

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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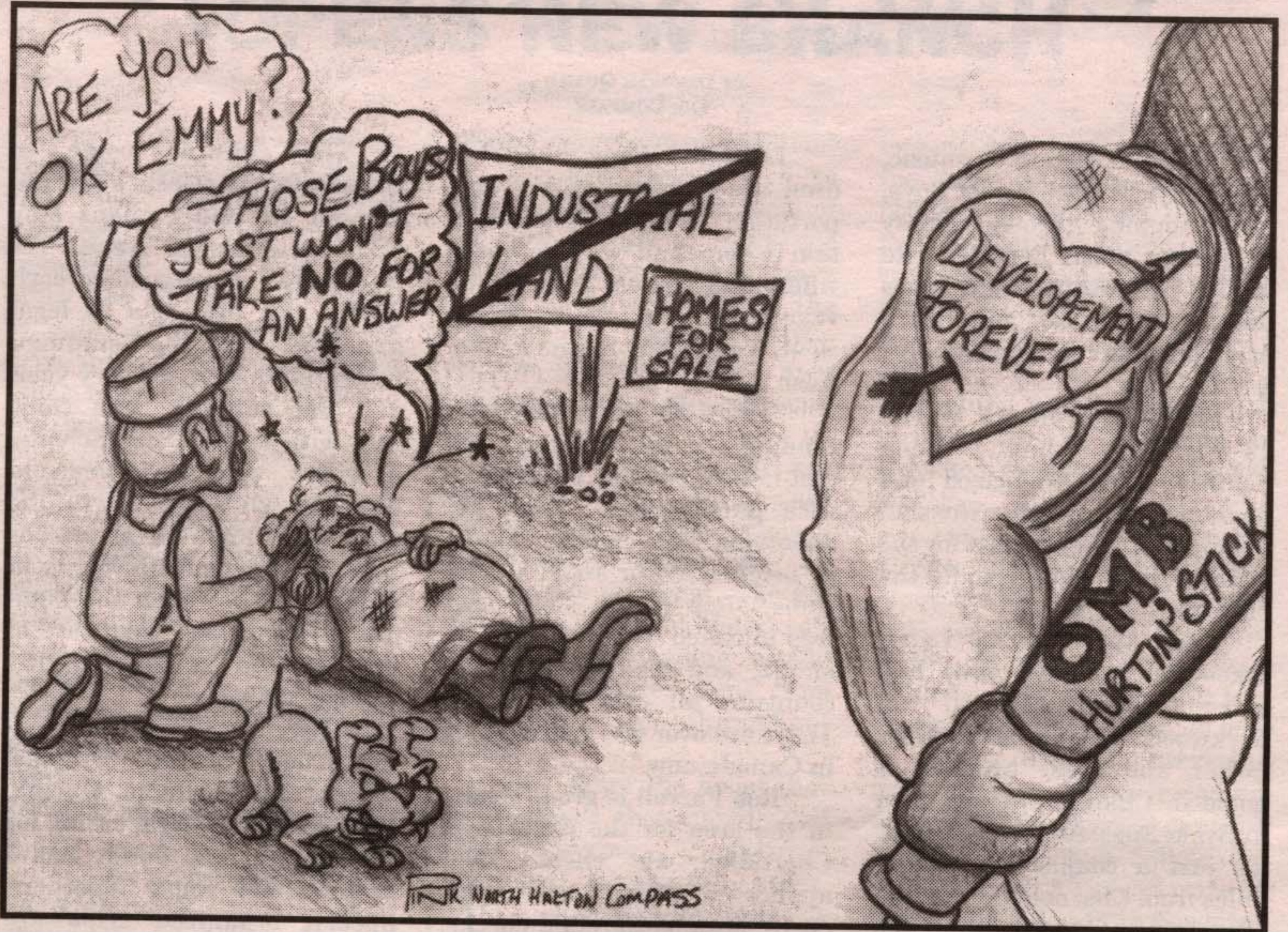
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The Barnyard Adventures of Nassagaweya Ned & Emmy Esquesing



Brass Tacks

Editorial

Mississauga West one step closer to becoming a reality

As previously noted here, municipal governments in Halton generally take a cautious approach to development and stick to their official plans.

When they're allowed to do so.

A recent ruling by the Ontario Municipal Board to allow Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. to develop over 300 acres in south Georgetown as residential rather than industrial is heavy handed to say the least. When the OMB chooses to ignore the plans of a municipality and rules in favour of a developer, they rule against more than a municipality, they rule against a community.

Most municipal corporations spend a lot of time, money and effort developing blue prints for the future in consultation with the stakeholders of the community.

As a quasi-judicial agency reporting to the attorney general of Ontario, members of the OMB are not directly accountable to the people whose landscape they can change at the drop of a gavel. Board members aren't elected, they're appointed.

Unlike municipal politicians and staff who must face the music when the smoke clears after a hearing, the OMB just rolls into town for an appeal, makes a decision and leaves again.

Good riddance. Who are these faceless quasi-authorities that get to play God with our communities? Wouldn't it be interesting to bring 'em out of their appointed closets through the election process and let the light of day shine on them? What are their true colours?

As the new millennium approaches, maybe it's time to restructure some of the provincial government's antiquated agencies and authorities.

All we're really talking about is a little more self-determination at the local level.

I have found you an argument, I am not obliged to find you an understanding.

SAM'L JOHNSON

Blue Springs Soapbox - Compass Correspondence

This letter is to express my appreciation for your publishing the Halton 4-H Roundup in the North Halton Compass. It provides the members with a venue to share their experiences and to learn of other opportunities across Canada.

At a recent 4-H forum in Ancaster, I became aware that our newsletter was providing greater public awareness of our educational programs.

This awareness of our programs has led to an increase in members and volunteers.

Thank you for helping us learn by doing and sharing our 4-H experience.

Nancy Comber
President
Halton 4-H Association.

SAFE SPEEDS FOR TWISS ROAD

The Mayor and Councillors, The Town of Milton
Further to Twiss Road and speed limits, councillor Penman mentioned a patchwork of speed limits and he is right. One already exists. I refer you to the enclosed map and table of the roads south of the 401 and their speed limits.

The history of both Twiss Road and McNiven/First Line has been of postponement. Because of engineering problems associated with these roads there has never been enough money in the year's budget to do the job and so nothing has been done. We have now reached the point where the road is extremely bad and deteriorating daily despite grading by the Town.

As you know I have lived on the road for 25 years and I have a clear memory of Mayor Don Gordon standing on the road with me discussing what can be done to improve it. I am not sure how many years ago that was.

In my opinion speed limits have to do with safety and not enforcement. It's the Town's duty to determine what is a safe speed and advise motorists of that. The locals generally know what is appropriate but visitors that drive either of these roads at 80 are in for a nasty shock. Councillor Lunau has the right idea there.

I note that the hill on Steeles has been referred over to the year 2000 budget. It would be an interesting exercise to see how often it has already been deferred.

I believe a speed limit should reflect the present condition of the road.

Yours truly,
Jean Woods



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