

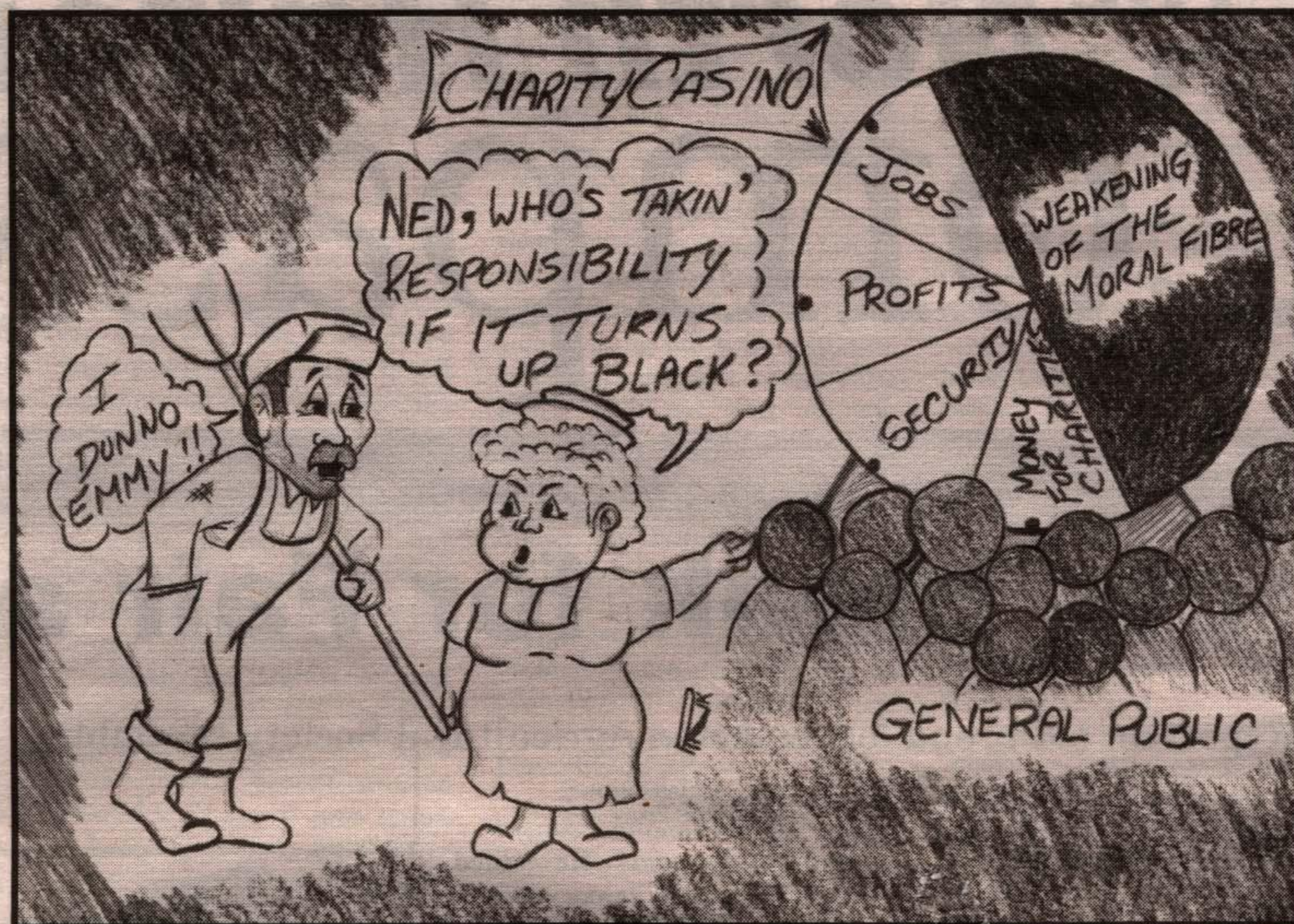
Brass Tacks - Editorial

I don't mean to be an alarmist, but local Historical Societies may be well-advised to take a lot of pictures in the very near future. The way things are going in the areas the Compass circulates, that's all we soon may have left of our rural heritage.

First; a three-judge panel in Division Court basically ruled on June 19th Municipal Official Plans are mere guidelines. In the name of fiscal responsibility, Eramosa Township can choose to ignore its own OP when it comes to designated heritage sites that get in the way of so-called-progress.

By the time the readers of the Compass receive this issue, the Eden Mills Bowstring Bridge will be a pile of 1912 cement ready for landfilling. Oh, how developers across Ontario must be applauding this ruling. Residents of the village will never know for sure if the Bowstring was even able to be rehabilitated or at what cost. The three judges let Eramosa Council off the hook concerning an up-to-date condition survey of the bridge. Their decision hinged on two reports from 1978 and 1988, completed before the Township designated the bridge in 1991, that recommended the bridge be demolished without bothering with a condition survey. That's the law folks and goodbye to one of the oldest bowstrings in North America.

Second; the Ontario Jockey Club is actively courting the Town Of Milton to allow Charity Gaming at Mohawk Raceway in Campbellville. The OJC proposal has many merits: economic benefits, local purchasing of goods and services, hundreds of direct and indirect jobs and increased revenues for local charities in Milton,



and Campbellville.

In this corner, if the Town of Milton does accept Charity Gaming, Mohawk Raceway seems to be an ideal site if only to give a needed shot in the arm to a floundering horse industry. Standardbred people have four priorities; family, farm, a new pickup truck and finding the second coming of Niatross, and not necessarily in that order. I'll take horse farms spread out over the old Township of Nassagaweya any day over subdivisions.

However, as Joel Pink points out so well in this issue's cartoon, for all the winners there will be with Charity Gaming, there are bound to be a few losers too. A valid point. There's also the concern whether Campbellville will remain a quaint village situated next door to a gaming facility or become a mini boom town, changing the face of that village forever.

Third; the 85 year-old Acton Fall Fair, run by the Acton Agricultural Society, is facing a tough situation regarding the old arena at Prospect Park. Simply put, without the arena (which is presently closed), the future of the Fair at Prospect Park is clouded at best.

A recent engineer's report commissioned by The Town of Halton Hills estimates costs to repair the building at \$665,000. Based on that report, the Town's only course of action seems to be demolishing the building.

But wait a minute. Is there a trend developing here? Anytime a municipality wants to demolish a community fixture, it seems an Engineer's report will always justify its position based on cost.

At least the people of Halton Hills and the Acton Agricultural Society can be thankful they received a report that is at least current.

Clearing the Table

The little kitchen table newspaper has survived its first four months.

And before the July issue hits the rural mailboxes, we need to thank a few people that we've neglected.

Our first Shoebox Memories featured the Swackhammer Family of Esquesing. The Compass is grateful to Carol (Swackhammer) Hyde and Vern Denny for allowing us access to their personal archives to complete the feature. Four months later, the Compass is still receiving calls for copies of the first edition because of this significant pioneer family.

In our first issue, we promised no more than 50 percent advertising content. So far, that promise has been rather easy to keep. It's been a challenge convincing potential advertisers that less is actually better and explain our rural market. Without the patronage of our regular advertisers, the Compass' cupboards would be bare. The paper's contributors and I thank them for their support.

To our small band of voluntary subscribers, a big thank you. Your support is much appreciated and hopefully others will subscribe in the future as the "RURAL PAPER TO CALL OUR OWN" becomes better established in the community as a paper that puts its readers first.

Blue Springs Soapbox - Compass Correspondence

Thank you very much for sending us six copies of your first production and also your latest.

We are passing the copies out to our relatives who are very interested in the two page spread on the Swackhammers, Wansboroughs, etc.

Sincerely,
Carol Head
Etobicoke, Ontario

Having been increasingly discouraged by the blatantly biased coverage in Reeve Dave Adsett's Wellington Advertiser - which, because of its county-wide free distribution and uncontested coverage of Eramosa news, views and events, has become Eramosa residents only window on local events.

I'm very glad there is a new window - and it appears

to have its curtains wide open!

Thank you and enclosed find my voluntary subscription.

Yours Sincerely,

Norah Menzies
R.R. #5
Rockwood, Ontario

The North Halton Compass

Reach then a soaring quill, that I may write
As with a Jacob's staff to take a height
CLEVELAND

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"We judge others according to results; how else? - not knowing the process by which results are arrived at."

GEORGE ELIOT

Compass Business Flyer

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