

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Immigrant gives thanks to Canadians

Dear editor:

When I was a boy I lived in Friesland, a province in the north of the Netherlands. My family was not, what you call "well to do." We heard and dreamed sometimes about a country named Canada.

I wanted to go there; I wanted to see it. But how?

The war came, depression, suffering, imprisonment and hard times.

In our village we asked for help, we prayed. Can you imagine the joy, when one day the Canadian soldiers came on their half tracks and

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jeeps. Liberation and freedom once again.

Believe me, Friesians love their freedom. Shortly after I asked can I come to that country of Canada.

Canada said, sure, come over. I borrowed money, I came. Canada took me in. I asked, can I become a

Canadian? Canada said, sure you can.

It happened, the judge said from now on you are a Canadian. A happy day in the life of a Dutch boy from the dikes of Holland. A dream come true.

Thank you Canada for liberation, for freedom. Thank you Canada for taking us in. Thank you Canada for saying yes.

Perhaps that is why when we sing O' Canada, I sing a little louder.

A very proud Canadian.
Henry Dykstra

Cultural Awareness Committee appreciates support

Dear editor:

Many thanks are extended to those community businesses who contributed towards our teach-in luncheon on the Images of Racism. It was a wonderful success Thursday, November 10 with over 140 students from Georgetown District High School in attendance.

The Butcher Shop, IGA, Harveys, Loblaws, and A&P all contributed to the luncheon held at St. George's Anglican Church.

The Open Door Youth Drop-In Centre and the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council organized the event with assistance from Benjamin Radford, consultant

with the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat.

Special thanks go to Richard Lewis, former Toronto Argonaut and Buffalo Bills linebacker; he was a dynamic speaker!

Lucinda Landau, chair
North Halton Cultural Awareness Council

Mother Nature gives notice

Wednesday's blast of snow and ice vividly brought back to drivers the reality of winter driving.

For most drivers, the first snow storm of the year is a wake-up call to refine the sloppy habits developed during the better driving days of summer.

Slow down and be patient are the keywords from all the official sources — the police, Ministry of Transportation, Canadian Automobile Association.

However, improvement in driving habits should not wait until the snowy days. According to the latest stats, more than 80 per cent of all fatal accidents in 1991 occurred when the visibility was clear, and more than 70 per cent when the road was dry.

Fortunately, only fender benders and frayed nerves accompanied Wednesday's snow storm, but it was the first of many more to come. So get in the winter mode now.

You can't change what Mother Nature puts on the road, but you can change the way you drive. Don't wait until March to hone your winter driving technique.

We are now in the icy clutch of Ol' Man Winter

It's a Wednesday morning and I'm tired.

Not tired from lack of sleep, late nights, overworking or any of the regular reasons for being tired. Nope, I'm tired for a seasonal reason.

You see the ground was white this morning.

Yes, the grim reaper has finally called in his cards, and that bonus Indian summer weather we've enjoyed for the past month has now officially gone for another year.

And even though the calendar says winter doesn't start until the 21st of December, I think we are now in the icy clutch of Ol' Man Winter.

And that's what makes me tired.

Another winter to endure.

It was made abundantly clear to me early this morning and I heard the first sign before I got out of bed.

A voice on my bedside clock radio jabbered away about highway closures and accidents while my police scanner in the kitchen chattered about the works department

responding to sand the road at an accident scene.

The next indication was no school bus. Everyone knows school buses are the first casualty of the icy roads. The bus companies usually take a cautious approach to winter driving, so no buses usually signals bad driving conditions.

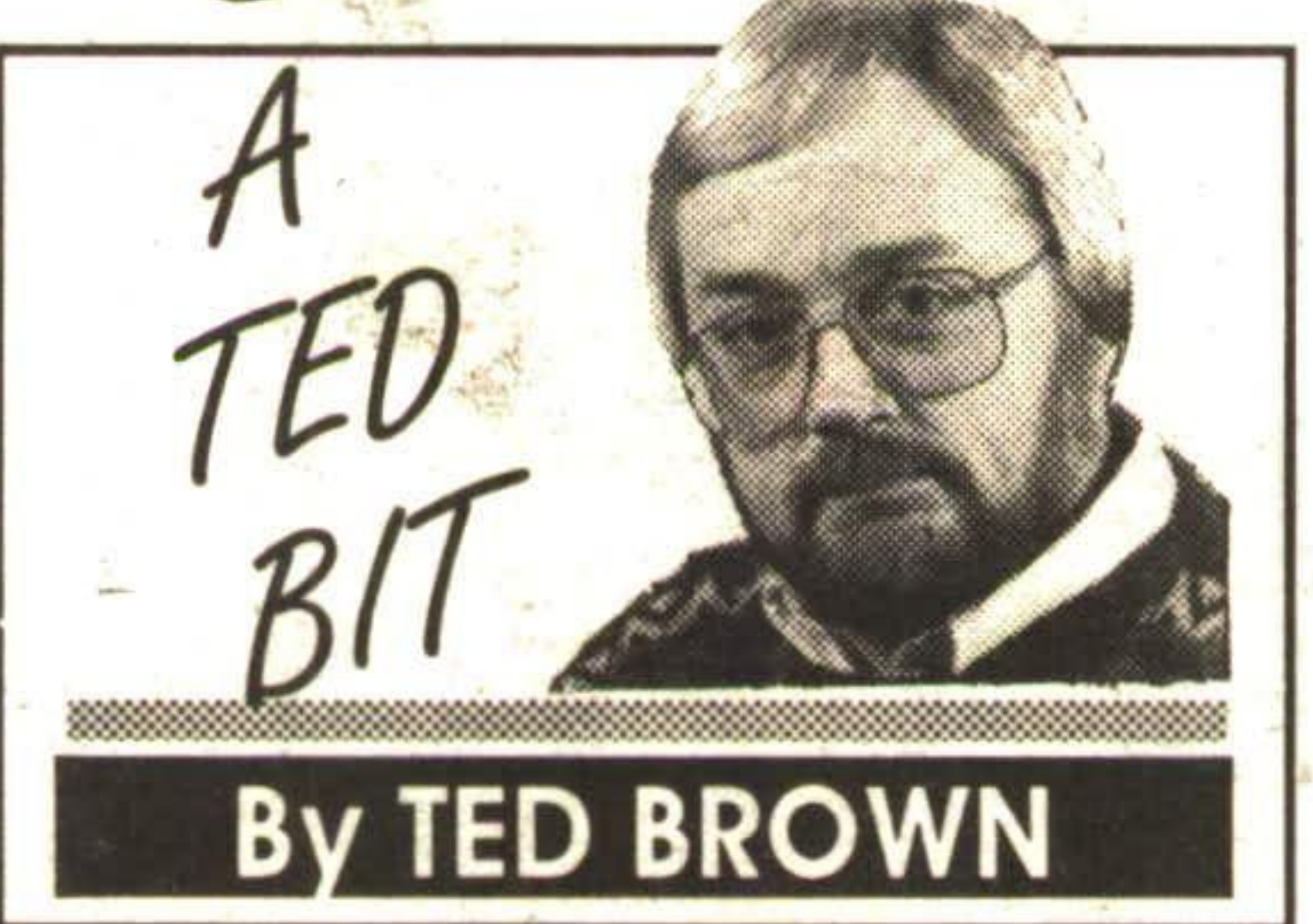
"I'll drive the kids to school," I said to my wife, who was smiling at that point; she didn't have to go to work until the afternoon.

So loaded with my three older kids (the youngest hitched a ride with a friend) I ventured out to deliver the three of them to two different schools.

The trip to those schools was uneventful, with the occasional stretch of icy road interspersed between the good roads.

And for the most part, road conditions really weren't that bad.

But some of the drivers were. On the road I was reminded of my annual observation how the capacity of some drivers' brains is



By TED BROWN

directly reduced in an inverse proportion to the amount of snow on the ground.

I know there are lots of idiots behind their wheels out there, but do they all have to come out when it snows?

As I made my way to work, cars were seemingly abandoned in the middle of perfectly clear streets while others were resting over the edge of a ditch; a reminder that Ol' Man Winter usually wins when one mixes excessive speed and icy roads. But why don't these people learn?

It isn't that difficult to drive in

winter, simply slow down and forget about being late. Or leave a little earlier, if necessary.

Being a few minutes tardy for work beats the heck out of being several hours late as a result of ditching the car, or worse still, being involved in a fender bender.

It just isn't worth the hassle. Nor is it worth getting upset with other drivers.

As I pulled up to a side street on my way, a very young driver sat behind me, anxious to jump into the flow of traffic.

He indicated this to me by blowing his horn as I waited for the traffic to clear.

And after I merged into the traffic, he cut off an oncoming vehicle, and ended up sitting beside me at the next stop lights.

He then offered me a one finger salute.

I smiled back, thinking unprintable thoughts, but reminded myself of the virtues of maintaining patience.

But that's the whole problem. We live in such a busy and sometimes chaotic world, common sense and good judgment are relegated to the back burner as the we try to maintain unrealistic schedules.

And driving in the same manner in winter as on the dry roads of summer is one of those instances when reality can certainly rear its ugly head and strike.

Anyway, winter is here. Oh sure, this bout of snow will probably be long gone before this column sees any ink, but the bad weather is now here to stay, even if we do have the occasional sunny day thrown in. And we must be prepared to get into that correct state of mind. When it's snowy, slow down.

Yes Ol' Man Winter has certainly arrived but I'm sure no one will mind if we get into winter driving mode, and slow down.

Except perhaps the local auto body shops and tow truck drivers who might miss out on a little extra business when we do.