

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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Canadian technology absent

As Halton Hills This Week reporter Oksana Buhel points out in her story (OMB pausing to sort through material) there seems to be at least a hint of optimism circulating concerning allowing a certain amount of housing development to get underway in Acton in the very near future.

Benson Leung, manager of special studies and research for Halton Region, is cautiously optimistic some sort of arrangement - satisfactory to all parties (the town, region, Acton East developers, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Ministry of Energy and the Environment (MOEE), and Credit Valley Conservation Area (CVCA) will come out of a meeting scheduled for Aug. 10

At the heart of the Acton development issue, as we are all well aware, is effluent seepage into Black Creek and the tapping into the Fairy Lake well to meet development demands.

Leung feels both matters can be satisfactorily addressed, and fears alleviated at the scheduled meeting, allowing at least some development ground to be broken.

Our sister Halton region community, Milton, is facing the same sort of problems and senior consultant Ray Simpson has informed town council that an optimistic view regarding the construction of additional housing units might best be to look at the end of the decade.

The reason for the delay? Concerns about sufficient water to service proposed development and questions concerning sewage disposal systems.

Under the ongoing Halton Urban Structure Review (HUSR) Milton was looking to expand in population by 40,000 over the next two decades. It's doubtful now that this will occur.

Government environmental bodies are insisting that Milton's Sixteen Mile Creek is not capable of handling anymore treated sewage.

Suggestions tossed about include twinning with Peel region's water system; constructing a pipeline to Oakville, which would eventually see the sewage being dumped into Lake Ontario anyway and in regards the water shortage issue, constructing another pipeline to divert water from Georgian Bay.

A rough estimate is that these schemes will cost approximately \$100 million. In these governmental tight-fisted times, pardon us for suggesting that these alternatives are best viewed as mere pipe dreams.

One factor missing from both scenarios - and carefully avoided, it seems, by those involved - is innovative Canadian technology directed to the preservation, protection and better use of our water system.

Other countries, not blessed with the water resources we have in Canada are surviving, in some instances thriving, because the issue was recognized and addressed by farsighted governments - unlike our own navel-gazing provincial and federal governments.

More on this over the next few weeks.

Who's kidding who?

What a man! What a guy! Or, to borrow from Bugs Bunny, "What a maroon!"

We're referring of course to Ontario Premier Bob Rae's munificent gesture in cutting MPPs salaries by 5.5 per cent.

It wasn't trumpeted, however, that the wage cut is only retroactive to June 14 - representing an actual cut of only 4.3 per cent for 1993.

Our tax hikes were retroactive to Jan. 1, 1993! Do we have a communication problem here?

Not mentioned either, was the fact that MPPs perqs remain intact.

These include, \$27-a-day meal money when traveling on government business; 52 round-trip fares home each year and the right to fly relatives to Queen's Park - including brothers, sisters and grandparents, 12 times a year. Out-of-town MPPs will still get an extra \$14,654 for Toronto rent and get their money back for such things as hydro, telephone, cable, cleaning, furniture rental, parking and insurance on the rental units.

All together now, let's all sing the MPPs anthem; "Oh Lord it's hard to be humble, when you're perfect in every way....."

Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

We should band together to make changes

To the Editor:

After I read your editorial in the weekend paper, I was compelled to respond.

I, too, was deeply upset by the death of Harmony Bull. Though I do not know Mr. Bull personally, I experienced deep compassion for this man.

While our justice system leaves much to be desired, there will never be enough laws and regulations in place to circumvent all tragedies. I too, felt angry, especially towards Scott Boyes, the perpetrator of these tragic circumstances.

You have chosen to vent your anger at Garth Turner and politicians in general. I wonder what you, personally, have done to change our justice system? Have you ever voiced your concerns to Garth or others in power?

Let's not be so quick to condemn our elected officials for every wrong, but let's band together to let them know what changes we would like to see.

Perhaps it would have been more appropriate to point the

Double-dipping should stop

To the Editor:

The NDP have decided that since they are making such a mess of Ontario that their MP's should have a pay cut. That seems a little bit in line with the real world - perform poorly, earn less.

While this is a good step, there is much more that needs attention.

An example would be where someone gets a government pension, and then gets another government job, either by appointment or election. No one should be allowed to double dip from the taxpayers. Immediately on election, or appointment, the pension/income should be paid (if applicable) at the end of the appointment/elected job.

Pensions are a big rip-off. They should be in line with private enterprise.

The idea of getting more money for sitting on some commissions is nuts - this is part of the job, and should be considered as such.

Expense accounts should be reviewed and slashed.

The idea of paying severance pay to someone like former Ontario Liberal leader David Peterson is disgusting. When you run for election you know the risks, that you may not get re-elected. He deserved to be defeated, but no one deserved the NDP.

John Shadbolt.,
Ontario Libertarian
Party Leader,
Acton

finger at our judges, lawyers and parole board who are more directly responsible for our justice system.

Mrs. Cathy Kruiyse,

Georgetown

Editor's Note: Scott Boyes was sentenced by a federal government appointed judge. He is incarcerated in a federal

prison. He answers to officials of a federally appointed parole board. If our federal politicians can't change the system, who can?

CMHA issues new pamphlets

The Canadian Mental Health Associations' National office has unveiled its new pamphlets for the 18 million Canadians who want more information about mental health issues and mental illness. These pamphlets were made possible by The Trillium Foundation.

"Pamphlets are often the first step people take when seeking help for themselves. CMHA makes every effort to stay current on issues and provide useful information to people facing difficult challenges," says Peggy Grall, Halton Region

Community Resource Development Program Director.

The 24 pamphlets replace all previous brochures produced by the Canadian Mental Health Association's Halton office and include topics such as how to get help when you need it, the myths of mental illness, depression and manic depression, schizophrenia, you and your aging parents, separation and divorce, grief after suicide, childhood depression, preventing suicide, attention deficit disorders and the stress of

parenting. Canadians are experiencing high levels of negative emotions which they categorize as stress and depression. The Canadian Mental Health Association wants to help the 47 per cent of Canadians who say they feel "really stressed" a few times per week or all the time and the 32 per cent of people who feel "really depressed". The new pamphlets can serve as a sound "first step" toward better mental health.

Anyone wanting to obtain these pamphlets can contact Kenzie Hunt at 681-6776.

Taxed to the absolute limit

Editor's Note: The following letter was published in our sister paper, the Oakville Journal, but is apropos to all Ontarians.

To the Editor:

Ontario taxpayers are finally working for themselves.

July 20 was Tax Freedom Day and according to calculations by the Fraser Institute, this was the day by which the average Ontarian had earned enough to cover the year's tax bill.

National Tax Freedom Day was observed on June 16, but that doesn't account for the federal and provincial deficits. Once all the red ink is factored in, Tax Freedom Day for Ontario got pushed back to July 20.

Thanks to the \$2 billion in new taxes and \$10 billion in new debt we were hit with in the NDP's spring budget, it takes us until the dog days of summer to get our tax bill paid off. This has got to stop.

The Rae government has got to get its spending under control so the deficit can be dealt with and relief can be given to Ontario's beleaguered taxpayers.

The government has got to understand that every dollar it taxes away from people is a dollar that won't be spent on the goods and services that power the economy and keep people working.

We are taxed to the absolute limit. It's time the NDP got the message. Last year's Tax Freedom Day was originally projected to fall on July 12, but the bigger than forecast deficit pushed the real date back to July 26. Given the NDP's poor track record on budgetary projections, Tax Freedom Day 1993 could prove to be even later than July 20, once the final figures are in.

The average Ontario family spent the first 200 days of 1993 working to pay for the cost of all levels of government.

As of July 20, we are now finally able to enjoy the fruits of our own labor.

The government, through its insatiable tax appetite for new taxes, is discouraging job creation and encouraging a mushrooming underground economy.

Gary Carr
MPP Oakville South



Whew! We're finally over the hump.