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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

To the Editor

**The impact on Ontario**

Are the people on Ontario prepared to pay 30 to 50 % more for their electricity and gas utilities bill? My name is Susan Grant, I am one of the Co-Chairs of the CAE Alliance (Clean Affordable Energy). The CAE alliance believes that clean, affordable energy is vital not only to the economic interests, but also the very future of Ontario. This province was built by industries and businesses that were attracted by affordable public power. Times are changing. Cheap power is now a thing of the past.

Ontario is facing significant electricity supply problems. Important and expensive decisions have been recently made that will impact the affordability of electricity and natural gas in Ontario for decades to come. The impact on industry, residents and ratepayers is alarming. The Alliance's purpose is to inform Ontario's public and private sectors about short and long term issues, risks and economic consequences of plans to use natural gas fired electricity generating plants to replace Ontario's existing coal fired generating stations. It is our goal

to provide strong, convincing evidence of our claims to the general public in order to educate and motivate the ratepayers of Ontario to seek a reversal of the existing energy plan. To highlight the economic impact including employment in Ontario and Canada. How the closure of the provinces coal plants will have a snow ball affect on the economy. The cost of natural gas and electricity will rise, the impact on the homeowner, small business man, and even the large industries will undoubtedly be overwhelming.

Our hope is that sanity will prevail concerning the provincial government's plans to close it's coal fired generating plants. The TRUTH of the matter is that there is 350 years of coal and under 10 years of known natural gas. What are we leaving for our children and at what cost? What is the impact on Ontario going to cost? We the CAE Alliance believe that there should be concern for Ontario's future... Please feel free to contact me or visit the web site at [www.caealliance.com](http://www.caealliance.com).

Sincerely,  
Susan Grant

To the Editor

**RE: Same-sex marriage and the older veterans 'buddy system'**

Many older veterans co-habiting under the 'buddy system' are anxious to determine whether they will be considered now as married couples. The question is being raised with me as Chairman of the 51-member National Council of Veteran Associations. Their concern arises from the passage of Bill C-38 on 'same-sex' marriage.

Many war veterans who lose their spouses take up residence with a fellow veteran as a matter of convenience. These war veterans are, by circumstance, elderly couples, but have never had to consider themselves as man and wife.

The new legislation regarding 'same-sex' marriages, however, may change all of that. Such veterans may have to decide which is the 'male' and which the 'female' partner. If the marriage, common or otherwise, is between two persons of the same sex, the Veterans Pension Act may confer spousal benefits in the death of one of the partners.

Should two male 'buddies' live together, surely the legislation would have to apply to such older veterans in the same manner as for gays and lesbians - a concept on which we offer no comment.

This is a complicated issue. The War Amps Web site gives additional details at [www.waramps.ca](http://www.waramps.ca).

On behalf of these veterans, I am writing this letter as Chairman of the 51-member National Council of Veteran Associations.

Sincerely,  
Cliff Chadderton, CC, O.Ont., OSTJ, CLJ, CAE, DCL, LLD Chairman

**EDITORIAL**

One of the blessings in living in rural Halton is the abundance of wildlife. Sitting on my porch I can enjoy the busy comings and goings of birds in every shape and size, from the zip of tiny humming birds to the ponderous flap of buzzards landing in the cornfields. I don't hunt and I keep guns just for predator control. I don't bother any wildlife that doesn't bother me. We have a family of skunks living in the woods at the front of the farm and it's rather sweet to see mum and her four little ones marching in a line across the bottom of the lawns at dusk. In fact the only creatures I really can't abide are porcupines and that's because of the mess they make of the dogs. We had an old gal who just hated porcupines and would launch into them with a vengeance, crawling back to the house on one occasion with so many quills in her face that we couldn't see any part of her head. It took three vets, three and a half hours of surgery to get the quills out, and even then we would months later find quills working their way out of the top of her skull. Makes me shudder to think of the damage done to her as the quills slowly worked their way through.

I even leave coyotes in peace, though the blood chilling sound of a pack in full pursuit can turn one's stomach. I always wonder how anything can evade and survive such ferocity. Poor deer, I always thought. But nature is much fairer than we imagine. For some months a doe has been coming into one of our wheat fields. She is totally unfazed by tractor noise and we've shared a few moments calmly appraising each other at a distance of twenty feet or so before the doe gets bored and goes back to browsing. Last week she came into the field with two little fawns in tow. Normally the dogs give a perfunctory bark to the doe to establish credentials and then ignore her. This time the temptation was too great and they took off after the deer. With almost any other species Mama would turn on the predators to protect her young. Not this mother. With a spring she was gone, leaving the fawns to the mercy of the dogs. Well not quite. The fawns were hardly able to see above wheat that only came up to their mother's belly, but boy could they move. Archie has field trial titles and moves like a blur, but he was no match for the fawns. They cleared the hedgerows as if they were birds and were gone. Honour satisfied, the dogs swaggered back to doze on the porch.

From my observations the deer hardly seem to make a dent on the field crops, and seem to prefer low hanging leaves to grains. Why then are so many farmers so angry about crop damage by deer? At a recent Halton Federation of Agriculture board meeting I posed this question. My friend, Sandy Grant a beef farmer, supplied the answer. "We like the deer too," she said, "but with farming being so hand to mouth these days there's no room for us to be forgiving. If farmers were making a living no one would care about a few cash crops being lost to the deer, but as it is we can't afford to lose even pennies a field."

Somewhere, somehow, there has to be a Canada that sees the environmentalist urbanites willing to crystallize their passion for wildlife into a willingness to pay a fair price to farmers for the food they eat. Until then, the fawns had better stay quick on their feet.

Dear Editor of the Halton Compass:

It's great to see the Compass add an original humour column to its pages! The article last week by Halton's Liberal MP was a real side-slapper as he buried his tongue firmly in his cheek and wrote about the session Parliament just ended.

"Yet another successful session," he said. "The Government of Canada has democratically retained the confidence of Parliament. This is vigorous democracy in action."

What a guy. It's like the Liberals never had to bribe a Conservative MP to become a government minister in order to win a confidence vote that ended up tied. It's as if the prime minister's chief of staff was never tape-recorded trying to buy off another Tory and his wife. And it's neat the way he makes it sound like Parliament is supporting the Liberals when it's only the NDP who signed on - in return for spending \$5 billion more in taxpayer dollars.

But enough. My sides hurt.

Garth Turner  
Campbellville

**THE HALTON COMPASS**

**welcomes letters to the Editor**

Letters to the editor are welcomed. However, we do not necessarily support or endorse the comments or opinions expressed by the writer(s). We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer should be included. Letters may be sent into 35 Crawford Crescent Box 129, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0, emailed to [editor@haltoncompass.com](mailto:editor@haltoncompass.com) or faxed to 905-854-4761.

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