

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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MSA will not mean a loss of volunteers

The following letter was filed with this newspaper for publication.

Honorable Ruth Grier
Minister of Health
Province of Ontario
Dear Minister,

I have been a volunteer with the Acton Support Service and Information Centre (ASSIC) for almost 18 years now.

I see ASSIC as a local MSA, it now provides many of the home support services that the fully operational MSAs will eventually provide. Right now the health services are not coordinated out of ASSIC but they certainly could be once Bill 173 is passed.

I have read in the newspapers that organizations like VON and Red Cross are predicting that there will be a loss of volunteers once MSA come into effect. Well I disagree, I have been a volunteer with ASSIC from its beginning and have no intention of not being a volunteer with ASSIC. I have also received services from ASSIC. I have delivered Meals on Wheels, talked to seniors through the Wheels to Meals program, I am presently on the Planning and Education Committee as well as being a mem-

Letters to the Editor

ber of the Board of Directors.

The Planning and Education committee just held a very successful Wellness Fair for seniors. There were lots of volunteers present putting up signs, welcoming exhibitors, welcoming seniors and just making sure everything went

Trick was no treat for homeowner

To the four "firestarters":

The cedar hedge, aligning the school walkway across from M.Z. Bennett Public School was set afire on Devil's Night. This was quite a frightening sight to those who live (and continue to hope to live) in this area.

Please think before you "play a trick" because this particular fire could easily, with different winds, have spread to the houses in the area and then the boys responsible may have had to live the rest of their lives with the thought that

smoothly. All this volunteer energy was expended willing for a local MSA.

I do not think that the over 150 program specific volunteers and another 200 community group volunteers are going to leave ASSIC if it changes name, or becomes a larger MSA after Bill 173 is passed.

I urge you to carry on with Bill 173 and see that MSAs come into effect.

Helen Dubeau,
Volunteer and consumer
from disabled community.

A caring Actonian,
John Hansen

they were the ones who forced families out of their homes and/or killed/burned them. You would not, no matter what you think now, sleep well for a good part of your life, knowing the terrible misfortune that you caused. This is definitely not the way we should live together or play together in Acton.

P.S. Many thanks to the prompt action of our fire department and the concern shown by all of my neighbors.

It makes 'cents'

A locally-controlled multi-service agency (MSA) in Halton Hills would not only provide better service to seniors here, but also be more cost effective says the Halton Hills MSA committee.

It makes sense.

The committee thinks administrative and other costs would be lower in Halton Hills, which means more money would go directly to services. Juxtaposed against the "economies of scale" argument (larger organizations are able to buy in quantity at cheaper prices) is the "economies of proximity" argument, say the committee. The local group believe that by having a local staff working within the local community, the transportation costs would be lower. By working with other community organizations like Georgetown Hospital, goods and services would be purchased at a lower price. There would be less need for layers of bureaucracy in a small locally run organization.

The provincial government is not allocating any more money to services for the elderly and disabled under the MSA program. Instead they are creating MSAs to simplify the process by coordinating and providing all the services required by an individual — sort of a one stop shopping centre. The aim is to cut down on the cost of delivering services, while at the same time improving them.

The Halton Hills MSA does not expect to get more than its share of the money. It's simply asking that money for Halton Hills be administrated by a local organization. It won't cost any more, and in fact could be less than the current plan.

In the end it really means one thing — letting local people be responsible for local people.

It only makes sense.



My poppy has stood the test of time

As I drove one of my daughters to school earlier this week, she asked if she could have a Remembrance Day poppy, pointing to the one above my head, stuck in the car's sun visor.

Now I've had that same old poppy for many years, but the one on my coat lapel was a "new" one I purchased from a member of the Legion in the local shopping mall last week. I gave her the new one, and pinned "old faithful" on my lapel in its place.

"You can have the new one off my jacket," I told her, "But my old one is special, so I'll wear it myself."

You see, nobody wears my old poppy but me.

My daughter tends to understand (or at least accept) my pack rat tendencies, so she took the new poppy and pinned it to her coat.

That old poppy has been with me longer than I care to remember.

Over the years, it has endured the sun, snow and rain of numerous Remembrance Day services, and

after, has always been replaced to its year-long resting place, on the underside of the sun visor in my car, waiting 11 months to be once again recruited into service for its annual Remembrance Day duty.

I know it's ridden in the last two cars I've owned, always returning to its storage place after Remembrance Day passes, (so I know where to find it.) It's probably been around for nearly a decade.

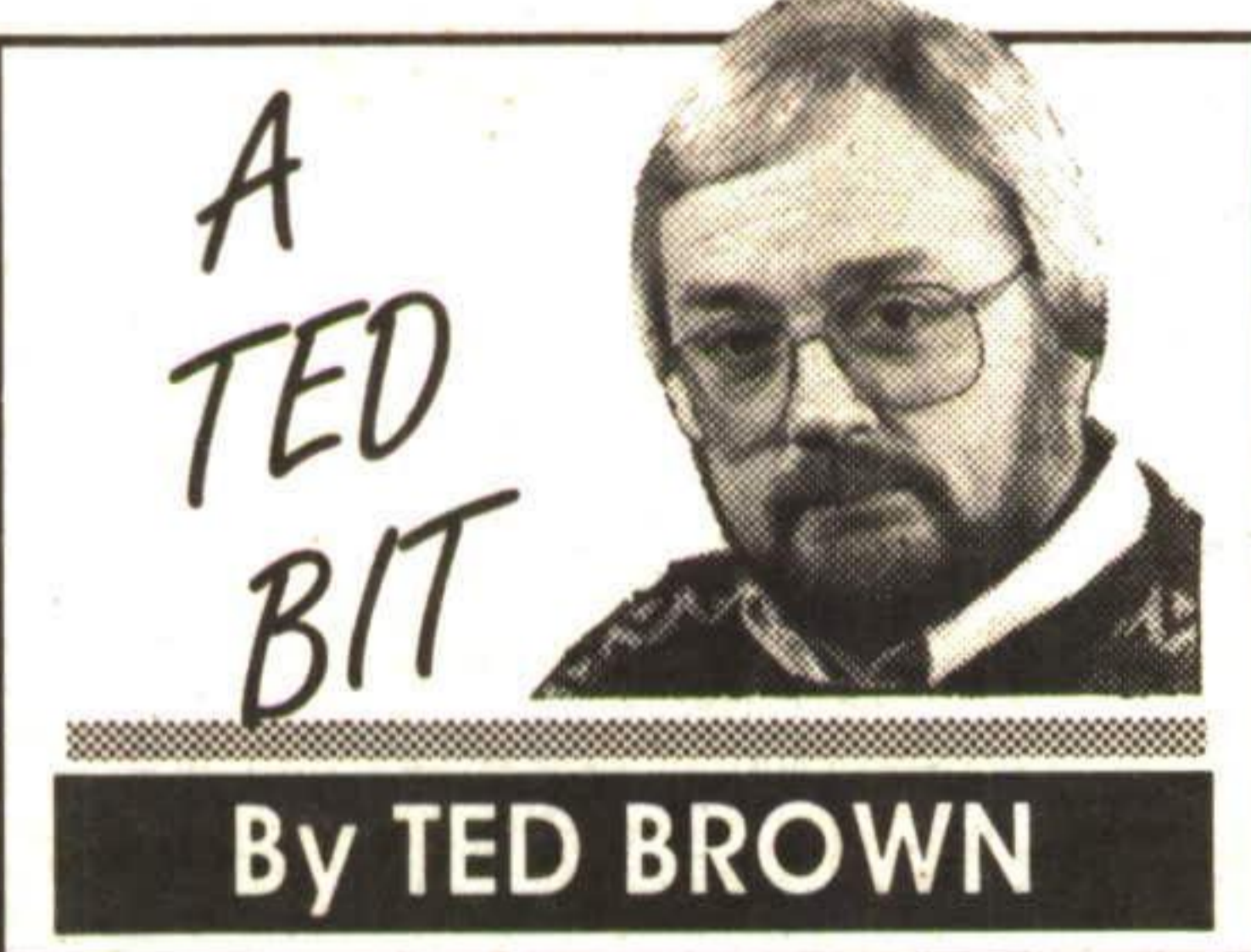
I'm not sure I know why I keep that old poppy. There's nothing special about it; in fact it's looking a tad worn and wrinkled, and the felt-like finish on the plastic backing is wearing off.

The hole in the centre in which the pin goes through has been repunched numerous times, as the pin has been pulled through countless times.

And even the green felt centre looks fragile.

But for some reason, I've become attached to it.

My co-workers in the office have lectured me on being a little too



A
TED
BIT

By TED BROWN

sentimental about things like my poppy, but I persist.

I guess I feel it has stood the test of time and deserves to be honored every year on November 11.

Like the day it represents, it tends to remind me of the need to be sentimental and reflective about Remembrance Day.

And I'm not alone.

A good friend of mine, Rev. Peter Barrow, is even more attached to his old poppy. Peter has an old poppy, complete with a real black felt centre and inside of it a green felt centre.

It's a unique one, probably more

than 20 years old and has been carefully preserved by Peter over the years.

And like me, Peter wears it every year, pinned conspicuously to his Legion padre's gown, as he conducts the services around Georgetown.

I suspect Peter keeps his old poppy in circulation for the same reason as me; not necessarily something one can fully explain, but more for the sake of tradition.

The ceremony of Remembrance is still the same after all these years, with the names of soldiers killed in action read aloud to those who knew and loved them, followed by a time of silence.

It's tradition.

We stand quietly and listen to the mournful wail of the bagpipes and the awakening call of the trumpet, as we remember.

More tradition.

Just like my poppy.

Perhaps it's the thought of the veterans' contributions to the world we live in today. If their sacrifices

can last half a century, what's stopping my old poppy from lasting a few years?

As the car door slammed and I watched my daughter disappear through the school doors with that new red poppy blazing on her denim jacket, I wondered if she realized how much Remembrance Day means to her generation.

Or every generation for that matter.

The men and women who contributed so much to what we all tend to take for granted are now older than her grandparents.

Yet the peace and freedom we enjoy has lasted for decades.

Perhaps I am a little too sentimental at times, and maybe I become too attached to traditions.

But when it comes to this time of the year and I reflect upon Remembrance Day, I'm glad I'm sentimental.

And if we remember, I'm sure it will help preserve the peace which has stood the test of time.

Just like my poppy.