

EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



Real party poopers

If you've ever played hopscotch with the goose droppings around Fairy Lake, chances are you have also landed in dog poop, which some loose pooch has deposited in Prospect Park or its grassy surroundings.

Although Halton Hills has a Poop 'n Scoop law, which requires dog owners to clean up when their dogs leave a deposit, it is obvious some ignore it. Most owners carry a bag to scoop up their dog's leavings. But there are some who figure public parks are dog runs and any mess left by their pooch(es) can be left for someone else to clean up — or step in.

Recently, this writer, intent on cutting the front lawn, stepped in a messy pile some canine contributed to the grass. Needless to say it was not appreciated. The odour left on the shoes, despite cleaning with disinfectant, would gag anyone with a weak constitution.

There are times when Rover gets loose and runs amok, leaving messy evidence of his wanderings. We have no recourse when this happens except to grin and bear it. However, those who constantly ignore the by-law and foul public places should be dealt with in the form of a fine, so the practice is stopped.

No, we're not advocating a canine police corps to enforce the almost unenforceable. But we are asking those who run their dogs in public parks to clean up after them and make the parks a pleasant a safe place to walk and play.

Wish we could also pass that along to the Canada Geese and their goslings who foul the ball diamonds, soccer pitches and gravel walks with their brand of fertilizer. Not only does it foul the public playgrounds but heavy rain washes the poop into Fairy Lake and pollutes the water, especially in the dry summer months.

These birds use the lake as a sanctuary and their presence adds to the pleasure of feather fanciers. So far, however, no one has come up with a solution to controlling the pollution they cause. Horses in cities can wear diapers but imagine trying to pin diapers on all those dirty birds.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

A Weekly Round-Up of Coming Events in Acton & Area

June 15, Wednesday — 7 pm: United Way of Halton Hills' Annual General Meeting at the United Way office, Trafalgar Road, Georgetown. Refreshments will be served. "Please join us in reviewing our year." For info call 877-3006.

June 17, Friday — 7:30 pm: Euchre night at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton. Sponsored by the Alert Group. Admission is just \$2 at the door. All are welcome!

June 24, Friday — 5 to 8 pm: Annual Strawberry Social at Ebenezer United Church, Guelph Line north of 20th Sideroad. All you can eat. Tickets: \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children under 12. Tickets available at the door.

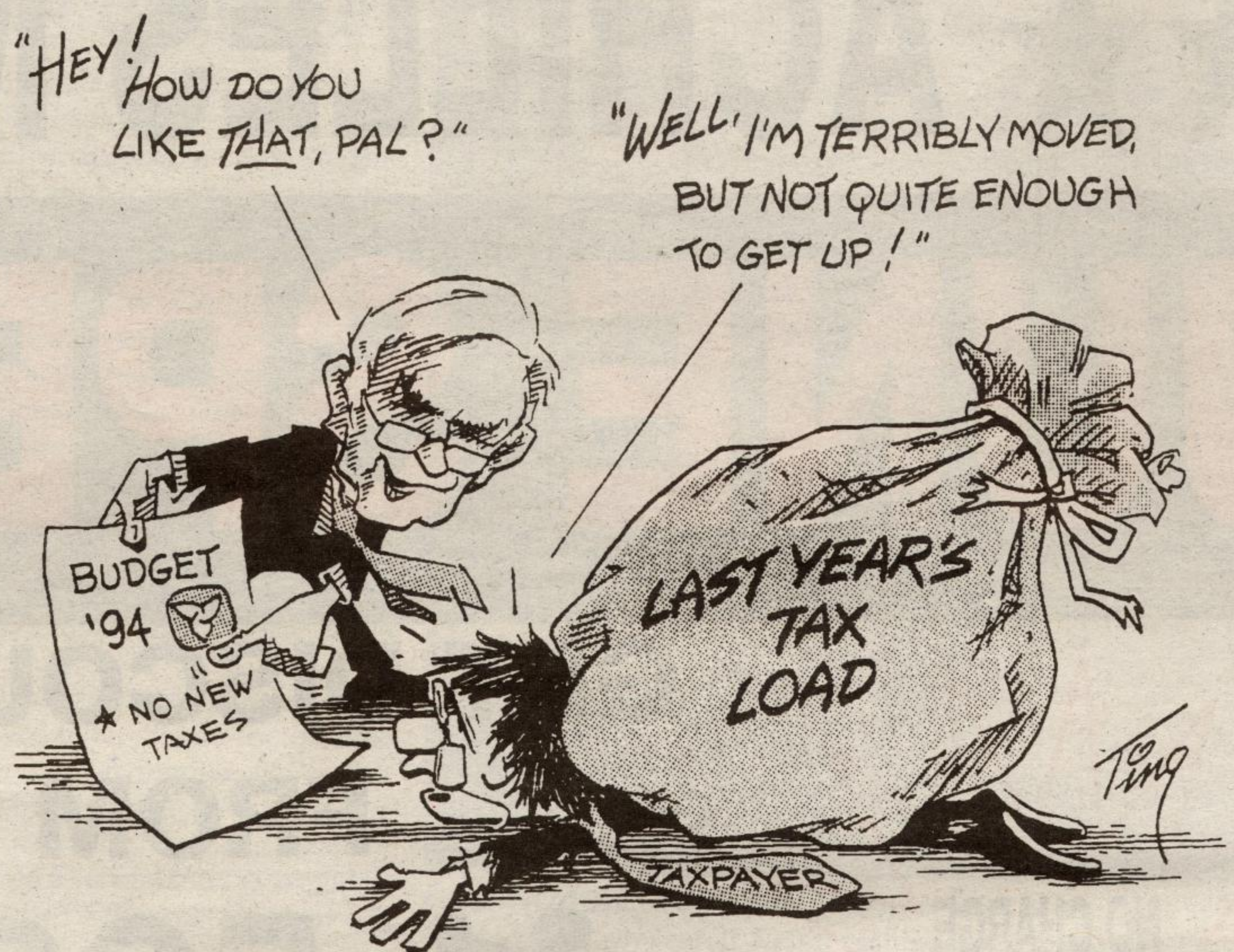
June 25, Saturday — 11 am to 4 pm: Acton IGA will host a "Backyard Gourmet Charity Barbecue" to help raise money for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Halton. The "Our Compliments" grocery specialties will be featured fare.

June 25, 26, Saturday, Sunday — 9 am to 4 pm (Saturday), 1 to 4 pm (Sunday): C.P.R. Course at St. John's Anglican Church, Stewarttown. For info: Yvon Essiembre at 853-4889.

June 29, Wednesday — 5 to 7:30 pm: Strawberry Social at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton. Adults, \$7; children 10 and under, \$3. Salad buffet and strawberry dessert. Tickets available from Inez Brennan 853-4757, Church Office 853-2360, Carol Petty 856-9981 and Village Variety Store, Acton.

July 4-8, Monday to Friday — 9 am to noon: Beth-el Christian-Reformed Church will hold their annual Vacation Bible School program. For more information, contact Diane Leferink at 853-4493 or Barb Van Giessen at 853-1675.

July 6, Wednesday — 2 pm: Magician Owen Anderson visits Acton Public Library. Tickets are now on sale; cost is just \$2 per person. This all-new show features lots of fun, audience participation and even a live bunny! For info call 873-2681.



LETTERS

Reader is fed-up

To the Editor,

In view of recent events in the Ontario Legislature, Queen's Park appears to be a most appropriate name. The concept of extension of spousal and marital benefits to "same sex" couples is laughable.

Simply stated, homosexuality is indisputably a biologically abnormal condition. It does not require any special recognition, status or perks. No more than any other abnormal condition.

The concept of referring to homosexuality as "merely an alternate lifestyle" is only an attempt to legitimize the illegitimate. If

homosexuality is to be considered an "alternate lifestyle," then so should aedophilia and bestiality. Why not; they aren't mainstream sexual predilections either.

If the leaders of our province would get out of the gay ghetto in Toronto more often, they may be surprised to find that heterosexuality is alive and well in suburban and rural Ontario.

The bill was defeated because, in a rare display of concern for constituent's wishes, the majority of elected MPPs voted against it. (Though self-interest and a looming election probably helped steer their judgment.)

As to our Attorney General's assertion that anyone who opposed her Gay Rights bill was homophobic — nope, I'm just homo-fed-up.

Don R. Dagenais
R.R. 2, Acton

Let Quebecers know

To the Editor,

During a recent trip across Canada I spoke with teachers, students, business people and citizens, and learned that very, very, few Canadians want to see our country break apart.

I found also that many people are dismayed and dumb struck at the lack of vision for Canada's future among our political leaders. It is clear that people are searching for a way they could do something to get the country on a promising path to unity.

In Quebec, where I have lived for almost 30 years, the media feed Quebecers with a steady and destructive diet purporting to show that "the rest of Canada" is either indifferent or hostile to "the French fact."

In the face of this and the current uncertainty, I am sure that if individual citizens and their community associations, schools, cultural groups and concerned peo-

ple were to begin, now, to write spontaneously to Quebecers to say how important and fervently desired Quebec's full participation in Confederation is, there would be a decisive turn-around in Quebec's undecided vote.

A spontaneous ground swell of concerned citizens during full participation in a renewed Confederation would show our vacillating leadership what the people of Canada want — to take a place in world communities fitting our talents, language skills, constitutional genius and commitment to the moral imperative.

Can we all start writing to Quebec saying this is how we feel? And continue to do so until the tide has turned?

I urge your readers to write, fax, or advertise, but do it now. Find an address, a school, a small municipality; get someone in your community to help with the French translation and do it today.

Ralph Hancox,
Beaconsfield, Quebec

Get It Off Your Chest!

Write a Letter to the Editor.

(Deadline is Monday morning)

THE ACTON Tanner

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