

# Opinion

**Halton Hills THIS WEEK**

Halton Hills This Week, Wednesday edition is published every Wednesday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville at Q.E. Web Printing. Halton Hills This Week claims copyright on all original editorial and advertising material created by its employees and reproduced by this newspaper. Such material may only be reproduced on written consent of the publisher. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

**PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy** **EDITOR: Colin Gibson**  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolsek** **CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt**  
**OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell**

**HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.**

PHONE: 873-2254

FAX: 873-3918

## It's good news week

The telephone keeps ringing and people ask! "Can't you write something good about our town...province...country?" Of course I can. Why just the other day I ran into a politician.....he survived.

More good news!

Canadian businessmen attending the Couchiching conference in Orillia - a purported deep-think tank gathering - woke up long enough to issue this dictum (Or words to that effect). "Prospective employees should be forced to take literacy and math tests to prove they know how to spell their names when endorsing their pay cheques and can calculate how much tax is being swiped by various levels of governments when attempting to cash same."

Now this should make parents hearts glow.

You just have to prove that little Joey and little Suzie are functionally illiterate (which shouldn't be too tough considering the present education standards) to keep them around the parental nest until they are old enough to collect their Canada pension, at which time a block party will be held and false teeth auctioned off.

Here's a real nifty piece of good news!

Further to my offering in this space last Saturday, Halton Hills won't have to worry about what to do with any grubby provincial grant money that might have been coming our way - at least for the time being. Why? you ask! Because nobody in administration took the time to fill out the required forms. So time consuming, you know.

I railed about the \$263,835 in grant money the Town of Milton received from the provincial ministry of Economic Development and Trade - the second such grant, I found out, in as many years - and wondered why Halton Hills, more specifically Acton, wasn't on the receiving end of such largesse.

The money, it turns out, is available (it comes from a provincial capital works fund which presently sports a hefty balance of close to \$6 billion) but the Town of Halton Hills hasn't bothered to apply. This information comes from Halton North MPP Noel Duignan.

"The money is there," said Duignan. "It would be nice if the Town of Halton Hills took the time to submit applications under the jobsOntario Community Action funding program which has been operating since April."

(The money had been available prior to April under a different program).

"The Town of Halton Hills is not as on top of things as, say Milton." continued Duignan. "Town of Milton officials cooperate a lot more with the government, they're really up on things."

Duignan did let slip that a provincial government official, Bill Kriesel, with the Culture, Tourism and Recreation ministry, will be arriving in town shortly, to show our local administrators how to fill out the appropriate forms.

Isn't it great to know we've been spared the anguish of having provincial money floating around Halton Hills.

One more piece of good news.

People with P.O.W.E.R. (Protect our Water and Environmental Resources) won't have to be attending all those time-consuming meetings concerning development in Acton. Things are being looked after and controlled development will be allowed.

I was able to obtain a copy of the letter provincial Environment Minister Bud Wildman wrote to Barbara Halsall, president of P.O.W.E.R., in reply to a letter from this local organization (a copy of which I also have obtained) about the status of development in Acton and how Black Creek would be affected.

I think the second last paragraph will suffice. The letter is dated July 28.

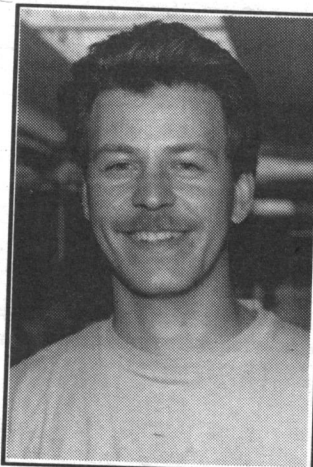
Mr. Wildman writes, "As you can see, neither water quality nor fish in Black Creek are in jeopardy at this time. Please be assured that the Ontario Government is committed to developing responsible and environmentally sound programs and that the long-term viability of our natural resources is a major consideration in this process."

Yes, it certainly is good news week.

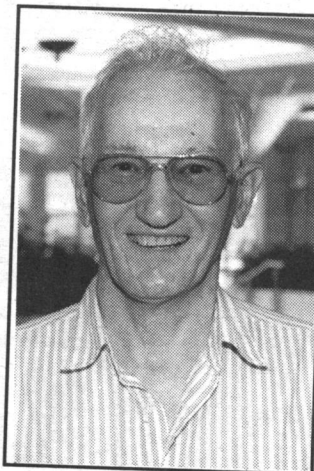
Colin Gibson

## The People's Corner

### What does the social contract mean to you?



**Daniel Colangelo, Georgetown:** "What does the social contract mean! Another definition for dictatorship!"



**Glen Merson, Georgetown:** "I am glad Bob Rae decided to reduce the deficit, but why didn't the government start this years ago?"



**Georgette MacDonnell, Georgetown:** "My husband won't be getting a raise for three years. The contract will also affect his pension."



**Donna Courneya, Georgetown:** "It's a good idea. Other sectors of society have been suffering for quite a while now, and I am glad the government has finally responded."

### By any other name, garbage always stinks

By Des Morrow

Garbage always stinks and the latest swift turns in this matter by region and local politicians, proves this old Esquias saying.

One of the pettiest and most wasteful cost-cutting moves was the region's decision to stop funding the local garbage transfer stations. This took away a traditional municipal service from rural residents. Namely, a nearby place to dump their trash. Local municipalities have always provided a place for rural and for that matter, urban residents, to dump their garbage. Rural residents realized that collection or pick up was out of the question because of the high expense in long collection routes. The taxes paid by rural and urban residents, however, always included the cost of a local dump. Rural residents got a small break in their taxes because there was no rural pick-up.

Somewhere, back in time, councils lost the control of local dumps and the region took over and created local transfer stations for the residents use. Now that the region has dropped the local transfer stations and local councils were able to blame region for this and thus do nothing about it, the local situation is a mess.

With the loss of local transfer stations there is an increase of garbage dumped along rural roads. Thousands of people are now using the Regional Dump. What did they think those people who couldn't, or wouldn't, pay the \$4 to \$5 a week charged for garbage dumping at the privately owned local transfer station were going to do, eat it?

So the situation is: Some, who simply have not the time, are paying for private

collection at

\$432 per year. Others are paying \$200 to \$250 per year and taking it to the private garbage transfer station. Another group is driving all the way to the Regional Dump at Highway 25. A few who do not care a damn about the community are dumping it in the ditches. The latter are just a cut worse than those who use our ditches for fast food and pop and beer can disposal.

The first two options are expensive. The waste of the third option, as individuals haul four or five bags of trash an average of 20 kilometers, one way, to get rid of their household trash is disgraceful. Gasoline use, wear and tear on the car, and personal time lost is stupid. Worst of all is the extra exhaust gases added to the atmosphere. Two thousand residents used the dump on a Saturday. That's at least a thousand man-hours wasted and 3,000 liters of gasoline a week. At \$10 per hour and \$.50 per liter of gas, that's \$575 per year and 150,000 liters of energy down the drain!

The transfer station for local people to use, both urban and rural, was and is, a sensible, economic and environmentally correct solution. A regional station is short-sighted, wasteful and a disgrace to regional politicians.

But that is not the end of this situation. The Regional Container Station is getting heavy public use. Obviously, the simple logistics of this happening has been missed by our Works Commissioner, Art Leitch, as he states "the station is attracting a lot more waste than anticipated". Where did he think the garbage not taken to the local transfer stations was going to

### Guest column

go? He suggests that a user fee at the Regional Container Stations is a possibility. He argues, according to the local press, that rural people do not pay a collection fee. That, Mr. Leitch, is correct, and that is why rural residents have always hauled or paid for their garbage to be hauled to the local dump. He leapfrogs from that premise to the idea that the urban resident subsidizes the rural resident. He states the urban resident pays for nothing more than collection of his garbage and rural and urban both pay through their taxes for what goes in the dump.

In fact, a look at the rural versus urban tax bill will support this position. In Halton Hills the urban resident pays on the average assessed property an extra \$165.02 for Crossing Guards, street lighting and refuse pickup and disposal (see taxpayer information, Town of Halton Hills). It details that \$127.80 of this charge is for garbage. This princely sum of \$127.80 per year does not convince me that my fellow urban resident is subsidizing

my refuse disposal. I wonder if he is even paying enough to cover his garbage costs. Considering that it costs the rural resident \$432 a year for refuse pickup-up and disposal, or \$200 to \$250 for disposal only at the local private transfer station, I doubt it.

Mr. Leitch, let's not hear any more of this nonsense about urban residents subsidizing rural residents. Let's not hear about a fee for dumping. Don't write that report you are contemplating. Local councils, let's see you providing a local transfer station for rural and urban residents to dump their refuse. Return to us that benefit we have had for years. Stop the present wasteful and environmentally harmful situation.

Alternatively, if the rural resident is forced to continue paying for local dumping, then they will have no recourse but to question the differential in taxes between urban and rural residents. It would seem to me that the differential will have to increase to about \$500. The situation seems remarkably simple: provide a local transfer station or reduce the rural residents' taxes.

### Get tough on fraud

To the Editor:

There was a letter to the Editor of the Globe & Mail, July 27, from a Willowdale family physician who complained to the N.D.P. government about a family of five visiting from Greece who used legal Ontario Health cards to pay for visits to cardiologists, one endocrinologist and had ensuing tests performed. The only penalty to these people was the invalidation of their health cards. No request for payment, no

deportation or refusal to enter Canada again until the cost of these and possibly other medical costs refunded.

With the Ontario government admitting the existence of one half to two million cards in existence outside Ontario, might it not be a better policy for the government to get tough on fraud, than to continue to cut back on services to Canadians?

Rod Pinkney  
Georgetown