

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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Editorial

We're not helping things

That all of us in Halton Hills are suffering one sort of economic hardship or another in this particular blip of historic time is a given.

One can blame the feds and be partially right. In fact, a university study showed that the recession in Canada began a full year in advance of the world economic downturn; hustled along by the Mulroney economic geniuses.

One can blame the provos for tripping the light fantastic with Ontario's budget during the consummation of their wedding to provincial power - which eventually turned into a pratfall only Wayne and Schuster in one of their more imaginative skits could have envisioned.

One can blame regional and municipal governments for attempting to horde the paltry pile of coin of the realm left in their cob-webbed cupboards, for cutting back on services deemed so necessary by our mostly very much washed hordes.

But where does that leave us? And how much are the people in Halton Hills really doing to ease the economic strain in their own community.

Not too damn much, this writer suggests.

I spent some time last week informally canvassing acquaintances, strangers, business people and others in both Georgetown and Acton about our local economic situation and to be blunt, I wasn't very impressed.

People still want to cut away south of the border down Buffalo way looking for bargains.

If they can't make it to Buffalo, they head to Bramalea or Brampton or even Toronto to buy things. All the while bitching about how tough things are in Halton Hills.

Money must circulate in small to medium sized communities for them to survive. Local jobs - or local residence - should mean money spent locally, leading to the surviving of small industries and businesses, which in turn, through their tax load, ease the tax burden on the individual rate payers.

Buying locally also creates jobs and the incentive for small industry and businesses to locate in that particular area. This allows those people - not in a derogatory sense - who might not happen to have the aptitude for skilled jobs to remain in the community they call home.

Bitching and complaining normally doesn't cost anything. We all do it, it's one of the cheapest forms of entertainment extant. But when it's done while packing the car with the family for an out-of-town shopping foray, that's a different story.

Our local merchants and business people are also partially to blame for our particular problem; one I'll discuss in our Saturday edition.

Colin Gibson.

Rae a partisan politician

To the Editor:

Yet once again Premier Bob Rae demonstrates that he is purely a partisan politician who is apparently incapable of representing the interests of Ontario and her citizens in the manner of a true statesman.

As the only premier not participating in the federal-provincial meeting in Vancouver, he has isolated

himself and demonstrated a disinterest in helping to manage either global or national economic problems. Socialism does not work and our current provincial government demonstrates this on a daily basis much more clearly than any capitalist possibly could!

Glen Duff
Rockwood

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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The People's Corner

Incineration will solve garbage problem

To the Editor:

I enclose a copy of a letter sent to the general manager of the Interim waste Authority. I have not

received a reply: I didn't think they would want to argue with someone who knows something about the subject.

Justice denied

To the Editor:

Many words have been written about the Karla Homolka case and doubtless many more will follow. Whilst the strictest letter of the law as it is written is of prime importance, I feel that the people's perception of the law is equally important.

This seems to be the point that has been missed by the presiding judge in this issue. He apparently made the observation that Canadians as a whole do not understand the law, and in this view he may be right. However, this, I feel, is the crux of the issue. If in fact we do not understand the law, then the interpretation, or the perception of the law, becomes even more important. The very fact that a crime of this magnitude, a crime so heinous, so despicable, can be bargained with for the sake of information is beyond our comprehension.

We can only surmise what the last 13 days in the life of Kristin and the last moments in the life of Leslie could have been like. There could have been no bargaining here. What terror they must have felt. But now the fact that Karla,

who stands accused at the very least as an accomplice, has the opportunity to bargain for her rights, is beyond the understanding of most of us. We need to know that justice has been done, but in making this ruling we feel the judge has denied us that right and taken from us the ability to form our own opinions.

It is my own humble opinion that when someone commits a crime of this magnitude, they must relinquish their rights, as indeed they robbed the victim of his or her rights, and must suffer the consequences of their actions without the benefit of any bargaining tools or other devices to lessen the impact of their actions upon themselves.

Most of us have felt deeply the agony and pain that went with this case. Our reasons are not maudlin or mere fascination, but rather the shared feelings of parents, brothers or friends and the need to protect our children from this most vile of occurrences, the culmination of our very worst fears, and for this reason we need to know the facts.

John Tatham
Georgetown

Reducing garbage a priority

To the Editor:

In response to an article by Dianne Van De Valk, director I.C.E. (Incineration Counteracts the Environment) published in the Halton Hills Weekend, dated June 27.

I think everyone agrees (including Mr. MacDuffee) that reducing the amount of garbage is a number one priority, but the fact remains that in today's society there is still an awful lot of garbage to be disposed of. How does Ms. Dianne Van De Valk propose to dispose of this? Eat it!

My understanding of fly ash when properly handled is that it is not a very toxic substance; it can be used in making concrete, thus reducing the amount of other aggregates required.

I suggest that people who are just against something serve no useful purpose in a community; it is the people who come up with a practical, economic better way to

solve problems that are an asset to our country and we all would welcome those types of suggestions.

The new federal cabinet has now been formed, with Gilles Loisele in charge of finance, Jean Charest as deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Industry conglomerate from Quebec and Bernard Valcourt in charge of the resources department which handles worker retraining and has the largest budget of any government agency; just watch the pork barrel roll in Quebec.

Nothing has changed but the names of the players. The Liberals and Conservatives will go across the country before the election, telling people what they think the people want to hear, but you can be sure the Quebec shipyard workers (and other similar situations) will be well looked after.

Mr. Rod Pinkney
Georgetown

My thesis is that properly engineered incineration equipment is operating successfully elsewhere, with the minimum adverse effect on the surroundings. "Concerned citizens groups" who oppose it at every twist and turn with junk science should be ignored and the job given to engineers.

By cynically turning the discussion into WHERE the DUMP should be, the politicians have diverted attention from the consideration of the correct way of doing things, and have succeeded in polarizing whole sections of the community against each other. Nobody is coming out of this smelling of roses, and I shudder to think what our descendants will say, as they try to grow crops on top of our garbage.

To Erv Macyntyre,
General Manager

Interim Waste Authority
I am a professional engineer, and am writing because I am not satisfied that certain aspects of your waste management policy have received proper engineering consideration. Will you please respond to each of my numbered points:

1.) There seems to be a widespread belief that, once buried, garbage will decompose and be re-absorbed into the earth's crust after sufficient time has elapsed. This is not the case. Test excavations done in the U.S. on landfill sites 50 years old reveal that no change has taken place. The newspapers could still be read, and the hot dogs, steaks, etc. were unchanged (although I would not like to eat them). The reason is that no oxygen can get to the garbage, therefore there is no oxidation and consequently, no decomposition. In other words, the stuff is there FOREVER! What a legacy to leave our descendants. Anyone not frightened by this thought must be totally stupid.

2.) I have spoken to farmers who have lived in this area for generations, long before garbage collections was invented, and they never had any problems. Anything they did not eat or use on the farm was burned. I can remember my childhood, when milk was brought round by the milkman and poured from a large churn into our jug. Mother had her own shopping basket, and any leftovers were burned. Nowadays, people generate

mountains of garbage as if there were no tomorrow, and then moan to the government to do something about it. The only sensible solution is to stop generating such huge amounts of garbage in the first place, and then the irreducible minimum should be incinerated.

3.) When I speak of incineration, I am speaking of up-to-date co-generation plants using garbage as fuel, and generating power and useful heat. At least 300 such plants are in operation at present. Any rational discussion along these lines has been blocked by closed-minded government officials under the influence of poor advice and so-called "concerned citizen's groups" led by ignorant lawyers purveying what has been termed "junk science in the courtroom".

The main objection appears to be the fear that deadly chemicals will be released into atmosphere by such plants. This is not so, when designed equipment is used. The facts are as follows:

The earth's atmosphere contains traces of almost all the chemicals known to man. If anyone want to say "there is so-and-so in the atmosphere we are testing," no competent engineer with experience in this area would are to contradict because he knows that if you spend enough money, you can find anything in the earth's atmosphere. The vital questions, of course, are "how much?" and "is this bad?" The technology of incineration is well known. Equipment is available. It is not necessary to send a deputation of our leaders on a tax payer-subsidized jaunt" to see how they do it in Denmark" (which happens to be one of the leaders in this field).

4.) I understand that the province of Ontario has a unique opportunity for an interim solution while such co-generation equipment is being set up. I refer to the abandoned mine workings at Kirkland Lake. The facts seem to be that the residents have no objections, and there is no technical reason why this interim solution could not be adopted. If there is, I would like to be informed. If not, then I can only say that the government's refusal to consider the proposal is irresponsible.

John C. Tysoe, P.Eng
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