

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Riding strongly together as one

Regardless of who is politicizing the electoral boundaries realignment issue, all in this community must ensure that the town is not split into two separate political ridings.

Currently we are in the Halton-Peel riding with Acton and Georgetown together with pieces of Burlington, Milton and Caledon thrown in. This has been good for our community, making Halton Hills the focus and centre of the riding with easy access to our Member of Parliament.

A revision would put the north and west half of the town, including Acton, into a new hodgepodge of a riding called Peel-Dufferin-Wellington, and the south and east side including Georgetown would be lumped into a proposed riding with the larger communities of Milton and Oakville called Halton Centre. Villages like Glen Williams and Stewarttown will be even more startlingly split with one side of the street relegated to Halton Centre and the other to P-D-W proposal.

Although we can understand revisions are required based on population, let's ensure that the Halton Hills remains strongly placed together in a single riding.

MSA is threat to hospital and volunteers

Dear editor:

I think your readers may wish to have a different perspective on the status of health care in Georgetown.

The board of directors of our hospital were advised at a 1993 public meeting that by endorsing the community multi-service agency concept, (MSA), they would bring about the eventual demise of our hospital — as we know it — and bring about the end of community volunteerism as we have known and enjoyed it.

How anyone could imagine that a government-run MSA with all its bureaucracy and political correctness could do a better job than volunteer agencies like Meals on Wheels, Red Cross, Cancer, United Way etc. They simply must have their heads in the sand.

How could anyone actually believe that a MSA will not become so encumbered with red tape that it will eventually kill off our communities high sense of volunteerism and neighborly concern.

It's interesting to note in our

Letters

to the Editor

MPPs last taxpayer funded NDP brag sheet he showed how the MSA will eventually replace conventional medical services (read hospital) with a community health centre. When this happens stick around for 9 to 5 health care. Why the board refused to look down the road and say stop to our politicians is still a mystery. We should have been strongly positioning ourselves to protect the future of our hospital.

As it stands now we have bought into building long term health care facilities on hospital grounds. When deinstitutionalized health care is the popular and efficient option.

Unfortunately it may be too late to stop this juggernaut. Those who are concerned should be asking our politicians and politicians-

to-be (both provincial and municipal) what efforts they are making to ensure the life of our hospital. We should seek good answers as to why government involvement through MSAs will not bring on problems encountered by other MSA projects like multiple MSAs for one community. (North York wanted MSAs to meet various ethnic/social requirements causing costs to escalate way out of proportion.) Of course the NDP doesn't want to talk about it. They will try other centres on for size trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. Georgetown is one of their "test cases."

There are two issues here. One - we are in threat to lose our hospital. The threat is real and will likely occur as we are surrounded by communities with other hospitals — we are expendable.

The second threat is the MSA. We can stop this senseless destruction of community volunteerism. How many more levels of government intervention must we live with and pay for.

Alex McKee



The ghost of Grandma will strike down anyone who cheats

Since the beginning of time, my wife has played solitaire.

She has spent many an evening at the kitchen table, flipping cards over for hours on end as she achieves that subtle satisfaction of beating an imaginary player at random odds.

She admits she gets her addiction for solitaire from her late Grandma Lindsay, who used to spend hours on end playing at her kitchen table with a tattered deck of Bicycle playing cards, either the red ones or the blue ones.

Dear old Grandma Lindsay certainly taught her well many years ago, long before I ever arrived on the scene.

And that influence still hangs tough; God help anyone who might er... ah, cheat at that sacred card game. The ghost of Grandma Lindsay would strike you down in a moment should you happen to slip the cards out of order.

No sir, my wife is well trained in the fine art of playing solitaire.

Myself, I've never been much

of a person for card games of any kind with the exception of the odd game of euchre from time to time.

And the kids are pretty much the same, except the older ones, who have played a little more euchre since entering high school.

But lately, it seems the game of solitaire has gained a renewed interest around our house.

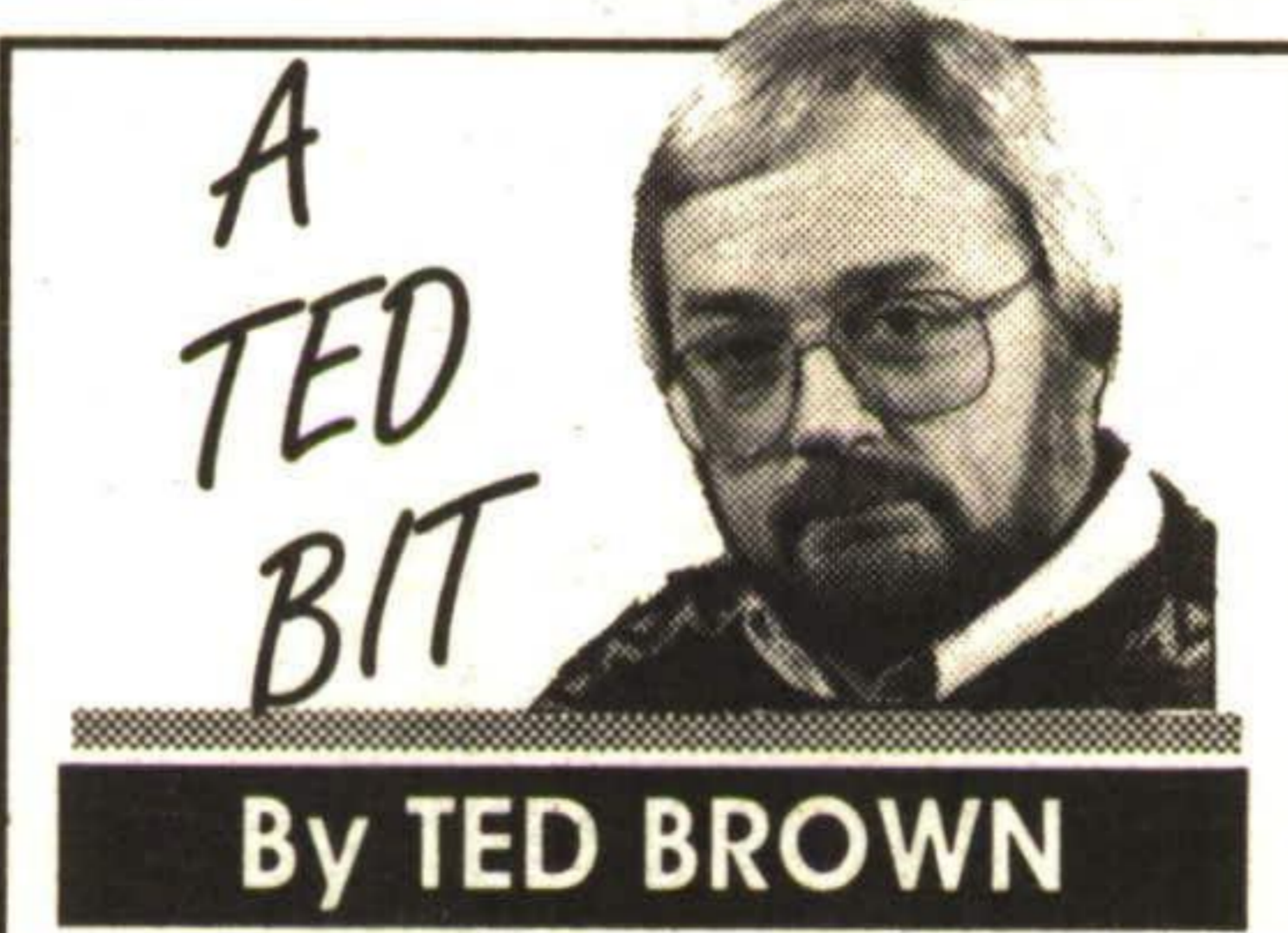
Only, instead of drawing cards from a deck, we've been flipping them into their proper places with a mouse.

You see, the game is installed on our personal computer; part of the Windows program.

There aren't many computer fanatics out there who aren't already familiar with Windows' solitaire game. The cards are brightly displayed on a nice green background, and I'll admit it's fun to play.

But my kids are becoming a tad addicted to it.

Every time the telephone rings, (which tends to be about every five or 10 minutes) and one of



them answers it in our home office, (where the computer is sitting) they fire up the old PC and load Windows. The balance of the conversation amounts to numerous games of solitaire while discussing the state of the social scene at any one of three different schools in the area.

Earlier this week, my wife and I went to bed, leaving one of the kids glued to the computer screen, trying to beat that game. She had gone through about a dozen games while I was in the office, and she refused to give up.

At midnight, she walked by our

bedroom, proudly announcing in the dark how she had finally won, and was "(yawn) going to bed."

The kids are certainly hooked.

But my wife isn't too impressed with the computer version of her favorite pastime.

"It's not natural," she protests, "There should be a 'snap' as the cards are placed on the pile, not having them dragged across by a stupid mouse. And I think the girls are cheating by using the 'undo' function of the game."

(Correction; her grandmother would consider the girls were cheating.)

I'm tempted to mention that Grandma Lindsay hasn't struck any one us down from a dizzy height yet for using the dreaded 'undo' key, but she's pretty adamant about her game of solitaire.

But I do argue the computer version of the game does adhere to the rules, and it won't allow anyone do anything that's not totally legal in the game of solitaire. (And

who knows how many versions of solitaire exist in the world anyway?)

But she sticks to her guns, or better still, cards, and still plays on the kitchen table, dealing out her three cards at a time, while tapping them the required three times on the table, (just to straighten the deck, you know.)

And she wouldn't consider for a moment, 'undoing' a move like the computer does, even though it is apparently legal by Windows' rules.

Nope, she's bound by the rules her grandmother spelled out when she was a little girl, and no damned computer is going to change her.

Myself, I play from time to time, enjoying the computer version, and even play during those rare moments when the telephone call is actually for me.

But lately I admit I've been looking over my shoulder.

Just before using the 'undo' key.