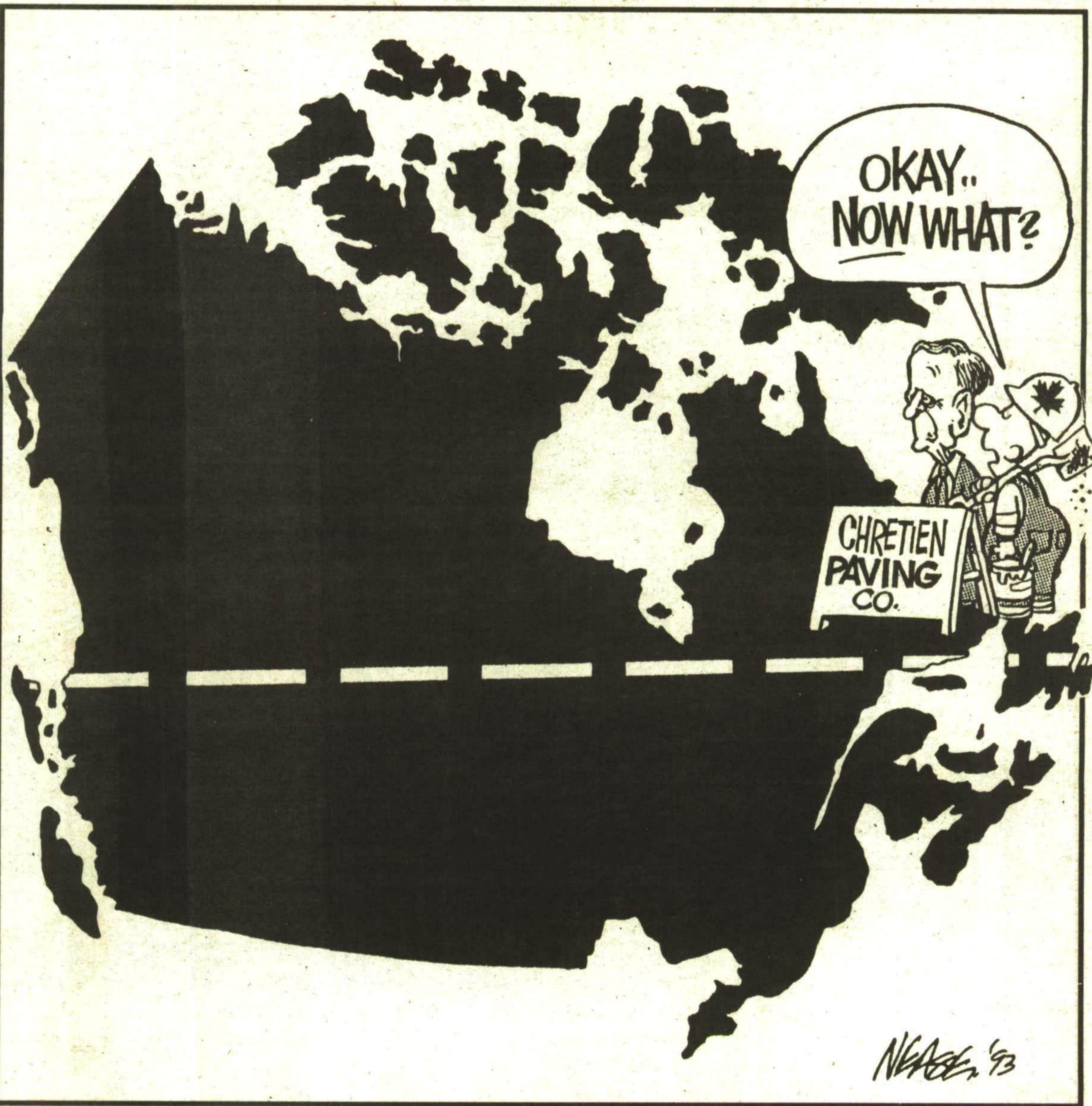
Friday, a collective sigh of relief could be heard from Halton Hills taxpayers. That day, the Interim Waste Authority (IWA), the agency set up by the Ontario government to select a potential landfill site in Peel, did not select any of the potential sites, located on Halton Hills' southeast border.

That means that your local tax dollars will not have to be used to fund a full-scale battle against your provincial tax dollars which are being spent to find room for Toronto's garbage.

However, let's add a note of caution: money will still have to be spent to keep a watchdog surveillance over the upcoming hearings to prevent a possible changing of the minds. Still, the good news: taxpayers will not have to fork out the megabucks that would have occurred had one of the two sites been selected.

Halton Hills is still in a battle to prevent a proposal privately-owned landfill in the Acton Quarry. That proposal has not yet been defeated. But the picture looks certainly brighter this week, as we no longer will have to fight a government-promoted proposal on our border.

Local citizens groups, such as the Credit Valley Coalition, with many local members, are to be commended for keeping this issue in the public's eye, and letting the IWA know, that the people here in Halton Hills and just over the border in Peel would not tolerate a dump in their midst.



## Wash dishes? They'd sooner face the wrath of Dad

Getting the dishes washed has always been a problem around our house.

It seems no one wants to accept the responsibility, and I can't even get results by offering cash incentives. (I tend to shy away from the word 'allowance' because it seems a little juvenile when we're talking about 'grownup' teenagers.)

It would be safe to say our kids would sooner face the wrath of Dad than soak their little patties in dishwasher.

So it's been a problem for some time.

When our friends talk about their appliances, I've always been quick to say we have four dishwashers in our house; ages 15, 14, 12 and 7.

But it seems our models tend to break down.

Like daily.

My wife and I have tried numerous approaches to the problem. I started drawing up a schedule assigning specific nights and posting them a month at a time on the calendar.

But every time it was someone's turn to wash, we were bombarded with a multitude of excuses why she shouldn't wash those dishes.

Excuses like "Why should I wash them, they were left over from last night?" or "I wasn't here for supper, so I shouldn't have to wash them."

And the infamous "It's not fair!" always crops up now and then.

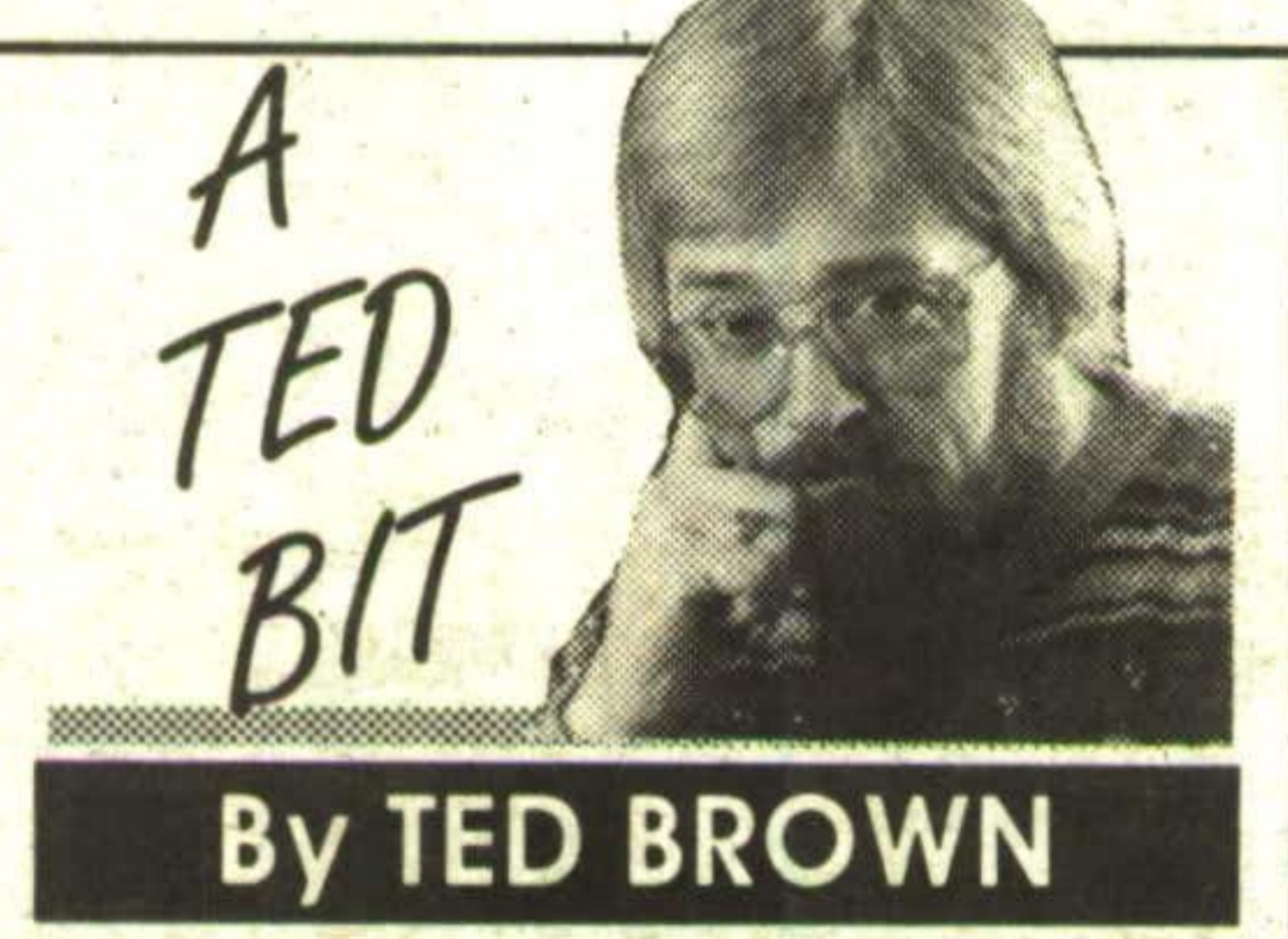
A couple of my daughters have even found sleeping over at a friend's house on the night they are to wash has been an effective way of weaseling out of the chore.

The situation had gone progressively downhill for the past couple of months, so my wife and I decided to address the problem.

In short, look into purchasing a dishwasher.

Buying a dishwasher has been something we've discussed casually over the past few years. My wife has always been a little dubious of the need for one, and I've always been too cheap.

Recently we talked of making a



few changes to the kitchen and the first thing that came to my wife's mind was installing new floor covering, and maybe later buying a dishwasher.

After casting a wary eye over the finances, I proudly announced to my wife she had one of two options.

A new floor or a new dishwasher.

I even told her the choice was her's. She could decide, all on her own, and let me know how she felt, with no influence or input from me.

(Of course, I did happen to mention in passing the new floor would do a lousy job of washing dishes.)

She opted for the dishwasher.

Now I've never been panic shopper, particularly when it comes to something with a price of several hundred dollars.

I tend to look casually at first, shopping around, then return home with the pamphlets and see what features we do or don't need.

It's at that point in time I get out the tape measure.

That was the moment we learned the ideal kitchen cupboard was not sitting in our kitchen.

Over the years, I have come to expect every time I start to renovate a room in our house, it will surely carry a few surprises, no matter how much planning we put into it.

Our kitchen is no exception.

Armed with loads of information, specifications and dimensions we sat down to decide upon the best location for the dishwasher. Could it sit here? Or there? And would the plumbing be easier to install on this side or the other?

Well, you get the drift.

After some discussion, we figured

we could remove one bank of cupboards, and drawers, and it would fit very nicely to the right of the sink. The dishwasher drain comes out on the opposite side.

Okay, well, maybe it could go on the other side, if I moved this and relocated that.

The decision was made, and we had a date earlier this week, as we met after work at our local appliance dealer, and sealed the deal.

Our shiny new Maytag was delivered Friday night, and left sitting in the corner of the kitchen, just a few feet away from where it will ultimately be installed.

(That was my idea — that way I can measure every step of the way as I perform my own special type of surgery with a skill saw on the existing kitchen cupboards.)

And as you read this, I'm preeetty sure it should be functional to wash the dishes following our Sunday dinner.

So long as we can persuade the kids to load it.