

EDITORIAL

The question is...

"Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached on August 28, 1992?"

It is kind of vague and according to people like Lorne Bozinoff of Gallup Canada it's biased toward a "yes" vote.

But in a confusing time why would we expect a clear question.

Anyone who has tried to follow the Constitutional debate that has been going on for...well it seems like forever...may be able to tell you just what the August 28 agreement was.

For the rest of us, the long drawn-out process that leads us to the October 28 referendum has -- at best -- been confusing.

After the question was revealed in the House of Commons earlier this week, the government, indeed all three of the "mainstream" parties, began an election campaign-style selling job of the unity deal.

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner said in his weekly column that he will "work very hard to ensure as many people as possible understand" what the deal is all about.

And while we appreciate and applaud his efforts we urge everyone find out just what the deal is all about -- cutting through the the political rhetoric and inevitable "soapboxing" that all parties involved will employ.

It is also important that people not let the referendum become personal.

We don't mean that people should not take the issue to heart, but it is vital that if someone says they are going to vote "no" they are labeled unpatriotic or anti-Canada.

Conversely, a "yes" vote should not be seen as letting Quebec decide what is right for the whole country.

It is important that we put the Constitutional issue behind us and answer what could be the most difficult question in Canadian history.

But, before you answer the question make sure you have all the information you need to make an informed decision.

Government destruction

The following letter was sent to Ontario Premier Bob Rae. A copy was filed with Halton Hills This Week for publication.

Dear Mr. Rae,

I am writing this as an independent small business owner who is deeply concerned over the proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

During a recent public forum held in Halton Hills we attempted to convince your representative -- Mr. Brad Ward, M.P.P. Brantford -- and Mr. Ken Signoretto of the O.F.L. of the devastating effect these amendments would have on small business.

The main thrust of their argument seemed to be that companies such as Ford, GM, etc. would not be adversely affected by the changes. We wholeheartedly agree -- they are more than well prepared for this but companies such as mine are not, nor can we be. We simply do not have the resources to comply with some of the aspects of this proposal.

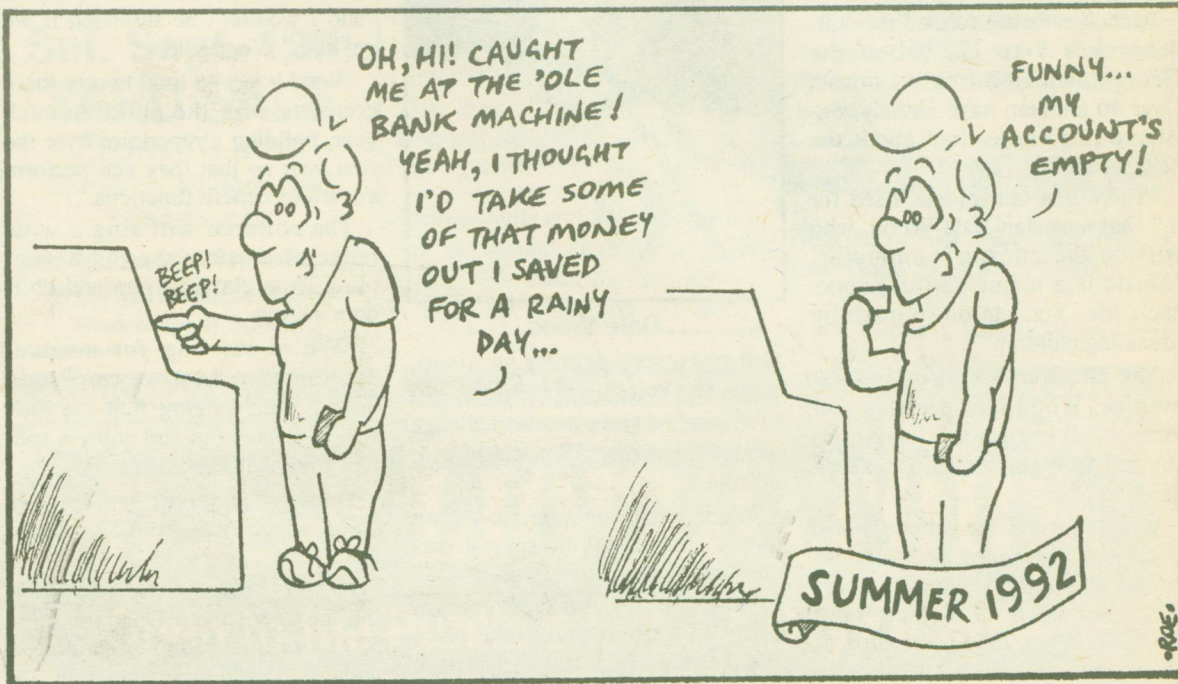
It is a well known fact that small business creates jobs in Canada yet your Government seems to be "hell

bent" to destroy that and I have to wonder why. Surely in this time of economic hardship you should be attempting to build consumer and business confidence.

I can tell you that as a small business owner your proposals have exactly the opposite effect on me -- I see no incentive to continue to build my business when you are determined to force labour law legislation on me. In effect you are turning control of my business over to the employees and that leads to a no growth situation. That brings us back to where we started i.e. no job creation, therefore no work, therefore no spending. It's not difficult to understand.

Mr. Rae, you seem to feel that you have a debt to repay to the labour unions, and you may well have, but I submit that you have a much bigger debt to all of the people of Ontario. So for their sake if not your own, stop the process before it's too late.

Yours very truly,
John A. Duncan
President
D.D.H. Distribution Services Ltd



Comedy of errors is no laughing matter

By Dianne Cornish

Last Monday, a pair of new homeowners took me on a tour of their new homes--townhouse condominiums located in the Kingsmill of the Credit subdivision in Georgetown.

It was a real eye-opener. I still cannot quite believe that any two newly-constructed units could be so full of building defects.

But the pair are not alone in their misery or frustration in trying to get some action from Law Development, the company responsible for the Maple Avenue complex, which looks attractive from a distance but has become a home buyers' nightmare for many of the townhouse condo occupants.

One of the men became so irate that he formed a homeowners' action group, which is demanding that the developer clean up its act, or else face the consequences.

The consequences include more media and political pressure on the North York development company until it does something about homeowners' complaints--and SOON.

The owner -- who is now facing a law suit from the developer because of his actions -- wants Halton Hills Municipal Council, the level of government that remains closest to the people, to come on side and protect homeowners' rights.

Building defects and construction site irregularities have been brought to Mayor Russ Miller's

attention and the owner fully expects action. If any of us were in his shoes, I think we would expect the same.

Since Halton Hills This Week published a story about the subdivision last weekend, at least eight people have called the office to complain further about the development.

Several of the calls were from people in Phase 1 of the development, those who have lived there for seven months or more. (The pair who took me on the tour on Monday live in Phase 2 and have lived there about two months).

Here's just one example of a frustrated Phase 1 homeowner. Darlene Fitzner called to say that members of the newly formed group "are not alone".

About two months ago, she turned on the gas fireplace in her new townhouse unit.

"After 20 minutes, the bricks fell off," she said.

Mrs. Fitzner said a construction worker came by to fix the fireplace

but it remains only partially fixed.

Other homeowners called to relate similar stories. Many said they called Law Development but there was no action. Others have written to the company. Same result.

Maybe, town council can help. Maybe, the town can impress upon Law Development that it's to their best advantage to be responsive to homeowners' needs.

Georgetown needs development, but not at any price. In the view of many homeowners at Kingsmill on the Credit, the price (and we're not talking in monetary terms) is simply too high.

Ed. Note:

At press time on Thursday one of the homeowners called and said that Law Developments were threatening to take him to court over his actions.

The development firm has also refused to close the sale of the townhouse with the man.

Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors

or as a result of space limitations.

Send your letter to:
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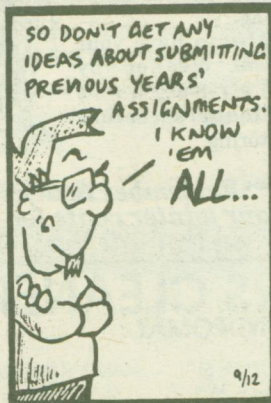
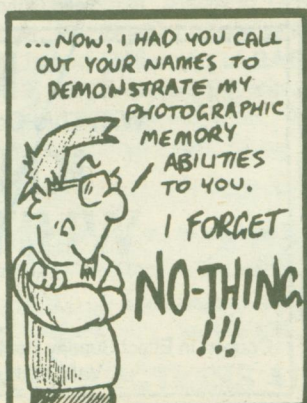
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For Pete's Sake



by Roe