

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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Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

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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Put Halton Hills on your list

With the arrival of Santa in Halton Hills — in Georgetown last weekend and in Acton yesterday — people's thoughts have turned to Christmas and yes, buying presents.

When making out your lists, think about giving an extra gift to local retailers this year — shop locally.

According to recent reports, this year is expected to be a successful one for retailers. More than 86 per cent of retailers are optimistic that their holiday sales will increase over last year and even, 21 per cent of consumers plan to spend more.

This Christmas, these stats could ring true for our local businesses — if everyone shops here. There's not a day goes by when an individual or organization doesn't ask one of the local businesses to donate and support their cause — and the businesses give willingly.

This is your chance to support our businesses in return. We think you will find their prices, services and products competitive and comparable; you do not have to drive out of town.

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and the Halton Credit Union agree. They have launched Our Town Christmas Cheques to encourage shopping locally. More than 60 businesses are participating in a program which allows people to borrow up to \$1,500 interest free for six months. 'Cheque' it out.

Make this holiday season a merry one for our local businesses — put them on your list.

Canada Remembers program seeks participation

Dear editor:

Remembrance Day has come and gone once again. I would like to highlight for your readers an important development this year.

Fifty years ago, the Second World War was raging. The young people who lived that incredible experience are now our senior generation. Like many Canadians, I am concerned that the youth of today do not realize the commitment and sacrifice that was involved in the war and do not appreciate how a great national effort by Canadians of that period as a major factor in the evolution of the country towards the nation that we enjoy today.

I am pleased the government has created a national and international program entitled Canada Remembers which has as its objectives: to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the major events leading to the end of the Second World War, to honor and remember the wartime sacrifice made by Canadians overseas and at home, and to foster a greater awareness of what the war years meant — and continue to mean — to Canadians, especially young people so that

world peace may be a watchword for all.

The real strength of Canada Remembers is in the participation of Canadians in communities all across the country. We hope that through these efforts this awareness will continue, and that future

generations will also receive and pass on this knowledge and appreciation.

We are a group of enthusiastic veterans and civilians at the grassroots level. We would like to hear from your organization or community about participating in the Canada Remembers program. Please call Nancy Siew at 905-566-6030, Theresa Traynor at 416-954-6946 or Canada Remembers at 1-800-268-1333.

S.P. Stokes
Acting Chairman,
Canada Remembers
Veterans/Civilians Toronto Area

Letters

to the Editor

Why can't we stop wars? child asks

The following poem was filed with this newspaper for publication.

My Remembrance Day Poem Today we honour those who have fought in the war.

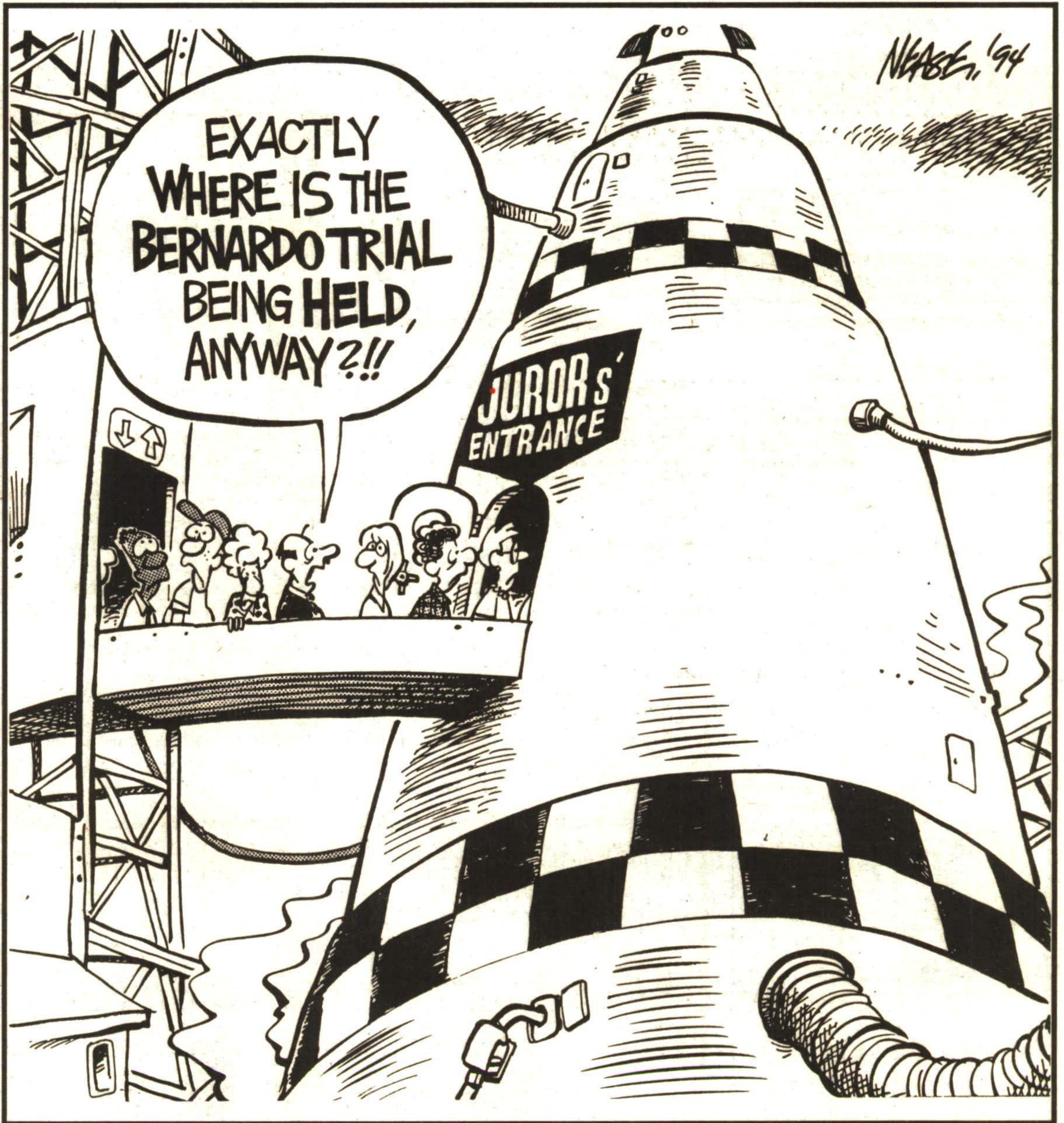
For some today brings, Sadness, Loneliness, and Tears because they've lost a spouse, friend, or relative.

For others today could bring happiness, and joy because their family and friends are safe at home.

I think we should take some time to think about War Veterans and also think about our feelings.

Why can't we all be kind to one and other? And why can't we stop wars? I don't want the world to be perfect but can't we just stop killing hating and fighting.

And I hope you agree with me
Rebecca Meltzer
Age 10, Gr. 5 Pineview School



Memories of folk music at Egerton's

It's probably been more than 20 odd years since I dropped by a coffee house.

But Saturday night I returned, attending one hosted by the Halton Hills chapter of Amnesty International at St. John's United Church in Georgetown. It was one of several coffee house nights over the past year which have been used as fundraisers for the Amnesty group.

For me it was great. Sort of a trip down memory lane.

Back in the sixties, when I was an adolescent and a folkie, I took an interest in the coffee house scene, and made a couple of trips to the long since closed Egerton's, a coffee house located in Toronto's Gerrard and Church St. area.

It was just down the street from Massey Hall, where I regularly enjoyed concerts featuring artists like Gordon Lightfoot, Ian and Sylvia, Adam Mitchell, Murray McLachlin, and James Taylor and Carole King.

Egerton's was named after

Egerton Ryerson, (also used for Ryerson Polytechnical Institute) and catered primarily to local Ryerson students, being in close proximity to the college.

It seems I'm dating myself, as most people I know have never heard of Egerton's.

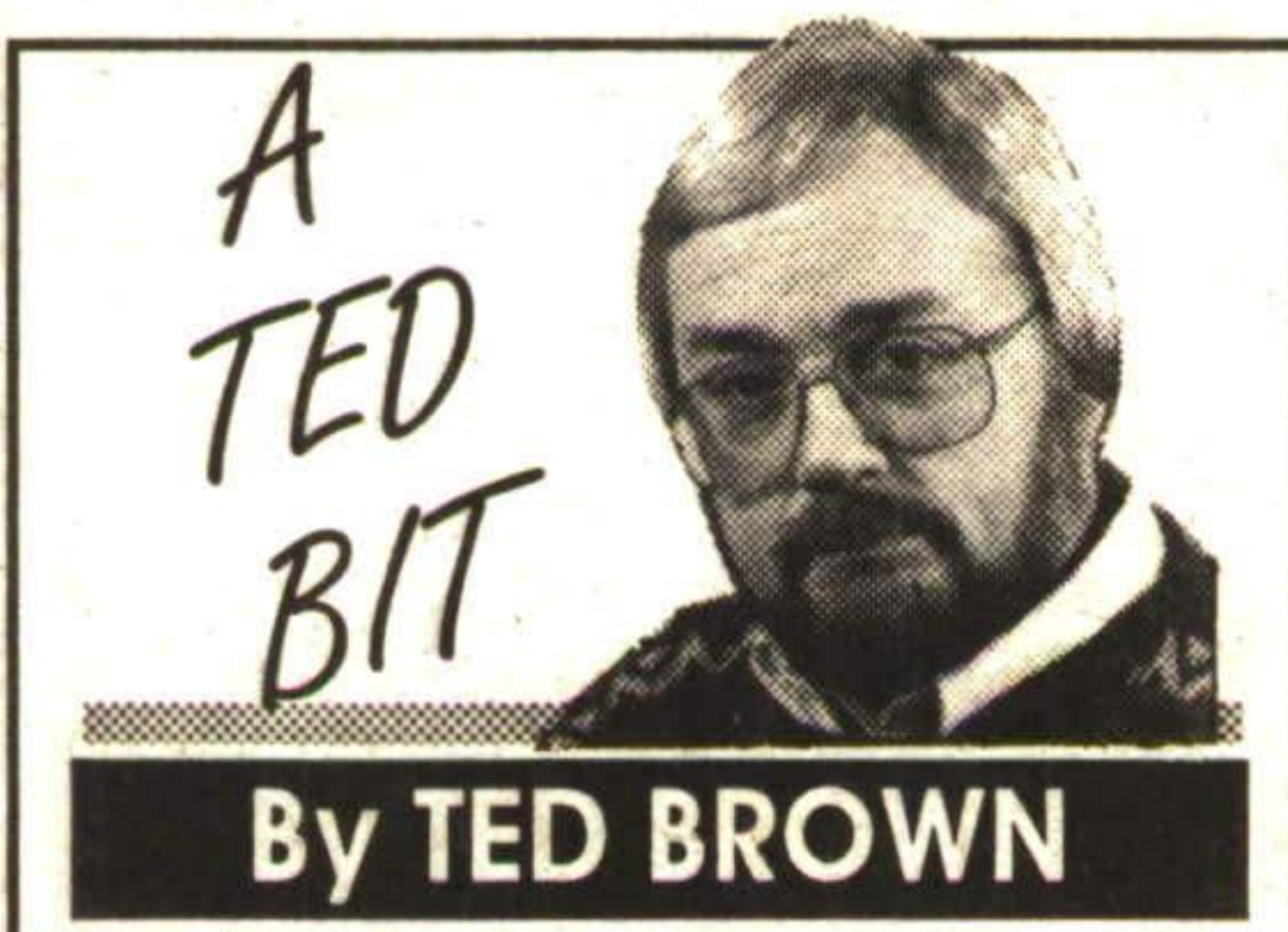
Anyway, I recalled that smoky, dimly lit coffee house with an eclectic array of musicians taking their place at the front; some good, some less than good.

But all folkies.

When I heard about Amnesty holding a coffee house in Georgetown, I decided to make it a priority to attend.

Longtime folkie and Georgetown District High School teacher Jim Broughton acted as host for the evening, as well as opening the show with a set featuring early songs by Gordon Lightfoot and Ian Tyson.

The evening was dedicated to music of the sixties, and I was in seventh heaven; I remembered



learning those early songs on guitar while inflicting pain into my fingertips as I built up the callouses necessary to play that instrument.

Jim belted out some good stuff like Lightfoot's Canadian Railroad Trilogy, and I'm Not Sayin', then switched over to vintage Tyson, from the days of Ian and Sylvia and the Great Speckled Bird, with great songs like Summer Wages and Red Velvet.

Georgetown's Brent Cooper followed, demonstrating his fine guitar talent as his fingers flew up and down the neck, in some outstanding folkie finger picking instrumentals.

Other performers included former Joseph Gibbons School teacher Alan Gotlib and his friend Nadia as they teamed up on some James Taylor and Carole King greats, while husband and wife duo Phil Lewin and Janice Giddings belted out more Carole King and early King Crimson material.

For me, the highlight of the night was the performance by Karen Leslie Hall of Toronto, who told the crowd "tonight, just call me Joni," as she accompanied herself in a great set of Joni Mitchell songs, including favorites like Morning Morgantown and The Circle Song then finished up with an outstanding rendition of Big Yellow Taxi that would do Joni herself proud.

Glen Williams' Don Ablett followed as he finger picked his way through some intricate Bruce Cockburn material, and joked about one song he performed wasn't written until 1973, "but I'm sure Bruce was thinking about (writing) it in 1969."

All the time the hall at St. John's was being filled with great music, a steady supply of coffee, tea, hot cider and desserts was available to add to the night. Broughton announced, unlike coffee houses of the sixties, this was a smoke free event, making the night even more enjoyable.

Great, a coffee house with no smoke!

Memories returned of the blue haze at Egerton's, a cloud of tobacco smoke (and probably other kinds of smoke,) hanging in the air, while patrons sat at little tables with espresso coffee as the music filled the air.

Saturday night, I didn't miss that smoke. And I think I'm probably too old to endure the mega caffeine content of espresso.

But the music was the same; a perfect mix of acoustic guitars and effective vocals once again protesting the inequalities of today's society.

Yep, just like the sixties again.