

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Photography: Ted Brown

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CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS - 873-0301

Director of Distribution: Dave Coleman

Circulation Manager: Nancy Geissler

Mailing Address: 211 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN, ONT. L7G 4X5
Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398

Curious strategy

Local MPP Noel Duignan, candidate for the New Democrats in the June provincial election, left a few people scratching their heads on Wednesday when he declined an invitation to attend the Chamber of Commerce's all-candidates breakfast meeting.

His reason: it was not a public meeting, but an "elite group" of people attempting to get the ear of the politicians.

Well, who doesn't?

This meeting, organized long before the election was called, was not just a chance for Duignan to present his views, but to listen to what local business people have to say — regardless of their opinions or the political ties of some of their members. It was also his first public opportunity to size up the opposition.

It is Duignan's decision as to what functions he attends during this election campaign and we are sure that not all the candidates will attend every function that they are invited to.

However, they must all keep in mind that it is easy to sway the votes of the already convinced, it is important that we have a MPP who can sway the votes of the unconvinced, and that sometimes means going into the lion's den.

Whether Duignan's strategy is the correct one is something that the voters of Halton North will decide on June 8.



That IS my daughter on the garbage truck

I guess everyone has their moment of glory.

You know, Andy Warhol's 15 minutes of fame.

Not long ago, my daughter Maggie was talking about her moment of fame, and how no one in her class believed her.

So, for the record, that IS Maggie riding around on the side of the garbage truck.

I guess I should explain.

You see, six years ago, one of my contacts at Halton Hills Fire Department asked a favor of me.

This particular contact, who shall remain nameless, had a great way of persuading (or more accurately, conning) me to do a number of tasks for the fire department.

And most of those tasks were photographic in nature.

This one job involved setting up a studio shot of a firefighter, Don Maveal, with a child in his arms, as if he were carrying her out of a fire scene.

She was to act 'lifeless.'

As it turned out, Maggie was the chosen one, because of her size, her long hair at the time, and the fact she was the lightest child there, so she wouldn't overtax Don's back.

We set up the shot, with Don in his turnout gear, while Maggie wore a white nightgown.

And acted 'lifeless.'

We set up a studio at the fire hall and within an hour, had our shot, as I headed out the door with an exposed roll of film and Maggie in tow.

Well, making a long story short, the shot turned out better than expected. The

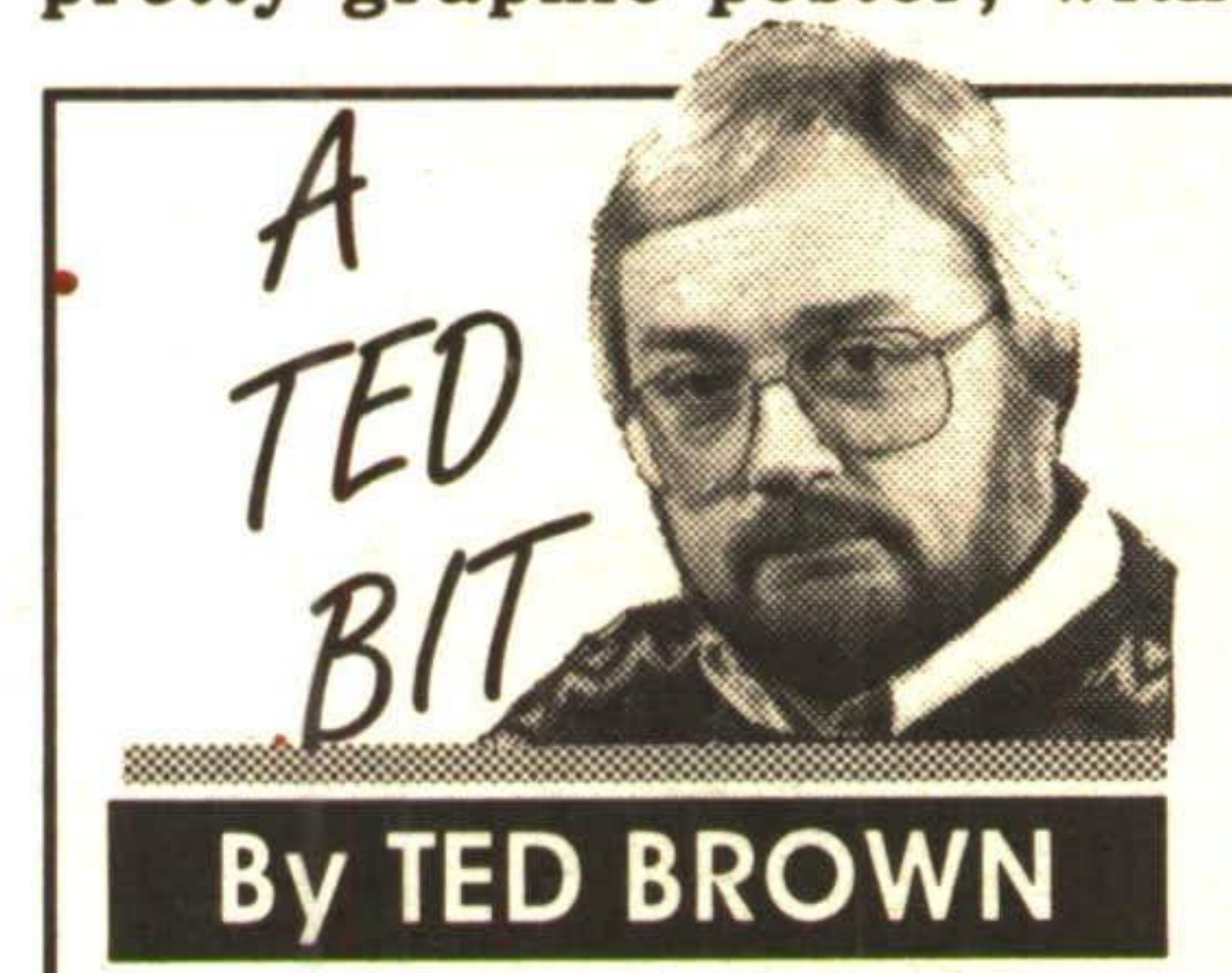
lighting gave it a dramatic look, and Maggie looked extremely 'lifeless.'

In fact, one could say she looked dead.

My eldest sister abhorred that photo.

"Gawd Ted," she said, grimacing, "That's terrible. Poor little Maggie looks horrible. I don't like it one bit."

Well, I must admit it did look pretty realistic, and I guess the fire department decided the same, even though we considered it would make a pretty graphic poster, with



some slogan like "Smoke alarms save lives," or something similar.

So the boys from the fire department did the next best thing. They had the original photo reduced to a line drawing.

The artwork was placed in a red circle and eventually applied to a fridge magnet.

Maggie was delighted to learn she was going to be stuck to almost every refrigerator in Halton Hills.

But the worse part was none of her friends believed her.

After a frustrating period of time, Maggie finally convinced a few, (with some help from me) that she was the chosen

one of fridge magnet fame.

Soon after, the Town of Halton Hills launched a program in which different town departments recognized their counterparts in other departments.

And the town works department was no exception, especially since many of the works employees are in fact part-time firefighters.

When the program was launched a few years back, Maggie and I attended the introduction of the program, as a town employee stood by and showed off the large plastic sign with Maggie and Don and, "Smoke alarms save lives," emblazoned on the side of a truck.

And one was mounted on every garbage truck in town.

Last week, as Maggie and her friends walked through the local mall, Halton Hills Fire Department had a display set up, encouraging people to check their smoke alarms.

And, you guessed it, Maggie and Don were prominently displayed, in their pose from six years ago, on the literature they were handing out.

Maggie mentioned to her friends it was her in the photo.

And they didn't believe her.

But as my wife ran into the group of kids, she confirmed Maggie's claim to fame, saying, yes, it was Maggie in the picture.

But the final blow came when Maggie's best friend leveled her with a giant killer.

"Geez Maggie, on the side of the garbage truck," she grinned, "That's what I would want to be known for...."

Did you know?

Ontarians generate nearly 2 million tonnes of leaf and yard and food waste each year. Residents generate the most of this waste — 1.3 million tonnes in 1993, while the other 600,000 tonnes comes from food processors, grocery product manufacturers, grocery outlets, hotels and restaurants and hospitals, schools and businesses. May 1-7 was National Composting Awareness Week encouraging residents to compost which could reduce a homeowner's waste by 30 per cent. In 1994, 800,000 composting households kept 140,000 tonnes of waste out of landfills.

— The Composting Council of Canada

V.E. 50 years ago we danced in the streets. Today we shouldn't forget why.