

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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No more handouts

It is a hard line, some would say heartless, stance, but instead of handing grants to a select few groups in town — let's eliminate all grants.

This town has traditionally shown its benevolence towards local groups by bestowing yearly grants — the purpose, we believe, to show the town's support for these endeavors.

We respect the quality these groups bring to this town, however, are we required to fund them through our tax dollars as well?

Municipal taxes are to upkeep roads and buildings, to buy books and computers for the library, to better our arenas and recreation programs, and so on.

If taxpayers want to support these select groups, they can choose to do so on an individual basis. That is fair.

Otherwise every year, more and more groups will be demanding grants.

Let's review the situation now and discuss whether to continue this handout system next year.

Grants totalling \$3,000 may seem a miniscule amount to squabble over, but when taxpayers are at the saturation point — as most are — \$1 can make a difference.

Acton Cancer unit appreciates support

Dear editor:

Over the past year the Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society has accomplished a great deal in terms of providing services to cancer patients, delivering our health promotion messages, and raising funds for cancer research. We are very fortunate to have many dedicated and committed volunteers in Acton that willingly give their time and energy to our cause. In April of last year Cancer Society volunteers were very honored to be chosen as Acton's Citizens of the Year.

Acton continues to be one of the most successful communities in Ontario in terms of fundraising. At our fiscal year end of September 30, 1994 we had raised a very impressive \$57,406.78. The following is a breakdown of our fundraising income:

\$235.26 coin boxes; \$3912.14, daffodils; \$25,149.45, residential campaign; \$27,000, Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament; \$349.52, T-shirt

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sales; \$284 Raffle, \$446.51, Pigeon Races (Fall Fair); \$29.90 cookbook sales.

An additional \$8,930.51 was contributed through In Memoriam donations.

Throughout the past year many people have supported the executive's efforts, and we certainly appreciate the contribution they have made to the Cancer Society. Among those who have supported the Acton Branch are the door to door canvassers, the zone and team captains, the daffodil sales people, the Women's Institutes, the Trinity Activity Group, The Royal Canadian Legion, McMillans, the olde Hide House, the Red Dog Cafe

and the Acton Agricultural Society.

Last year was the 10th anniversary of the Paul Murr Memorial Golf Tournament and I would like to extend a special thank you to all the committee members for the tremendous effort they put forth each year on behalf of the Cancer Society. This year the tournament raised \$27,000.

The Acton branch is fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteer drivers who play a vital role in our mandate to provide service to cancer patients. Also, our Activity Group knitters are to be recognized for their contribution of knitted items for cancer patients in hospital.

Finally, I would like to thank the people of Acton who have once again shown their tremendous support for the Cancer Society by donating funds and participating in events throughout the year.

Catherine Gerrow
president,
Acton Branch



It's tough being married to a news junkie

We all hear about that couch potato syndrome, where television addicts browse through a dozen channels on the TV remote control in just seconds, to see what's being broadcast on the other stations.

It's called 'channel surfing.' And I swear members of my family could easily click their way to world titles, if an Olympic Channel Surfing competition were held.

Personally, it irritates me to no end.

The kids continually bounce from one program to another, sampling the entire broadcast buffet offered to all viewers.

But the kids are at least tolerable.

And I can tell them to stop from time to time.

No, the problem is my wife. You see, Cathy, the 'Champion Channel Surfer' of the Brown household, will hit a record number of channels, before I can even focus on the first program on the screen.

"What was that?" I ask, as a pic-

ture flits by on the screen, "I wanted to see that!"

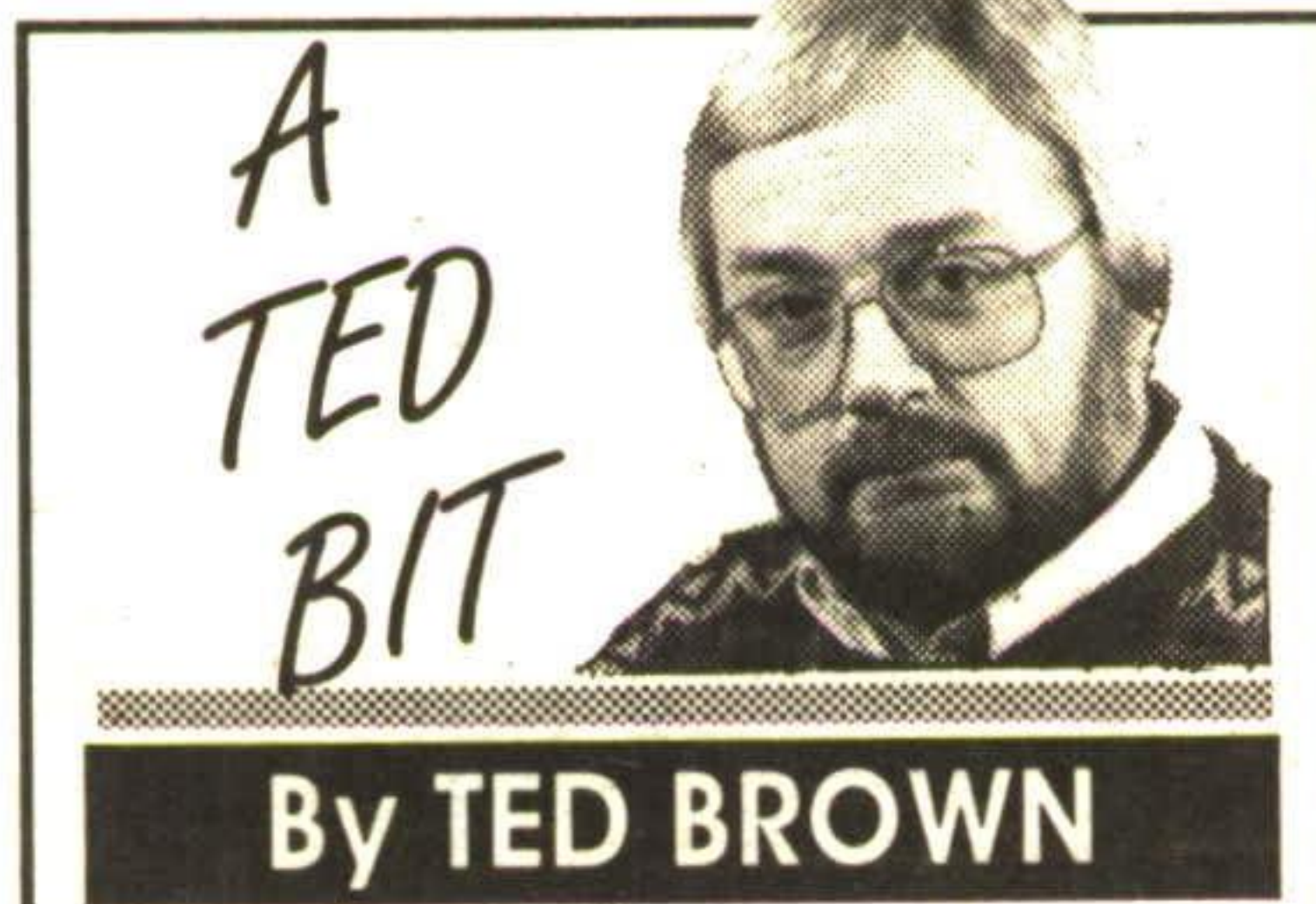
"It was nothing," she replies, as another half dozen channels soar past. "I want to see what's on the news."

Ah yes, the news. Always the news. Every night, at both 6 and 11 p.m.

The news. I tell you, it's tough being married to a news junkie from hell. If an event is covered on CITY, she'll try to pick up the same story from CFTO. Or Global. Or CBC.

All at the same time. Just to hear all sides of the story. Myself, I'm tempted to hide the remote control from her, as I sit down to watch television, (which isn't too often, I might add.) When I watch TV, I tend to stick to one station, and immerse myself into that program, not flick back and forth.

But she's attached to her remote. Now don't get me wrong; there's nothing wrong with remote controls. They're a product of the electronic



age, and certainly have become the norm for many people, making life just a little bit easier to control from the comfort of the old armchair.

But I figure a remote control is a convenience for turning the sound up or down, or to turn the TV on and off.

Not peruse the entire broadcast universe.

If a commercial comes on the TV while watching a show with my wife, off we go for a ride around the dial, just to see if something better is running on another channel.

Of course, I'm sure all stations synchronize their clocks, and broad-

cast commercials at the same times, because when she's flying through the channels, it's usually through a mess of commercials.

The problem I think rests in the fact that when a group of people gather to watch TV, they are forced to endure the programming taste of the one person in command of that little infrared dictator.

It must be a Dr. Jekyll — Mr. Hyde scenario.

This woman, who is determined to ruin my eyeballs with her rapid fire program changes, is the same person who will declare war on the world if someone even looks like they're going to change the station on the radio in the kitchen.

I guess that kitchen radio is sacred ground.

But place a television remote in her hand and she's flyin'.

I think the kids even get a little miffed with her channel surfing. Lots of times when we sit down to watch TV, the remote has disappeared, only to be found under a

chair, or hidden between the cushions of the chesterfield.

But once she gets it back into her hot little hand, with her thumb positioned over the appropriate buttons, nothing stands in her way.

When the remote suffers a breakdown, (like when its batteries die,) I say a little prayer.

I've even been tempted to place dead batteries in it, or put a piece of tape over the infrared eye on the TV, just to enjoy an evening of uninterrupted programming.

But I think the worst is yet to come.

You see, our television is getting a little long in the tooth, and has recently shown signs of heading to that huge entertainment centre in the sky.

So what's my problem? She's already checking out the new TVs that have the picture within a picture feature.

That way, she figures she can catch two news broadcasts at the same time.