

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

The Halton Hills Weekend is published every Sunday by The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, at 211 Armstrong Ave. Georgetown Ont., L7G 4X5. It is one of the newspapers published by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, Etobicoke Guardian, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetsanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Today's Seniors.

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Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier, \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

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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Editor: Robin Insoce
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Staff Writers: Janet Baine, Lisa Tallyn

Photography: Ted Brown

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DISTRIBUTION
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

Search is on

The Halton Board of Education went out on a limb at the end of June, voting to allow Wards One and Two of Halton Hills the right to a byelection to fill the position left vacant when former trustee Dave Whiting resigned to move his family to the east coast.

We now need interested candidates to come forward.

No one ran against Mr. Whiting in the election last September, meaning it has been almost four years since the constituents of the area have voted on a public school board representative.

An acclamation again this time just won't do!

We hope to see several names on the ballot when the October 23 byelection date rolls around, giving the people the opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

The future of education in this province is going to become more complex. The residents of Acton and Esquesing need a strong voice at the board table and we're sure there are some excellent candidates out there.

The people deserve the chance to decide who will represent them — and their children.

At present, no one has come forward and indicated that they will seek the position.

We're hoping that will change — before the September 25 nomination deadline.

THE BEST WAY TO CLEANSE OUR MEMORIES OF THE BEN JOHNSON AFFAIR...



So much for 'common sense'

Perhaps I was naive or too trusting.

You see, I was skeptical back in June, when the Mike Harris Tories were elected to power on the promise of a "common sense" approach to government.

I don't say I believed them, because politicians are, well, politicians.

But after they took hold of the reins at Queen's Park, I had to admit, I was genuinely surprised to see numerous cuts to funding, in an effort to alleviate that dreaded deficit.

I began to wonder if Harris was actually going to deliver. Maybe this "common sense" thing was going to become a reality.

Welfare payments were reduced to able-bodied individuals, infrastructure money was cut on certain projects, and a host of cost-cutting measures were kicked into gear.

The whole atmosphere of the provincial government was suddenly looking very financially responsible.

Until this week.

That's when the Harris government announced they would restore out-of-country health care coverage to \$400 a day in time for snowbirds to head to the sunny south this winter.

So much for "common sense."

Correct me if I'm wrong, but if someone is in the financial situation able to afford to head south for six months, to pay 30 per cent exchange on their money and maintain two residences, one in the south and another in Canada, why, pray tell, do they need to be subsidized for

their six month winter vacation?

This one really annoys me. If Harris wanted to maintain some form of credibility, he sure took a wrong turn this time.

And by restoring this coverage, he has just bumped up the costs of medicare to the province by \$20 million, according to the figures released by the Bob Rae government, when the coverage was cut to \$100 a day in the first place.

And who will be picking up the tab for this \$20-million?

Who else?

The middle and low income earners, who can't

tab as our kids, future taxpayers of the province, are having difficulty meeting the financial demands of acquiring a higher education.

Or how about the "other" seniors, the ones who can't afford any vacations for either financial or health reasons, who must watch as health care programs are reduced or even eliminated at home because funding has been cut.

How many programs like seniors' day care or at home care have been shelved as a result of funding?

Believe me, lots.

And seeing the province dole out \$20-million so a few hundred thousand seniors can work on their tan does nothing but infuriate me.

Parry says half of his group have annual incomes of less than \$30,000. I would really like to see where he gets his figures.

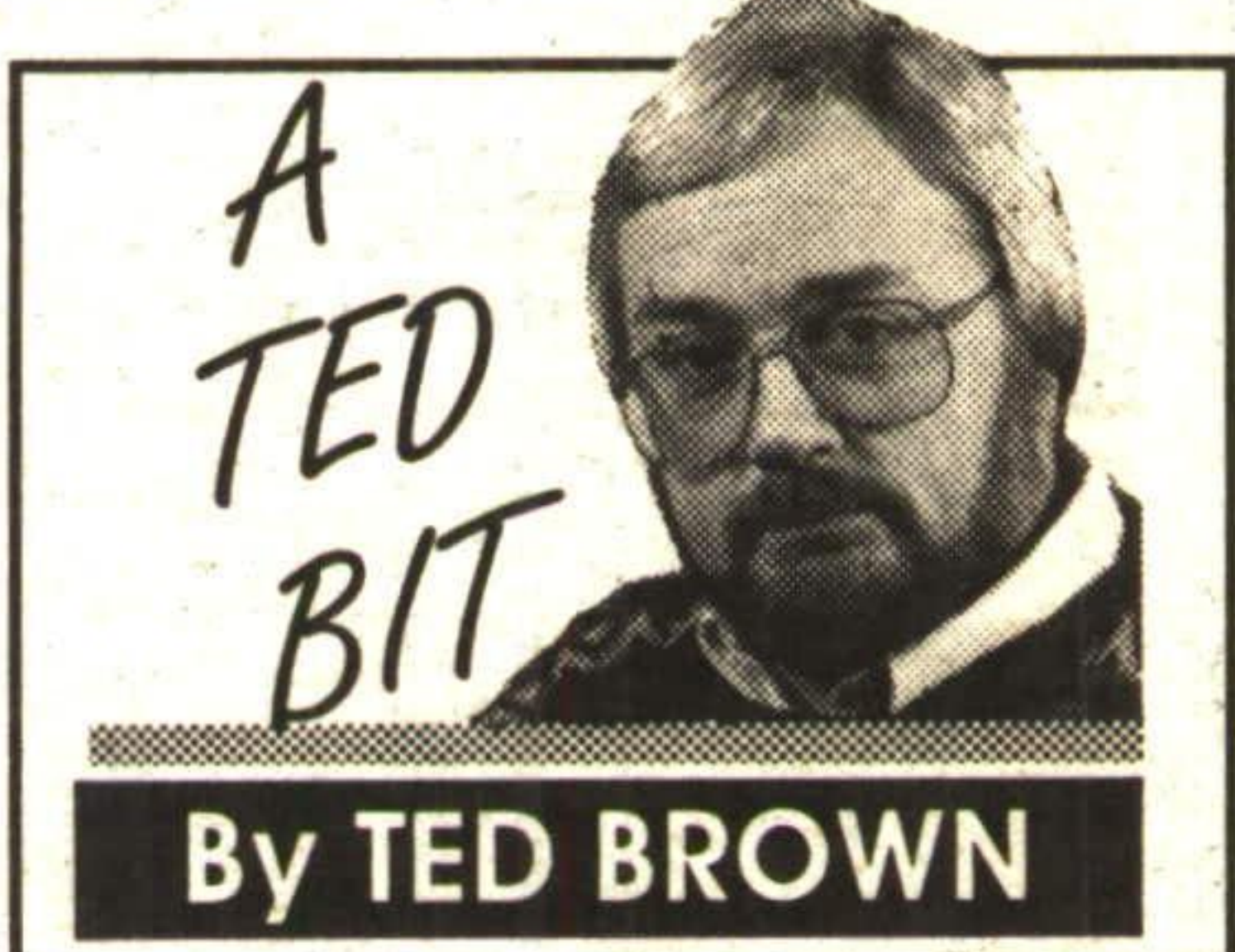
After all, how does someone in the under \$30,000 a year bracket afford to head south every winter, let alone own or rent a second residence?

Nope, I would be more inclined to believe the bulk of snowbirds are financially well heeled, certainly able to cough up an additional \$150 to cover themselves for the winter months.

Yup, I guess I was naive. The Tories are back to their old tricks, looking after their high income folks, while placing the burden on the little guys.

But as the old saying goes: The rich get richer, and poor get poorer.

And now, "common sense" is officially gone.



RR2



Closeness is when you spend two weeks in a camper with the people you thought you loved the most.

Did you know?

The Great Lakes are the largest system of fresh, surface water on earth, containing approximately 18 percent of the world supply. Only the polar ice caps contain more fresh water. The Great Lakes contain about 23,000 cubic kilometres (5,500 cubic miles) of water covering a total area of 244,000 square kilometres (94,000 square miles).