

THE HALTON HILLS **WEEKEND**

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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All is not Golden

Change which benefits everyone is ideal, change which benefits nearly no one is unproductive. The latter applies to the recommendations contained in Anne Golden's report on reforming the political and economic structure of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

The Golden Report proposes sweeping changes in taxation, services and government structure, and for Halton Hills it means higher taxes, fewer services and greatly diminished political clout.

How can we possibly accept a council which does not even allow Halton Hills a full seat; we must share with Milton and Caledon? Do we want a politician in Whitby voting on a development issue in Halton Hills — particularly when we ourselves will not have an equal say?

How can we possibly accept a new taxation structure if it means a 25 per cent increase in taxes for our businesses?

We can't.

No wonder councillors are already suggesting that we opt out of the GTA. This report has only one goal — fixing Toronto's economic woes and it's Halton Hills which will be paying part of the bill.

Should the Golden Report actually receive provincial consent, opting out of the Greater Toronto Area should not be considered, it should be done.



It's a hazard when you vibrate the rear view mirror

I've always loved music. All kinds of music. And it would be fair to say, I can appreciate almost any type of music ('cept rap, but that's okay, cuz I don't consider it music anyway.)

But as I said, I like music. I play music at my desk at work and everywhere at home — you name the place, and I'll probably play some sort of music there.

But I really enjoy music in the car.

For Christmas of 1994, I received a superduper deluxe AM-FM stereo cassette deck for my car, with all the bells, whistles and 30 programmable stations.

But the best part is its power.

Yup, this little puppy's got guts, no doubt about it.

At the time, I thought it was sweet how my kids convinced my wife to buy me that stereo.

But I was naive.

You see, when my daughter got her driver's licence, you can probably guess which car she started driving. Today I'm allocated six programmable stations, my daughter, 24.

As I said, this cassette deck is powerful, somewhat like the ones in the cars you hear driving by at the beach, pounding out Euro dance music. And having lots of power is great, but it does create problems.

Namely, speaker problems. You see, when I installed the deck, I hooked it up to the original speakers in the car.

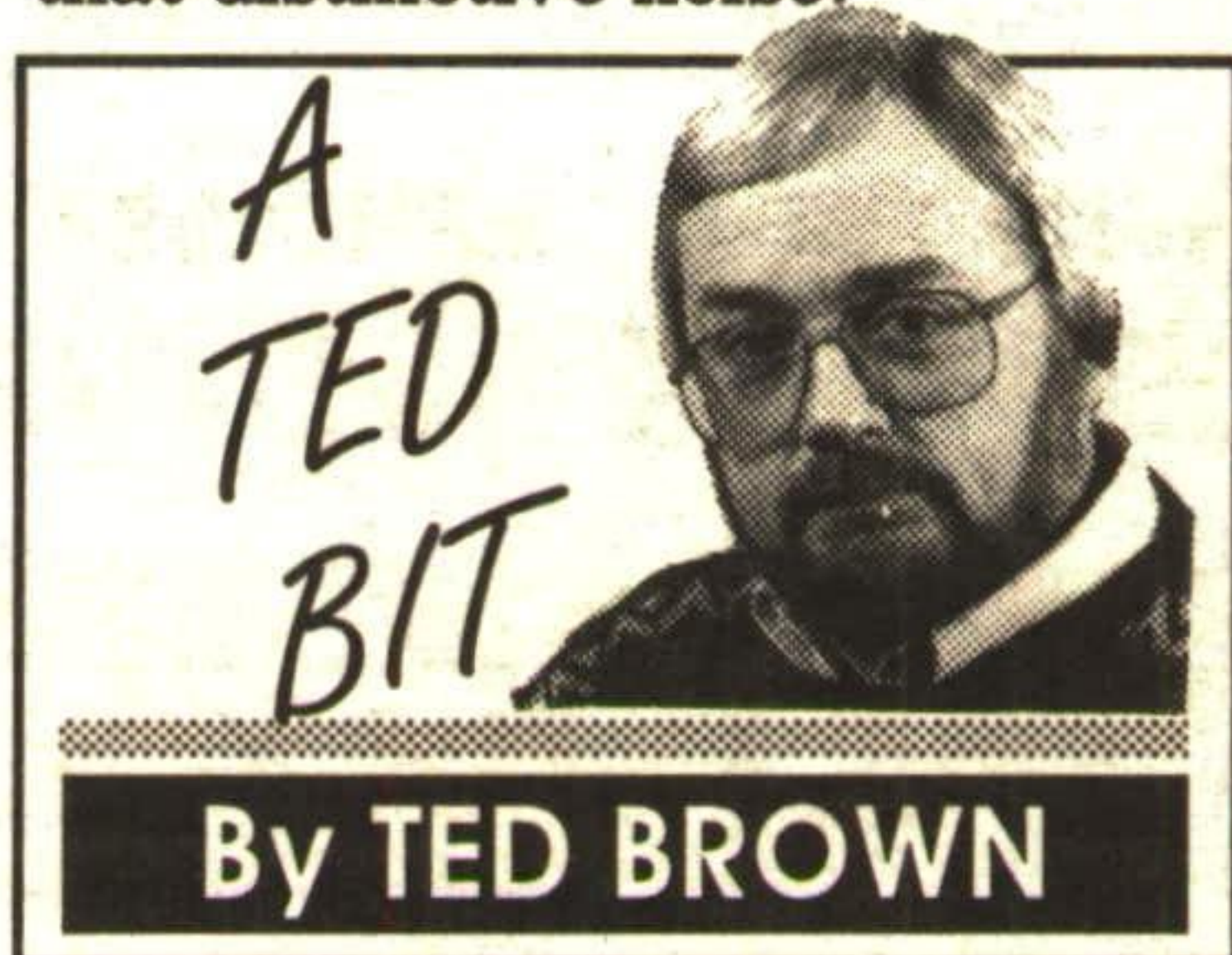
And if I were the only driver, that would be fine.

But hooking a 50 watt per channel car stereo to speakers

that were designed to handle 10 watts, coupled with a teenager behind the wheel of the same car, the life expectancy of those speakers suddenly tapers off dramatically.

Now those speakers have hung in there fairly well during the past 12 months, in spite of the fact I know my daughter regularly pushes them to the envelope.

That was until last weekend. It happened as I drove one of my younger daughters to town and cranked up the power. It was that distinctive noise.



A chirp. Almost like the sound of a cricket in the background. No more sparkling cymbals or snappy snare drums.

Nope, those speakers had certainly lost their edge. I got the feeling they had probably belted out Smashing Pumpkins one decibel too many.

The old saying goes, "All good things must come to an end," and I was of the opinion those car speakers were no exception.

I decided to confront the said daughter.

"You haven't by any chance been playing the car stereo a little louder than

usual, have you?" I asked, trying to remain subtle.

"Who me?" the innocence was touching, but really didn't fool me. "Why do you ask?"

"Cuz I think the speakers are almost shot, and I can only guess someone has been cranking 'em up a little too loud."

"Dad, I would never play the stereo loud enough to wreck the speakers," she smiled, oozing innocence.

"Well they're starting to buzz a bit," I countered, "And you're the only one who would turn 'em up that high."

My wife decided to intercept.

"I don't know, Ted," she smiled. "I can usually hear Born to be Wild, from your Steppenwolf tape before you turn in the driveway."

"Right Dad," snapped daughter, "So don't say you don't pump it up now and then."

They went on to tell me how they often recognized tunes from my Doors Greatest Hits CD or Golden Earring's Radar Love as I pulled into the garage.

I felt I was losing this battle, in spite of the fact I never turn the volume control up 'that' high.

(After all, it's a driving hazard when the rear view mirror vibrates in time to the music.)

They exaggerated. A bit. So the speakers are nearly shot, and will probably be retired by summer. But when I replace 'em, you can be sure of one thing. The new ones will be able to handle a little more juice.

Like, say, 100 watts a side.

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Windshield wiper, ice scraper, anti-freeze and you, will wear out this winter. Not necessarily in that order.

Did you know?

Is your New Year's resolution to lose weight wavering? Keep this in mind, women who attended weekly diet program meetings where they received detailed meal plans and shopping lists, lost 50 per cent more weight than did women who attended weekly meetings but were not given eating instructions. Women with meal plans improved their overall eating habits by snacking less often, eating breakfast and lunch regularly and purchasing more fruits and vegetables. Greater weight loss might be achieved with short intermittent bouts of exercise instead of all at the same time. Women who exercised in 10 minute blocks four times a day lost 50 per cent more weight over 26 weeks than women exercising 40 continuous minutes a day.

—Healthy Weight News Wire