

LETTERS

MVA — NOT fair to seniors

To the editor,
(Open letter to Mr. Peter Pomeroy, Chairperson Region of Halton.)

As you cast your deciding vote for the MVA, did you give any thought on how this would affect senior citizens of the Region? To the people who made this country, who worked, sacrificed and saved for the time of retirement. Most of these people invested their life savings in a property, to have a place to live on their own. I was one of these — in 1977 I purchased a place out in the country — North Halton — where I figured I could spend the rest of my life after retirement, surrounded by nature, away from the hassle of city life, in peace and tranquility, but the way it now looks, it was just a dream, which you and some of your fellow Regional Councillors shattered.

In 1978 my Property Tax was \$640.85. In 1992, 14 years later, it is \$2,555.17, this is an increase of 398.71 per cent. With your approved "fair" MVA, my 1993 ba-

sic tax will increase to \$3,185, (an additional increase of \$630) which makes it more than 497 per cent, not taking into account the possible increases from the Town of Halton Hills or the Region. Where do you think this money will come from?

I am a senior citizen, retired in 1986 and live on Canada Pension and Old Age Security plus a small (not indexed) company-pension from the firm I worked for 25 years. If I want to keep my home, I will have to cut back on food and necessities to be able to pay the "new and fair" MVA tax. I am sure there are many, many seniors who are in the same boat. Following is a small calculation to place emphasis on the situation.

- Nominal Canada Pension and Old Age Security (1987): \$11,326.52

- Nominal Canada Pension and Old Age Security (1991): \$11,626.17

- Pension Increase: 2.67%

- Property Tax Increase: 44.09%

Can you and your Councillors, in your infinite wisdom, tell me and all seniors how to solve this problem? I am not saying that you designed the MVA, but you did approve its implementation in Halton.

You claim that MVA is a "fair tax system" — I do not agree with this. Where else do you have to pay

more for any item or service because of the "maybe value" of your property. Do you pay more for a loaf of bread or a litre of milk because you drive a more expensive car than I do? Taxes should be based on service received, not on an assumed value. My property is situated on the Fifth Line, North of Highway 7, which is a gravel road, 90 per cent of the year full of potholes, with a few level stretches in between. I moved here in 1977 and nothing new has been done to date except the occasional grading of the road, which is usually done after a rainfall, which gives a sea of mud for several days. You cannot compare the value of a rural property with an urban one. The urban property has paved road, sidewalks, water, sewers, street-lights, garbage collection, shopping conveniences, public transportation, etc. We do not have any of these services! Property Tax, to be fair, should be based on service received. The MVA, if implemented, will be a complete rip-off because if you improve the value of your property, you are hit with higher taxes. Should I let my property run down to lower the MVA?

I would appreciate it if you could give me and all the seniors involved an honest answer. But please, no politically correct talk.

Sincerely,

Heinz O. Dorst, Limehouse

McKenzie-Smith SCHOOL NEWS



BY MATT SCHILLER, SHANNAN INGLIS & SHAWN BROWN

Recently the Grade 7's went to Crawford Lake and Hilton Falls. Half of the Grade 7's went to Crawford Lake and the other half went to Hilton Falls for the morning and then they switched. This trip was part of the Grade 7 Social Science program called the environment and native peoples unit. Some of the students were not ready for the walk for as they found out the 4 km walk to the falls was tiring.

At Crawford Lake we learned about the Iroquois Indians and how they survived in the Indian village there. The Grade 7's also made medallions and they picked their own clan. We not only had fun but we got a lot of exercise. All in all, it was a great day!

In October the students at McKenzie-Smith school did a one and a half kilometer run through the streets of Acton for Terry Fox. Students ran, jogged or walked. There was a good turn out and ribbons were awarded to the top six finishers of each race. Homebase 11 finished at the top. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

At McKenzie-Smith, Mr. Dorscht and Mrs. Gibson are starting up the Special Friends program again.

There are roughly 33 members in Special Friends. Closer to December they will be going to Robert Little or M.Z. Bennett schools, to help children do their school work, to be their friend and to be there for them. There will be a full update later.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR SCHOOL REPORTS!

M. Z. Bennett SCHOOL NEWS

BY LUCAS GREEN & STEPHANIE STANLEY

The Bennett Booster Club has just started this week. There are six teams from Grade 3, 4 and 5 students who earn points by playing games and doing other things. The Kindergartens are learning about the five senses: sight, sound, taste, touch and smell. In art Ms. Dunnett's class made pictures out of materials and wallpaper. Mrs. Spencer's class had fun making magic mud and they also learned how to draw cartoon characters.

Mr. Mashinter's and Mr.

Waitson's classes are learning how to play the Ukulele.

Mr. Waitson's class is learning about undersea stuff.

Mrs. Graham's class has made salt and flour dough Christmas decorations for the Acton Santa Claus parade.

Mrs. Argudin is letting Mrs. Graham's class come to listen to novels. We had pizza day on Nov. 17, and a PA Day on Friday, Nov. 20. The students from McKenzie-Smith have been doing job shadowing at our school. This lets students see what the job would be like first-hand.

M.Z. Bennett put their first float ever in the Santa Claus Parade.

Robert Little SCHOOL NEWS



BY ANNE-MARIE MCGERAGLE & MELISSA PAWLAK

One hundred and seventy-one Unicef boxes were taken out on Halloween night and returned by Robert Little students. In those boxes \$752.06 was collected. The boys and girls would like to thank the people whom put money in the boxes, Mrs. Tribe for her organizing skills and the many helpers who counted and rolled the coins.

We are glad that we could help children in other countries who are sick so they can have a better life.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, Paul Morin came to visit Mrs. McIntyre's Grade 5 class at Robert Little school. He is an artist who illustrates books. He is now working on a book for Disney about the

Savannah's. One of the books he has illustrated is an African legend from the Maasai tribe called The Orphan Boy. He did a really good job of illustrating. We studied this book with our student teacher from York University, Mrs. Beamish. Mr. Morin has travelled around the world to collect ideas for the paintings to put into the books. He has travelled to Africa and China to do research. His latest book is called The Dragon's Pearl.


Mr. Morin has now left for New Mexico to work on his next book on an ancient Mexican civilization.

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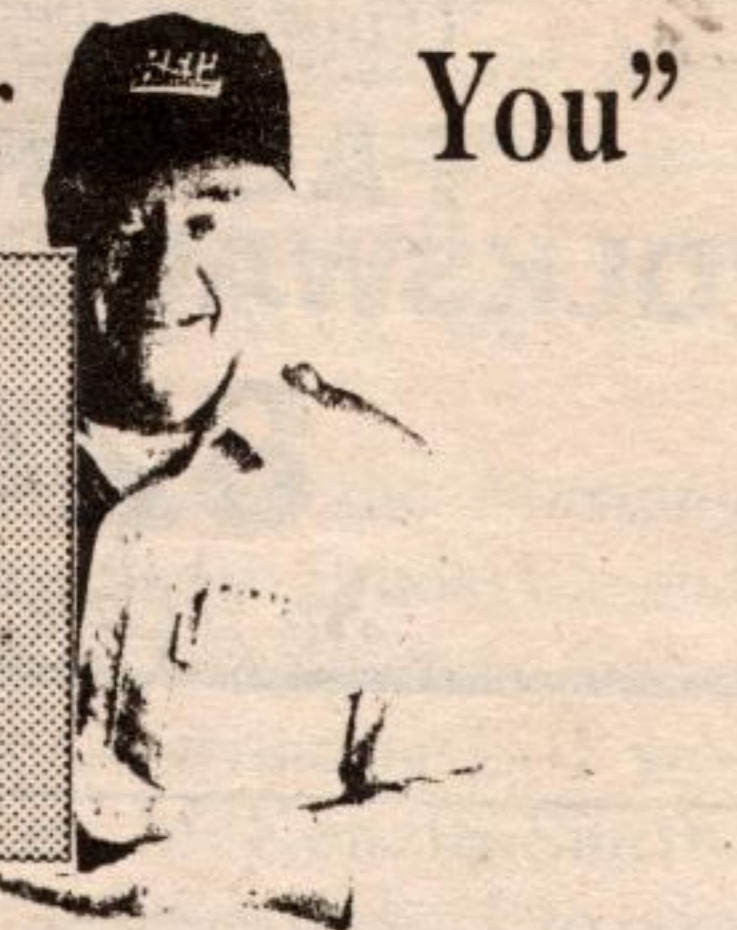


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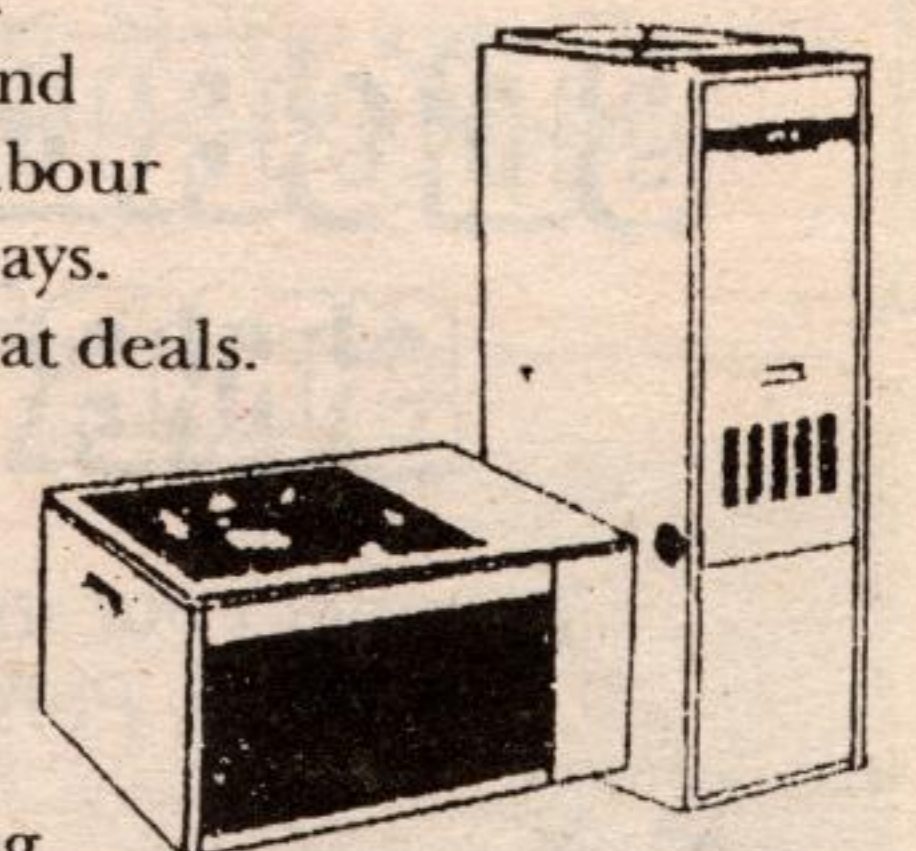
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