

EDITORIAL

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The Christmas hangover

Hands up those of you who ate too much, drank too much and made too much merriment out of this Christmas break.

The only problem with this whole Christmas routine -- other than the January bills -- is that bloated over full feeling you also seem to get after dinner December 25.

The other problem with this time of year is the three weeks of turkey sandwiches we have to eat for lunch.

While it is easy for some of us to complain about the Christmas hangover, it is important to remember that lots of people are not as lucky as those of us suffering from the turkey tremors.

For those struggling through the holidays we can offer hope and support through agencies like the United Way, Love in Christ Foodbank and the Halton hills Distress Centre.

Remember also that police, fire and ambulance officers along with hospital, hydro, and town workers -- as well as hundreds of others, some volunteers -- are forced to take time away from their families over "the holidays" to keep our community safe and functioning.

The upcoming week must be the least productive in North America as many businesses close and those that are open are in a kind of stasis as employees look forward to next week.

As people look forward to the New Year's weekend we urge you to take time out and think about the less fortunate around us.

We also ask that you think about those that are working over the weekend.

Enjoy your upcoming celebrations. Please don't drink and drive.

What cost to change the NEC?

Dear Editor,

On December 16, Regional Council heard the arguments both for and against the proposal of the Niagara Landowners Coalition to turn over the planning aspects of the NEC to the Regional Planning Department. Council voted to defer a decision to Feb. 24, 1993 until additional information is available.

Those that are opposed to this proposal were certainly pleased that four of our five councillors, namely Mayor Miller and Councillors Bonnette, Robson and Serjeantson, supported the deferral. In the meanwhile, perhaps councillor Johnston can check with her Ward Three citizens to seek their preferences.

To take on this work of the NEC, according to Regional Report #PD-88-92, it will cost the Region an additional \$140,000 (1989 dollars) per year. The Council of Halton Hills has not addressed this issue, but the Town of Milton has esti-

mated it will cost them "at least two full-time staff people." What will be the actual costs if this is implemented?

The premise of NELC and their supporters is that the provincial government will be willing to transfer costs now born by the NEC to regional and local governments. With the large deficits now being incurred by the province, it is very unlikely that the current NDP government will be willing to transfer additional revenues to the Region. Before February 24 several questions need to be answered.

How much is the province willing to fund? How much will this cost the taxpayers of Halton Hills? What budget items will be reduced or eliminated to fund this proposal? Who will benefit from this proposal?

Yours truly,
Fraser Robin

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:

The Editor
Halton Hills This Week
232 Guelph St., Unit 9
Georgetown, ON
L7G 4B1

Starting the hard way



When Kathy Toth's car refused to start this heavy hitting group of fellow HHTW employees came to the rescue. Here (from left) Kathleen Topolsek, Craig Teeter, Rod Beaumont and Marie Shadbolt perform the "bump-start-shuffle". The car has since been fixed leaving the group looking for a new form of exercise.

Appalled by IWA selection

The following letter was sent to Ontario's Minister of the Environment Ruth Grier. A copy was filed with Halton Hills This Week for publication.

Dear Ruth Grier,

I have just read EA Document III published by the I.W.A. and I am appalled to see that sites B15b, B22d and B21c have been selected for the short list of candidate sites for Peel Region.

It is your duty as Minister of the Environment to protect the environment. All of the above sites are located on the Credit River water shed; to the west and east of these sites are areas which are recognized as environmentally sensitive areas. Previous landfill explorations in 1984 and 1986 clearly highlight the unsuitability of these areas due to geological and hydrogeological problems; why then do they appear on the I.W.A. short list?

If the I.W.A. is being driven by political forces and not the need for the least environmentally damaging site as possible, the blame rests with you. You say we cannot send garbage to Kirkland Lake. You say we must live with the garbage we produce. You say we cannot incinerate.

I do not think a person living in the Greater Toronto area is taking responsibility for their garbage

when it is being buried on agricultural land conveniently out of their sight. In fact, sites B15b, B22d and B21c will have a greater detrimental impact on the lives of Halton Region residents than those of Peel Region whose landfill it is. Who is going to provide the local Halton residents with fresh water when their wells become contaminated? What about the impact of 600 heavy trucks hauling waste through agricultural area? Do you think this is environmentally sound? I think not. Your whole policy and that of the I.W.A. is badly flawed.

Seniors need something

Dear Editor,

Here we go around again. The seniors here in Georgetown are still waiting for a recreation centre, a drop-in centre. We really know we are not going to get a brand new building for we old people. Always the mention of a temporary building comes up - there was a look at the one-time Biway used building, that fell through and it is now Young's Pharmacy.

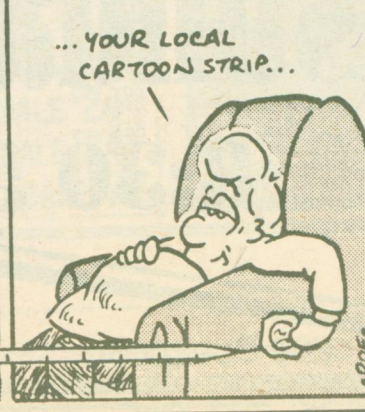
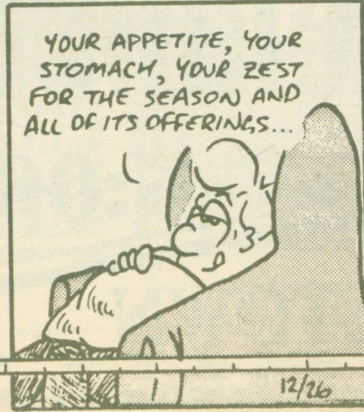
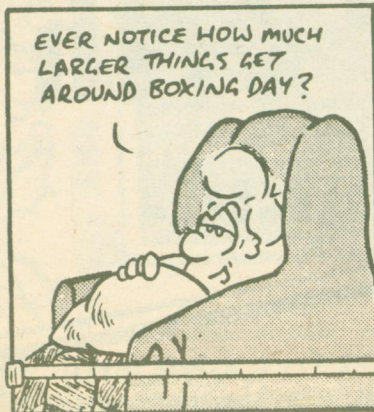
But I am wondering if Georgetown has any possible buildings at all that could be used. Does anyone know of a possible building? If there is no such think as a possible seniors' building why all

I realize that the garbage we produce must go somewhere but when we are blessed with such a large province of which only a small strip is populated, why must you destroy people's lives and those of future generations by contaminating large areas of agricultural land? In twenty years three more sites of similar size will be required, under this process I can expect to see this take place three times over in my lifetime.

Clearly this is not acceptable and must be stopped now.

Yours truly,
Belinda Froggett

For Pete's Sake



by Roe

this talk of a temporary building? We do have to face facts, don't we?

Way back I mentioned the one time town sports building on James Street, far too small came the answer. I have not been inside but from the outside it's small but it is a building that seniors could meet in. Removing all wall partitions, etc, a whole empty building would have a small kitchen, sink, stove, fridge, and of course a toilet. The rest of the building could have a few card tables, couches along the walls, a place to sit and talk and to play a game of cards, or Bingo if wanted. There would be no need for a lot of room for this, we could hold the cards on our laps and use marker pens. There'd just be a stand for the number machine. No doubt each day it would get overcrowded. If it did we could arrange an A to Z type arrangement.

Maybe we'd get inside twice a week, it is still better than nothing. I'm sure local store would come across with donations of floor coverings, a dart board, kitchen needs, etc. Some of us could bring in some cushions to dress the place up, maybe local carpenters could make it liveable.

Any idea from council? Please.
Sincerely,
Kathleen (Molly) Crowhurst