

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Get your red nose

On Friday, radio, television and newspapers were quoting a doctor saying how people were really stressed out this winter. He explained the bitter cold, constant snow and bad driving conditions, are turning Canadians into irritable whiners.

In short, this winter has caused Canadians to lose their sense of humor.

Acton resident Jack Carpenter will attempt to change that on February 7 — the third annual Red Nose Day. It's a day with only one objective: to lighten up, to have fun, to laugh, to beat the winter blahs with a red nose.

Red Nose Day is something else too. It is just for us. It's not something charities or governments can use to tax us for more money — Jack makes sure of that. It's not something we have to do; it's something to do for fun.

Yes it's silly, but hey, don't the best laughs begin with something silly.

We need some smiles, especially this winter, so get ready to put on your red nose and make those around you laugh.

Foodshare says thanks

Dear editor:

As you are aware, the Acton Foodshare has relocated to 153 Perth Street in Acton.

On behalf of the board of directors we would like to thank the following who made the move and moving in easier: Mr. John Hurst from Hydro for the donation of a hot water tank and its installation, Mr. Peter Zions for his workmanship, Mr. Dobbie Frizzell and Mr. Duncan Waldie for their electrical work, Mr. Joe Rinders for the work on the windows and the many other volunteers including Mr. Wyman Little for the other tasks both large and small.

We would also like to thank the many supporters who assist the Foodshare throughout the year with both monetary and food donations.

Recently, the Four Seasons Restaurant and Roadrunners Hardball Club was able to provide Foodshare with a donation of 243 pounds of food. The efforts of the Acton High School, St. Joseph's and McKenzie Smith school provided

Letters

to the Editor

the Foodshare with 677 pounds of food. E.C. Drury through Building Products in Acton provided \$156 for the Foodshare.

We also received donations of muffins from Mr. and Mrs. Malinosky of Tim Hortons here in Acton.

Mr. Don Hearn of Johnson and Associates initiated a food drive for Cinema tickets to benefit the Foodshare; we thank you Mr. Hearn and those who participated by donating food to you.

We are grateful for the generous donations which assist us greatly in these times. At the Foodshare, we are very fortunate to have such a caring community which supports our efforts.

On behalf of the board of directors I wish to thank all our supporters and volunteers for their efforts.

Arlene D. Fritz
Secretary
Acton Foodshare

Evening up

The following letter was filed with this newspaper for publication.

Mr. Noel Duignan,
MPP Halton North
Re: level playing field for our police

We are definitely in favor of your government arming our police at all levels with the 9 mm gun rather than the current revolver.

We understand that it may cost about \$1,500 to \$1,800 per constable to arm and train but we feel it worth it to have a safer environment in which to live and raise our children.

If we feel that the police can not protect us (through no fault of their own) the other alternative is for us to have more guns in homes. We do not want that choice as studies have shown that many deaths have resulted from domestic quarrels when guns are readily available in the home.

We hope that you will agree with our recommendation and help speed up the process that will result in the more level playing field.

Yours sincerely,
B. Kennedy, J. Kennedy



You know it's cold when the kids do up their coats

I hate to sound like a whiner, but what ever happened to our annual January thaw?

This past week has been a record-breaker on numerous occasions and I'm finding more and more people are becoming obsessed with chills.

Everybody has words about the cold on their icy blue lips in every conversation, and the whole world is shivering like Chilly Willy as they come inside to the warmth.

And it must be cold, because I've seen so many sure-fire signs out there.

My first clue was at home, when I had to reprogram our programmable thermostat, because the house was, in the words of my wife, "too damn cold."

And the cold water tap in our kitchen has frozen on two separate nights over the past two weeks, requiring a little fancy footwork with a hair dryer. I've spent more time in the cab of our tractor and snow blower than I care to think

about as I've faced the sub-zero temperatures and trudged out at some ungodly early hours to clean up the snow in our driveway, so the kids could make it to school.

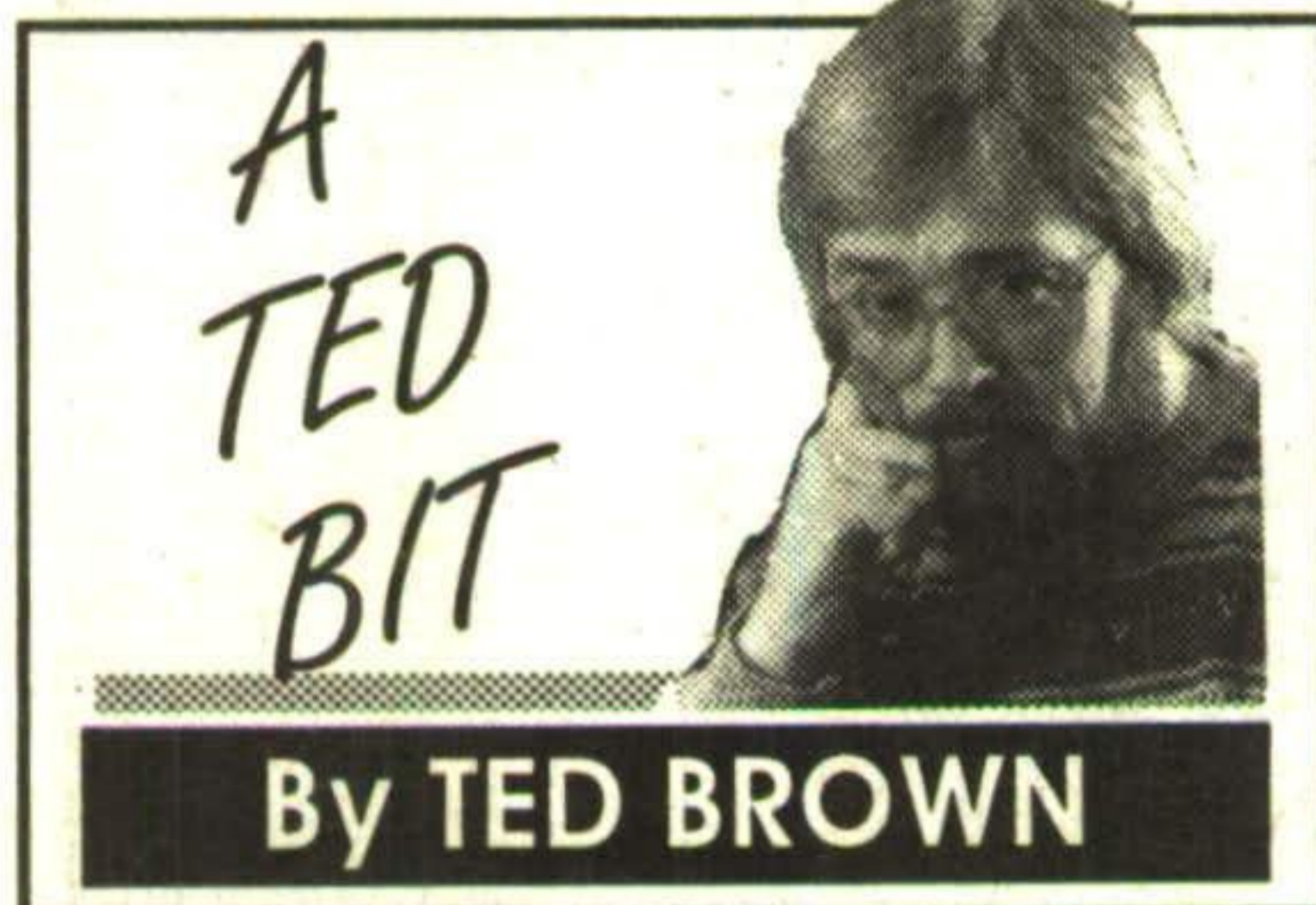
My car has been complaining bitterly every morning this week as I turned the key, moaning, sputtering and coughing until it finally rolls over and fires up.

And on my way to work earlier this week, I spotted no less than two dogs frozen to hydrants.

On the television, I hear of ski slopes that have been closed down for fear of people being frostbitten and some schools have shut their doors because of bursting frozen water pipes.

And just this past Wednesday morning, I was faced with the most reliable indicator of all: my teenage daughters wore mitts and actually zipped up their winter coats as they headed out the door to catch the school bus.

You just know it's cold when they do up their coats.



And so we complain. But think about the other side of the coin.

How about those people who want to see it cold and freezing? Those ones who make their livelihood by capitalizing on sub-zero climates.

They're out there, trust me.

I'm quite certain every fuel distributor in town is grinning from ear to ear as the thermometer plunges and the furnace oil tanks deplete or the gas meters spin.

And tow truck drivers everywhere are in a state of euphoria as they stand alongside your car with

their jumper cables in hand.

Snow plow operators have been praying for this weather for months, ready and waiting to clean up the white stuff in big piles in the parking lots and then draw it all away.

And the pharmacies are having a veritable field day, selling cough medicine, decongestants, and cold remedies to all those sniffing cold sufferers. And we won't even think about the tissue sales.

With the recent heavy duty snow storms, garages around town have enjoyed an upswing in the sale of snow tires and the cold always spawns a few more winter tuneups and car battery sales.

And how many gallons of windshield washer antifreeze have been sold since the first of January?

Plumbers have been inundated with calls to thaw pipes and rescue residents from frozen toilets and drains, while travel agents hang their Barbados posters in conspicuous spots in the front window of their stores, trying to lure someone

in to head off somewhere hot and sunny.

Then there's the body shop owners, spending their time banging out the dents from some foul weather fender-bender.

So they're all happy with the cold. But many people aren't, and I'm sure they will continue to complain until this deep freeze passes.

I will. It's my nature. Except of course when I'm talking to one person.

My wife's sister. You see, she tends to regard our weather as just plain, er... balmy.

But then again, why wouldn't she? After all, when she says it's cold at her place, it is really cold.

'Course, she doesn't live around here. She lives a little further north, in Manitoba.

Thompson, Manitoba to be exact, and earlier this week Thompson had a cold snap, just like us, but the mercury dropped to minus 60 degrees Celsius.

You know, I feel warmer already.