

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Happy New Year

It was good news to hear that the number of charges laid during the RIDE program in December were down.

During an one week period in December, Halton Regional Police did not lay one impaired driving charge, although more than 1,900 cars were stopped in RIDE roadside checks.

It shows that most people are really receiving, and understanding the message, Don't Drink and Drive.

This weekend, when we celebrate the coming of a brand new year, once again we must remind everyone of this important message.

Drinking and driving is deadly.

Keep in mind too that if you host a New Year's Party that as host you could be held liable should any of your guests consume too much and are injured afterwards — even if they are not drinking.

We ask everyone who welcomes 1995 with good cheer to do so with common sense.

Have a safe and happy 1995!



Blue Fins appreciate community support

Dear editor:

On December 4, the Halton Hills Blue Fins hosted a very successful swim meet attended by 166 swimmers from nine clubs across Ontario.

Our meet was made possible by the support of our parents, our swimmers and our community. We especially wish to thank the Royal Canadian Legion, Lt. Col. GBS Cousens, Branch 120 for their support and taking part in our opening ceremonies.

We also thank the following businesses in our community for their generous support:

Maple Lodge Farms, Roos Travel Agency, Firestone, D.D.H. Distribution Services, E&J Collins Ltd., Kentners - Social Catering, Bill Smith Auto Parts, Bruce Sparling Electric, Cranfield

Letters to the Editor

Chiropractic Centre, Aztec Computer, Harvey's/Swiss Chalet, Bell Mobility, Beaver Lumber, Bailey's Fresh Meat & Deli, North Star Dry Cleaners, Penniesworth, M.V.P., Work That Body, The Hobby Horse, Remax Suburban — Dave Krause, Murphy — G.M. Communications.

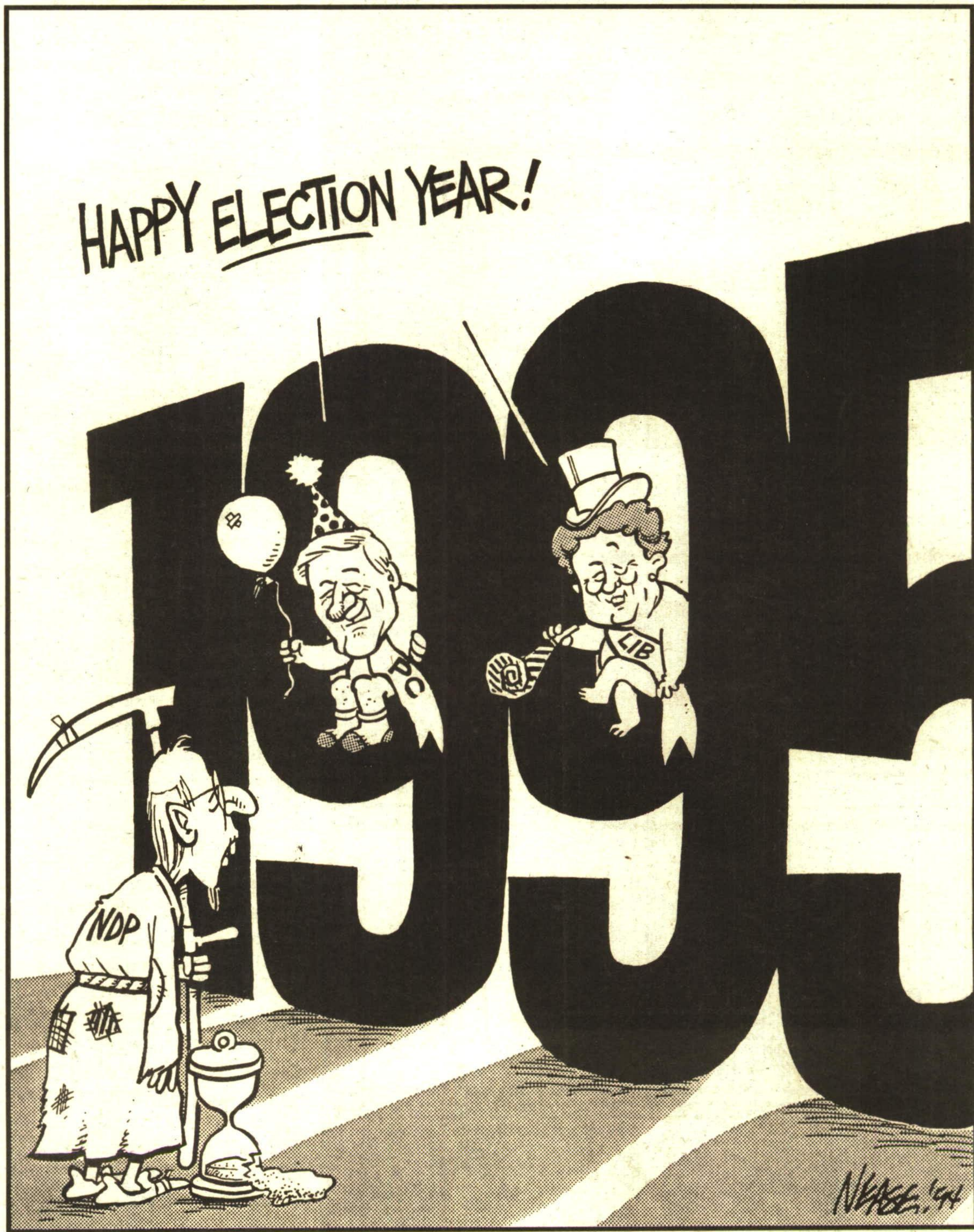
Georgetown Marketplace, Bratin Auto Muffler, Terra Cotta Cookies, Douglas R. Lent, L.L.B., Kwik Kopy Printing, M&M Pro Sports, Family Optical, Paul C. Armstrong

Insurance Brokers, RA Sales, Bracky's Tap & Grill, Halton Hills Veterinary Clinic, Royal Bank—Guelph & Mountainview, Moore Products Co., The Carpet Barn, Georgetown Chrysler, Georgetown Quik-Lube, Nikki's Pools, L. Willson Creative Communications.

Goodlet's Furniture & Appliances, Pinto Studios, Ollie's Cycle & Ski, J.V. Clothing, Preston's, Captain Financial Services, Abbott and Costello Machine.

The Stereo Shoppe, Remax Suburban — Mike Adams, Speedy Muffler, Johnvince Foods, Mister Beer U Brew, Pizza Delight.

Sincerely,
Liz Willis
Swim Meet manager
Halton Hills Blue Fins



New stereo equipment smells great when you unpack it

I'm the first to admit I'm a gadget freak.

If it has buttons, flashing lights, bells or whistles, I'll go for it.

This has been made abundantly clear by my fascination with numerous fads (referred to as 'obsessions' by my wife) over the years; cars, stereo equipment, cameras and computers. In that order.

Anyway, since I can't afford to play with cars anymore, I decided it's time to make the full circle and get back into stereo.

The equipment I have in the family room was, in its day, pretty good, but like all things electronic, age starts to play a part in the performance equation. The old equipment is showing the signs of nearly two decades of use; it's wearing out.

Especially the cassette deck.

For the past few years, it has refused to rewind any tape over 60 minutes in length, and the record function has produced muddied sounds in the left channel.

And when I introduced a CD player into the system a couple years ago, it was made abundantly clear how much this cassette deck was on its last legs.

A trip to a local repair shop a year ago confirmed the fact, seeing as they returned it without so much as charging me.

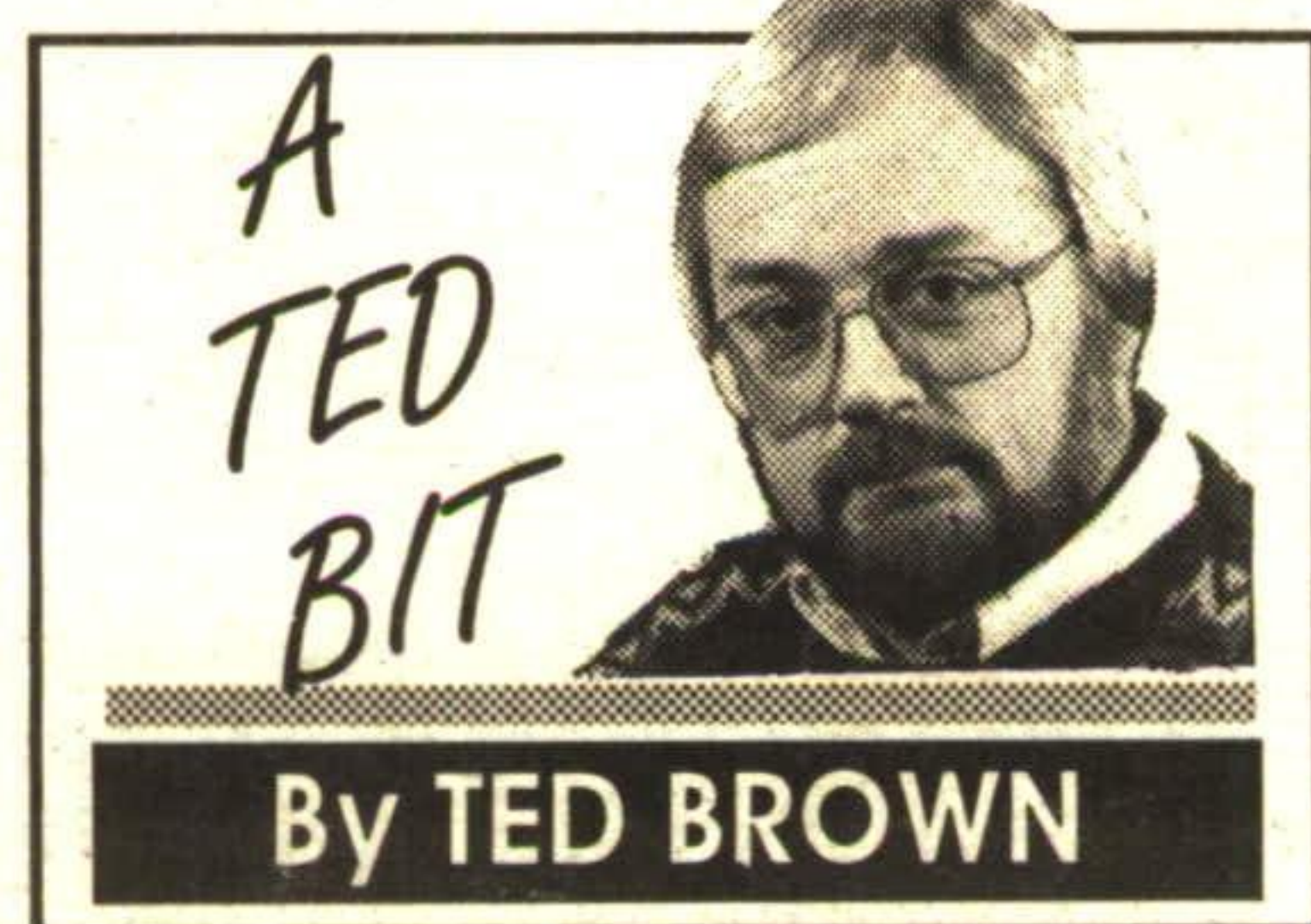
"It's too old to fix, Ted," they said, "The parts aren't available."

Now in its day, this deck was a Cadillac. A three head Hitachi, with features comparable to expensive reel to reel decks, it tipped the price scale at the high end. I recall my wife being a little skeptical of the its value when I got it 19 years ago.

But after a few tunes were pumped through our Marantz receiver at mega volume levels, she saw the benefits of a high performance tape deck, and enjoyed it for the past 19 years, just like me.

But now it's old and tired, and the time had come to replace it.

I shopped around some time ago, but felt reluctant to pour a wad of



money into another expensive deck. It seems priorities change when you become a parent.

And Christmas shopping had to be addressed.

So, once again, it was relegated to the back burner.

But as we wound down the Christmas shopping, I noticed we had accumulated a sizable sum of those little points from a local department store, (you know the type, 'shopping anywhere else is pointless,') and I thumbed through their catalog to see what was offered in the cassette tape decks.

The model available was a JVC

and we had the billion or so points necessary to acquire it.

It looked good in the catalog, so we returned to the courtesy desk and placed our order.

Meanwhile, I visited the Eaton Centre in Guelph, and saw the same model on display in a stereo shop, and checked out its features. I was impressed, so I waited with bated breath for the new deck to come in.

My prayers were answered earlier this week as the kids received a call at home telling them the deck had arrived.

I was immediately called at work and picked it up on my way home from the office.

I got it home, pulled it from the box, with all those formed pieces of styrofoam and plastic bags and pulled out the cables.

Did you ever notice how great new equipment smells when you unpack it?

The den floor was covered in packing materials as I connected it to the old Marantz, and fired 'er up.

My gawd, this deck had more than enough lights, LEDs, buttons and switches to keep the most obsessed gadget freak in a state of euphoria for at least a solid week.

In went a tape.

Hmmm, sounded pretty good.

As I spent the evening playing, taping, dubbing reading the manual, and generally fooling around, it occurred to me how much technology has advanced in the home entertainment arena.

I just haven't been keeping up.

In an effort to keep pace with CD players' capabilities to program, skip and repeat musical selections, cassette decks have been revamped to the same level with many common features.

Anyway, it's now installed in the system, and I've enjoyed its performance and sound for the past few nights.

And now my wife is getting nervous.

You see, the old speakers are sounding a bit tired....