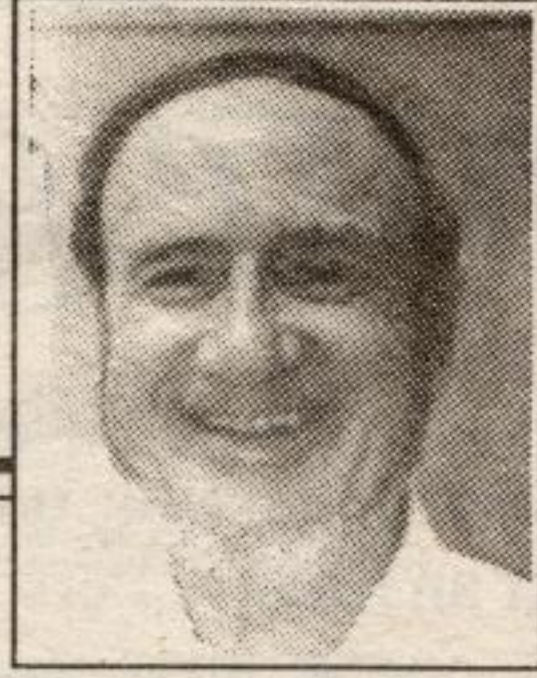


EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



Acton to join Wellington-Dufferin-Peel district?

A proposal for a revision of federal electoral boundaries, which would put Acton and district in the riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, certainly needs close scrutiny.

The move would take almost the entire northern half of the Town of Halton Hills (north of 15 Sideroad excluding Georgetown, west to the Town of Milton boundary and easterly to the Region of Peel) and join it with the mainly rural riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel. Currently, Halton Hills is entirely in the Halton-Peel riding.

A three person appointed commission, headed by chairperson Mr. Justice Donald R. Steele, is responsible for redrawing the federal electoral boundaries in Ontario so the population in each riding corresponds closely to the electoral population quotient of 97,912. This quotient is obtained by dividing the population of Ontario (10,084,885) by the number of seats allocated (103).

However, the commission may deviate from the average population figure if the community of interest, historical pattern, geography, or more effective representation are considered.

The northern half of Halton Hills, including Acton, certainly fits these deviations. The community and rural area has always been in the County of Halton and its successor, Halton Region.

In the past there have been additions to the Halton ridings from other jurisdictions, such as Peel and Wellington, but Halton has remained intact. This is the first attempt to remove part of Halton into another riding and change the historical pattern.

Ironically, the proposal would leave Halton-Peel's Member of Parliament Julian Reed in the Peel-Dufferin-Wellington riding. His home in Norval is on the north side of the Credit River, which is used as a boundary. His farm, however, would be in Halton Centre which encompasses all of Georgetown, Milton, north Oakville, north Burlington and all of the old Township of Nassagaweya.

Presently all of Halton Hills is in the Halton-Peel riding which includes Caledon, and parts of Burlington and Milton. It is prone to change because the population in 1991 was 114,670, nearly 17,000 over the electoral quotient.

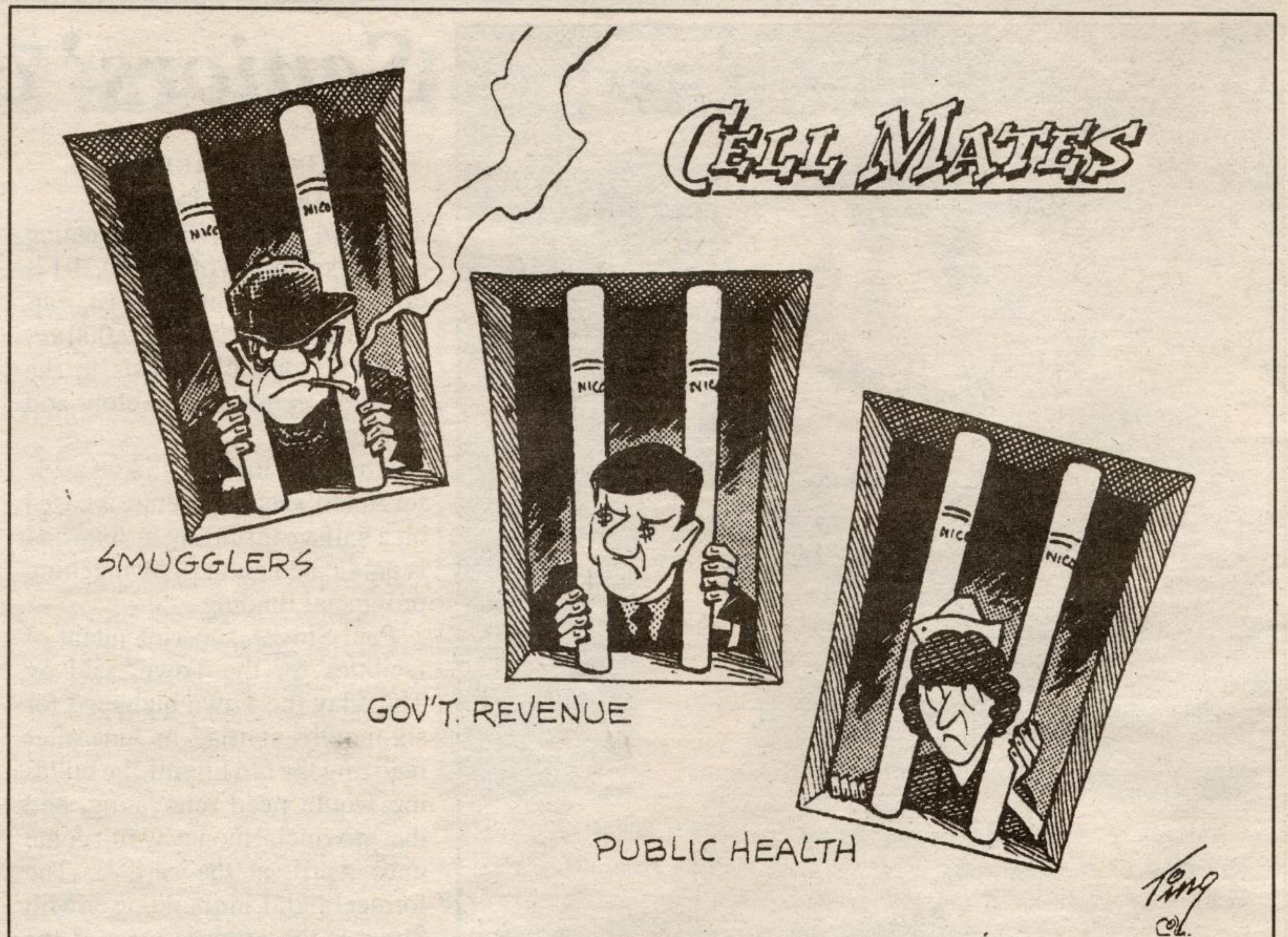
However, this attempt surely disturbs the present community of interest, slicing Halton Hills in two. The village of Glen Williams, for instance with the Credit River running through the centre would be in two ridings.

Federal law states that after every 10 year census, representation in the House of Commons and readjustment of electoral boundaries need to be reconsidered. The proposed revisions will add six more seats, four more in Ontario (Halton, Durham, York and Peel) and two in British Columbia.

Additional cost for these six new MPs will cost the country another \$2 million, based on the premise that each MP costs taxpayers about \$500,000 a year, including all expenses.

This irks MP Julian Reed. We shouldn't be adding more cost, he maintains, under the present "horrific" financial circumstances in Canada. He intends to mount an appeal of the proposed boundary realignment.

You can, too ... The public will have an opportunity to comment on them at public hearings in Toronto and Hamilton during April. If you're concerned and want to express your views at the hearings, send a notice in writing to: The Secretary, Margaret Ann Cain, Federal Election Boundaries Commission for Ontario, Standard Life Centre, 21 King St. West, P.O. Box 2, Suite 1740, Toronto, Ont. M5H 3T9.



LETTERS

Downtown merchants, "clear your sidewalks"

To the Editor:

I read an article in your paper recently, from the BIA, wondering how they could encourage people to shop in Acton.

I would like to suggest that merchants would encourage more people to shop downtown if they would take the time to clear the snow in front of their shops.

On one side of the street, only four businesses keep the snow cleared right to the curb and I

would like to thank those shopkeepers: Clocks & Curios, Halton Furniture, Freezer Frenzy and Leathertown Feed Supply.

On the other side, they haven't bothered. Have these people never walked a full block on Mill Street? When asked why, one shopkeeper replied that snow removal was the responsibility of the Town.

Years ago shopkeepers took pride in keeping the streets clear and making it easier for walkers, and especially seniors, to get around.

So if the BIA is seriously looking for ways to increase downtown shopping, I would suggest start by making it easier to walk downtown. Clearing snow in front of their shops takes very little extra effort.

E. Dunn
Acton

Reader offers advice

To the Editor,

About three weeks ago I answered a phone survey. The last question was what kind of a vacuum we had. I told the caller our vacuum cleaner was almost new, thinking I wouldn't hear from them again. Wrong!

On Feb. 14 at 12:30 pm, I received a phone call saying we had won \$150 worth of merchandise and there would be a delivery that day. A few minutes later we received another phone call and a different man said we could expect their salesman, around 1:15 pm.

"Rob" arrived at 1:30 pm and came in with a huge box. He unpacked a new vacuum and started his sales pitch. We told him we were not interested but he kept right on demonstrating it.

He told us the price, stating he

would help us sell the vacuum we already had. He also said he felt we could get the same amount for our old vacuum cleaner as we were paying for this new one.

In the middle of all of this conversation my wife asked about our free gifts. He said we would get to that later. Stupidly, I signed the papers and gave him my Visa Card and we had a new vacuum.

Later in the evening we got to thinking how foolish we had been. We came to the conclusion that we couldn't possibly sell our old vacuum cleaner for the same price we had paid for the new one.

We got in touch with the Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 15 and told them the story.

My advice to everyone: Don't answer surveys and don't ever expect to receive anything for free.

Name withheld by request



Let your community know.
Write a letter to the editor!

Bring it to our office at 12 Church St. E.
or fax it to us at 853-5040

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THE ACTON TANNER is published weekly on Wednesdays by Wicklow Hills Publishing Co. Inc. at 12 Church St., E., Acton, Ontario, L7J 1K4. Mailing address: P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3. Telephone: 519-853-5100. Fax: 853-5040. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Ideas expressed herein are those of the author only.

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