

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Wednesday, at 211 Armstrong Ave. Georgetown Ont., L7G 4X5 is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Georgetown Independent and The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, The Barrie Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Collingwood Connection, The Etobicoke Guardian/Lakeshore Advertiser, Halton Hills Week End, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, The Uxbridge/Stouffville Tribune.

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Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Georgetown Independent is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

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Women's Place is grateful for generosity

Dear editor:

On behalf of Halton Women's Place, Board of Directors, staff, current and past residents, I wish to extend our appreciation to the community for their support both throughout the holiday season and the past year.

As a result of the support from the community, Halton Women's Place was able to facilitate the distribution of holiday hampers to 115 families. We were overwhelmed with the support received this sea-

Letters to the Editor

son and the families both within our shelters and past residents were grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of them any sponsors. We would also like to thank all

those people who have supported Halton Women's Place over the past year, whether through donations of clothing, food, dried goods, financial support or volunteer time. Your support enabled Halton Women's Place to provide 267 women and 275 children with safe shelter.

We would like to extend our wished for a happy, healthy and safe 1995.

Theresa Greer
executive director
Halton Women's Place

Acton groups appreciate Yuletide help

Dear editor:

The Salvation Army, together with the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE, Acton Rotary and St. Vincent de Paul, would like to express sincere thanks to the people of our community for the generosity they have shown during the past

Christmas Season. Their donations of food, toys, clothing and a host of other items was sincerely appreciated. Together with the financial contributions made by many residents, we were able to brighten the hearts and homes of many local families. The generosity of the

citizens of the Acton area speaks volumes to us of their concern and goodwill toward those in need.

Thank you for allowing us to serve others in this way.

James Anderson, Captain
Corps Officer
The Salvation Army, Acton



Keep the control

In the past six months residents have been feeling the impacts the Tobacco Control Act on their daily lives — no smoking in public places including schools and all health facilities, no vending machine sales, and the latest, a ban of tobacco sales in pharmacies.

The purpose of the Act, passed last June in the Ontario Legislature and called the toughest anti-smoking law in North America, is aimed at reducing the more than 13,000 deaths attributed to tobacco use each year.

It is a comprehensive act which severely restricts the use of the tobacco — and people's rights, to choose to sell, to buy or to smoke tobacco. If smoking is that bad for people's health, then the government should ban its production, selling and use outright — as they would with any other harmful substance. Why go the route of this piecemeal infringement on people's rights; some can sell, some can't, some can buy, some can't.

Some pharmacists in this town had already made a decision about the incompatibility of tobacco and health products in the same store; it was a decision made without the control of legislation.

Government is becoming too eager to control every aspect of our lives — our health, our education, our business and our mores. What is more disturbing is the eagerness of Ontarians to allow them to do it.

Ultimately smoking, like every other human behavior, will continue or cease, based on a decision made by the individual, not because of a government act.

And that is where the decision belongs.

Choosing the proper lunch location is a weighty decision

In the newspaper business, there are always numerous important decisions to be made that could affect the world about us.

And, like all responsible journalists, every decision becomes a judgment call, for which we all must answer from the time our newspaper lands on the street until it lines the bottom of the family canary's bird cage.

Should this story run in that issue? Should that photo be used now or next week? Should it run in color? Is that story appropriate for our readership? Is it too long? Too short? Too one-sided? Balanced enough?

And what events should be covered this week?

And many, many more.

But there is one daily decision that is most critical, and always nags at the very heart of the most dedicated news hound.

Where do we eat lunch today? Just like the characters in the

coffee shop commercial on TV, more journalists have labored over that decision more than any other, (except perhaps the other important question, 'who's going for coffee?') It takes hours of discussion and professional input weighing the pros and cons of which local fast food eatery is the chosen one of the day.

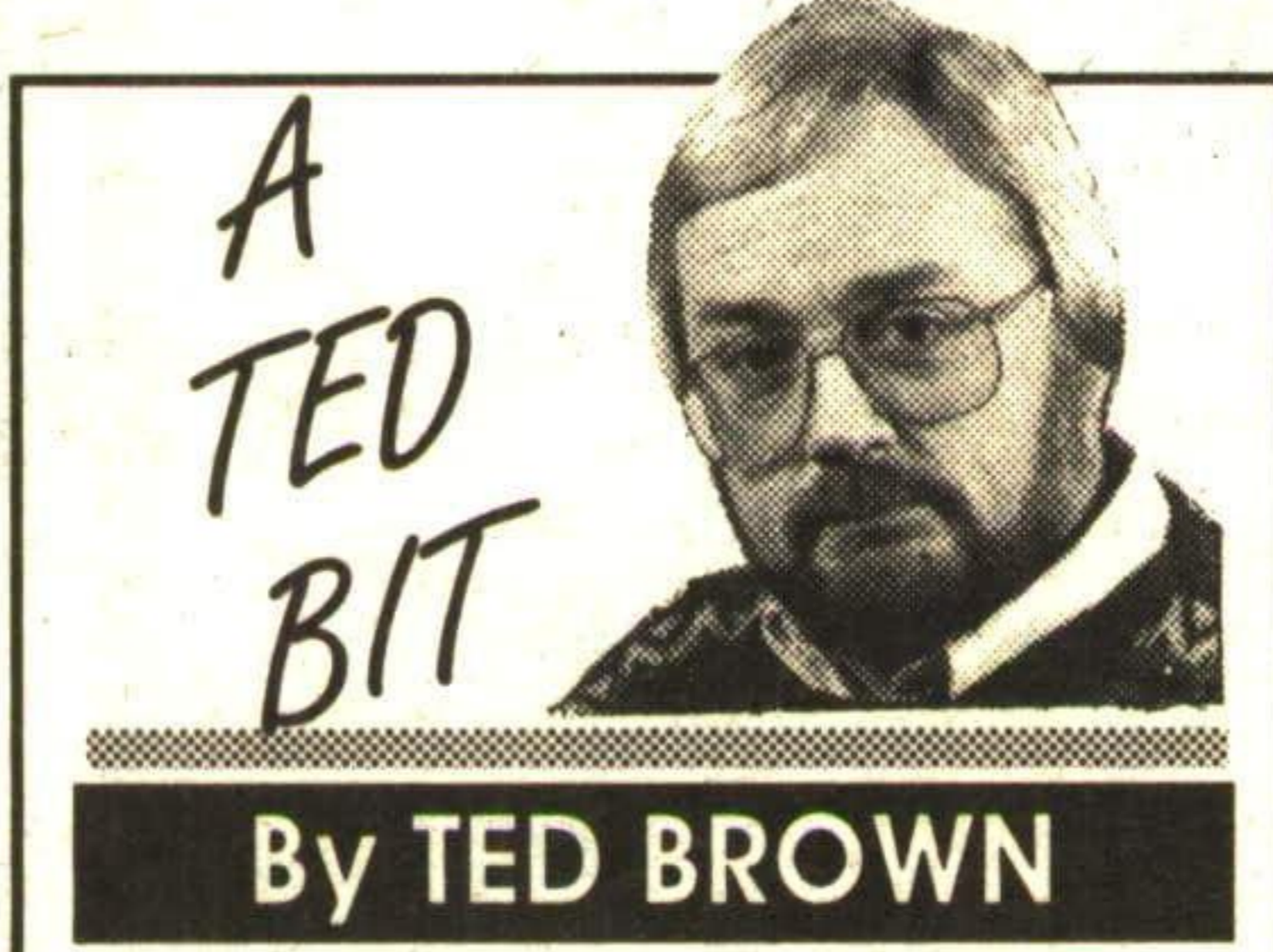
Do we use our Harvey's coupons, or the A&W Teen card? Is it the Pizza Hut buffet or the Belamy's daily pasta specials?

Does Wendy's have a good two-for-one sale on with the appropriate coupon, or do we take time to savor our lunch hour at the local tea room downtown?

We can't forget McDonalds, Dairy Queen or Burger King.

And of course, there's always the coffee truck.

Yes, deciding on a lunch location can be a grueling task, as we try to weigh the benefits of wolfing down a high cholesterol burger against the more healthy



Caesar salad doused with a cup of potent garlic powder which will haunt our professional breath and repel interviewees for the balance of the day.

And why is it so important? Simple, it sets the tone of the news for the day. Where we eat lunch plays a major part of our journalistic outlook.

For example, if we drop by a local eatery frequented by blue business suit types, we could very well pick up a tip on a fresh business story about a pending layoff or the growth of a company and might also manage to have an

extra cup of coffee on the house.

But the other extreme, if we eat at a more relaxed venue, the scenery might be good enough to inspire a completely new angle on a feature story or photo spread, just because we decided on soup and sandwich in lieu of a burger.

If we do opt for that burger, the place could be crawling with kids, reminding us of home. It would certainly ensure a quick gulped-down lunch and speedy return to the office in record time with the accompanying heartburn setting the scene for the balance of the day.

And, taking it another step further, a lunch at a local sports bar can always be good for another sports feature story, and some good old-fashioned juicy, gossipy innuendo on who is doing what to whom in the local sports circles thrown in for good measure. (Sports people just love to talk, ya know.)

A lunch trip to any one of the

many coffee shops around town will ensure us of lots of free flowing opinions with our soup and sandwich; some pro, some con, but all with lots of substance.

The coffee truck which arrives at our office three times a day can also offer some unique dining experiences for the more distinguishing palate, with a plethora of culinary delights all presented in cellophane, which will no doubt keep us productively glued to our office chairs, tapping out journalistic masterpieces like the one you are currently reading, while the sauce from our meatball sub drips and streams out onto the desk beside us.

Yep, it's a fact; choosing the proper lunch location is certainly a weighty decision for all journalists, I must say.

Of course, there is one more lunch alternative, which most of us shun like a plague and turn to as a last resort.

We could brown-bag it.