

EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



A sigh of relief

It would be remiss indeed to let the occasion of the no-dump deal between Halton Hills and United Aggregates Limited (UAL) pass without comment. It is probably the best news we've had both fiscally and environmentally in many, many moons.

The deal was announced by an obviously elated Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson at a press conference last week following a week of educated rumors about the possibility. Four parties were involved including the Town, Halton Region and their protagonists, United Aggregates and Reclamation Systems Incorporated (RSI).

The mayor revealed that in return for RSI dropping plans for a dump in the mined-out section of the Acton quarry, the Town will not try to recoup any money spent fighting the proposal. The deal also encompassed an agreement that the Town will not object to a proposed amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Act exempting UAL from the need for a development permit to quarry on the south side of 22 Sideroad (Regional Road 43). A master plan land use study will be prepared with UAL funds for an ideal use for the mined-out quarry, which the Town can purchase for a nominal fee.

It would be difficult not to feel satisfied over the deal after a decade of wrangling and legal fees, even though it must still be approved by the Consolidated Hearing Board, which has been dealing with the RSI proposal. The other parties in that hearing, POWER, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Ministry of Environment and Energy are not bound by the deal but the Town's legal counsel said it is unlikely the hearing would continue.

There may be other facets of the deal not yet revealed regarding UAL taking over the Third Line and 22 Sideroad in exchange for giving the Town and Region \$50 million in aggregate to be mined from along these road allowances. However, even in its present form, it makes sense for the Town and Region to make a deal with UAL and RSI because it began to look like political forces were at work trying to undo previous controls on Escarpment development.

According to UAL's executive vice-president and CEO Bill Burkart, who brokered the deal, RSI initially did not want to drop plans for landfill in the Acton quarry. He indicated that UAL, which is 50 per cent owned by St. Mary's Cement, decided their interest lies in the quarry business, not landfill, and the cement company also owns 50 per cent of RSI. Untangle that one if you can.

There's more. The other 50 per cent of RSI is owned by Arm-bro, whose political clout is well known.

Mr. Burkart, in a statement aimed at our unhappiness with company policy, said the intention of striking a deal was to turn UAL's attitude around and do something they could be proud of.

We rejoice that RSI has given up plans for their big quarry dump but may well ask why in Hades it took so long. We suspect it may have been prompted by Rita Landry's court action alleging UAL was mining south of 22 Sideroad without a permit. Extensive work has already been done there and even a tie-up of a few months could result in meaningful losses, even though political allies were marshaling forces to amend the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. It would have allowed companies with permits issued before 1975 to quarry almost indiscriminately.

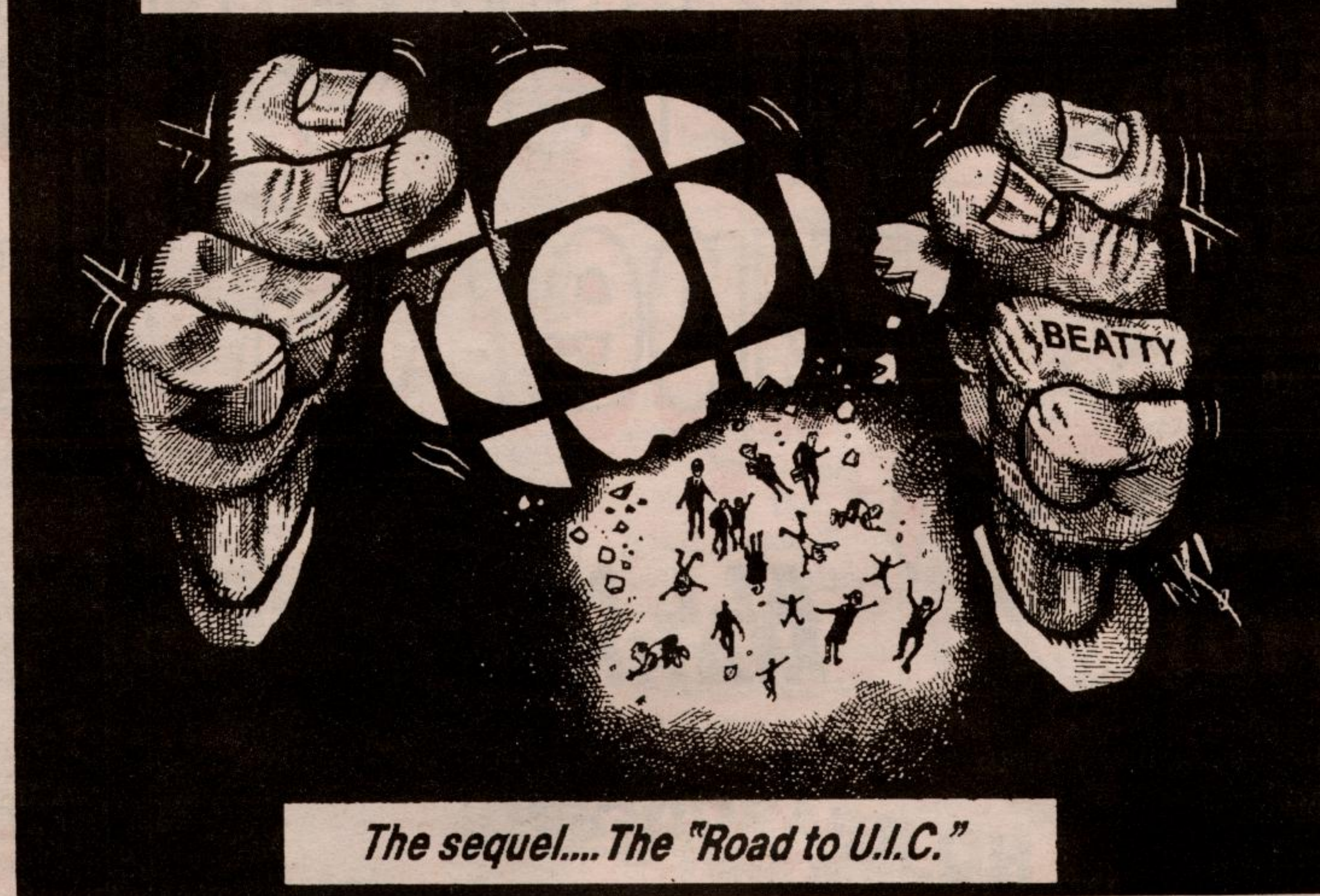
Although Halton Hills has agreed not to try and recover the bundle of cash spent fighting the RSI proposal, as the mayor states the new deal is a "win-win" situation. Garbage is out, jobs are saved and it seems UAL has adopted a new attitude towards the feelings of townspeople. The rub is that the Town had to spend so much taxpayers' money opposing a project that clearly desecrated the Escarpment and posed a potential danger to our water aquifers.

We are pleased UAL has recognized the importance of rehabilitating the mined-out quarry. Those who live in or near the quarry are entitled to every consideration, and perhaps compensation, for years of anxiety concerning their homes. It has been cruel and unusual punishment simply because they live next to the aggregate giant.

Same time last year ...

Eight candidates register to fill vacant Ward 1 and 2 seat on the Halton Board of Education ... Dublin Line resident **Bernie Schaati** convinces Town Council to reduce the road's speed limit to 60 km/h between 17 and 25 Sideroads ... Council approves the deal to buy eight acres of land for the new Acton Arena.

Coming soon...From the Network that gave you
the "Road to Avonlea" ...



Your LETTERS

Job program ends

To the Editor,

It is with deep regret that we inform the North Halton business community that the Halton Employment Assessment Centre's supported employment program in North Halton will be discontinued as of Oct. 1, 1996.

The North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped (NHADH) will subsequently begin

their own supported employment program. We would like to encourage all businesses to contact George Wilson, Manager of Vocational Services, at (905) 878-2336 for supported employment services.

It has been a great pleasure to serve the business community of North Halton. Since 1982 our Job Placement Coordinators have been successfully developing work placement programs with employers from Milton, Georgetown, and Acton.

We sincerely thank you for your interest in our program and appreciate your support of people with developmental delay in your community.

Kevin Speers
Stacy Mitro
Job Placement Coordinators

Show some respect!

To the Editor,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Halton Hills Concrete workers in Acton for the work they did putting the new sidewalks in our area recently.

The sidewalks look great. We appreciate your hard work, your politeness and your willingness to answer any questions we had about the work being done.

It is disappointing however, that some people quickly forgot how hard you did work, because just an hour after you left, they decided to walk on, ride on, or write profanities in the still-wet concrete.

It must be very frustrating for you. Please be aware that there are some of us who *do* respect your efforts and appreciate them.

Debbie Schlieper and family
Mill Street West

Build to sell here

To the Editor,

As a salesman living in a free (?) country, I am astonished at what our team playing Cons/Libs - or is it Lib/Cops? - are doing to us. Can a product be manufactured in Canada, but by government edict be For Export Only? In all the years I have been selling, companies first develop a market in the country of origin, and later turn to exporting. Not in Canada, you say. Pity.

I would bet that most people in Canada have heard of Teecom in Milton. Perhaps you do not know their satellite system is sold in the USA and apparently works very well, but is not allowed in Canada. But of course, the Canadian government has the brilliant idea that it can control our minds, make certain we

only watch that which our lords and masters think if good for us.

Wonder why we have high unemployment? Teecom is a glowing example, selling their product overseas but not in their own backyard. Lose a few million dollars in sales? The Lib/Cons seem to think this is great... Gotta keep control of those Canadian minds, otherwise we may start educating Canadians that there is a big world out there.

If you would like to watch TV on a satellite dish, it could happen within 24 hours - legally - if the CRTC and their team players got up and did some constructive work.

By the way... while the Con/Libs dither, millions of Canadian dollars are spent on products *not* made in Canada, and without approval.

Need I say more?

John Shadbolt, Acton

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Regular Contributors
Eve Martin
Mike O'Leary

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PHONE:
519-853-5100

FAX:
519-853-5040



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