

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Staff Writers: Janet Baine, Lisa Talyn

Photography: Ted Brown

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

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Bad attitudes

In many traffic accidents it's a case of bad driving that leads to the mishap.

And what causes bad driving? That's simple: attitude.

Drivers with attitude are a menace on our roads. Speeding 10, 20, 40 kilometres over the posted limit. Cutting off other drivers. Racing. Speeding through yellow and red lights. Tailgating. Passing on curves and hills.

We see it every day as drivers become more and more aggressive, and more and more careless.

Most are under the misconception that driving is a right. It is not. Driving is a privilege that should be revoked more frequently than it is.


There is always a desire to blame the other driver, say someone else is at fault, but many of us have to start taking a good hard look at our own driving habits and realize that we are all guilty.

We are a society of microwave ovens, minute rice and instant pudding. We want things immediately, and we want to get places faster than we are capable of getting there.

Certainly police are focusing on aggressive drivers in an attempt to educate and enforce, but we must educate ourselves.

A little common courtesy and common sense would go a long way in avoiding these situations.

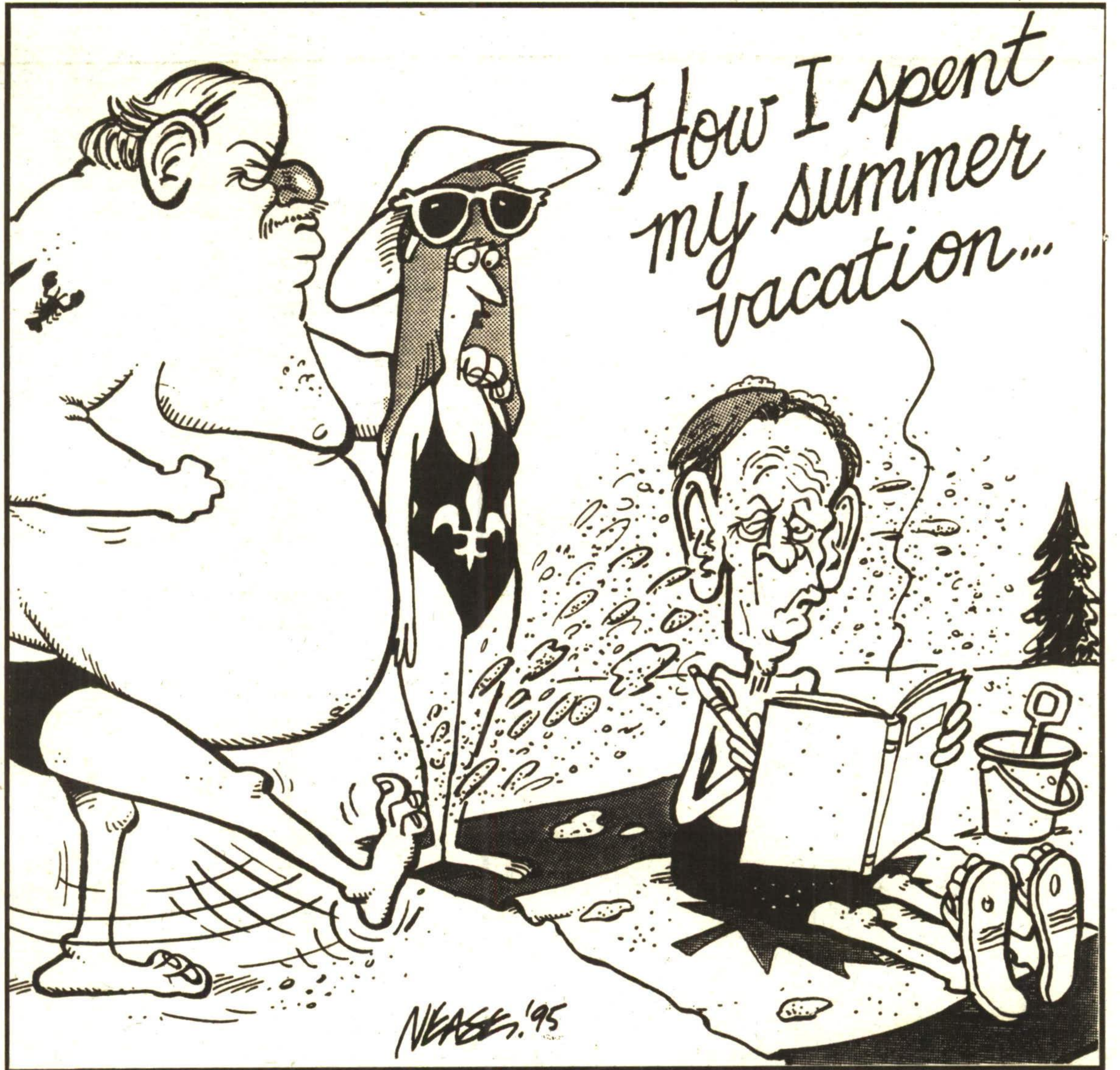
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Kid talk: "My father can beat your father." "Big deal....so can my mother."

Did you know?

Ever wonder how many hot dogs are eaten at the Molson Indy? What about how much soda pop is quaffed? Here's the approximate annual consumption. Hot dogs and sausages — 44,000; hamburgers — 18,000; soda pop — 120,000 cans; water — 17,000 bottles; french fries — 15,000 lbs. of potatoes.



Farmers like the CIA?

I've been a Tom Clancy fan for some time, regularly delving into his novels to escape reality around me.

And perhaps one of the most attractive aspects of Clancy's novels is his use of high tech wizardry as the Central Intelligence Agency spies on enemy forces with spy satellites.

Many's the time I read about Jack Ryan watching the activities of some terrorist faction via a spy satellite positioned miles above the earth's atmosphere.

Or how about John Clark, the CIA field agent who could determine his exact latitude and longitude position in some remote Central American jungle through the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite which interacted with his receiver in the ground to give him exact coordinates for a missile strike?

Sounds incredible doesn't it?

I thought so too. But I recently learned this high tech machinery is no figment of some novelist's imagination, but a reality, now utilized by the farming community.

Like me, my dad is a gadget freak. When we were farming our land with numerous cash crops a few years back, Dad always enjoyed having up-to-date equipment and just reveled in looking at machinery.

It's no surprise he still subscribes to a number of farm publications, just to keep his finger on the developments in the industry. Just this week he showed

me a feature story on the newest electronic monitoring equipment for those huge combines we see lumbering across the field as they harvest wheat, barley, soybeans and corn crops.

This new gadget is an option on John Deere combines, and is called the GreenStar Yield Mapping System. By the looks of the article, it could revolutionize the combine industry.

The system, which sells for \$10,000 US, provides the farmer operator with crop yield and moisture readings on the go, pinpoint the combine's exact position on the face of the earth (within

with a missile, or pinpoint a MIG fighter on some remote airstrip.

Farmers like the CIA?

Cool.

The farm application isn't using the system in quite the same way, as the farmer targets weak producing areas of his fields, rather than a potential enemy (unless a low production field could be considered an enemy) but apparently the satellite coordinates are calculated in the same manner.

On board the combine, the system gathers its information as the combine gathers the crops, and the operator can access the moisture of the crop being harvested, on-the-go-yields, and other interesting facts like the total area harvested, total weight of the grain and a host of other details.

I remember when we got our first "real" self propelled combine, which had a few monitor toys on it, and how excited I was to be able to monitor the threshing cylinder speed, from the tachometer attached to it.

But that was pretty small potatoes compared to a combine using GPS. Apparently, in the not too distant future, John Deere will be releasing a similar monitor for planting operations.

Anyway, it just demonstrates the strides our farmer friends have taken in the past few years. They're not going to be stragglers when it comes to utilizing technology around us.

No, they could very well be leaders in it.

