

# The Independent Weekend Edition & Free Press

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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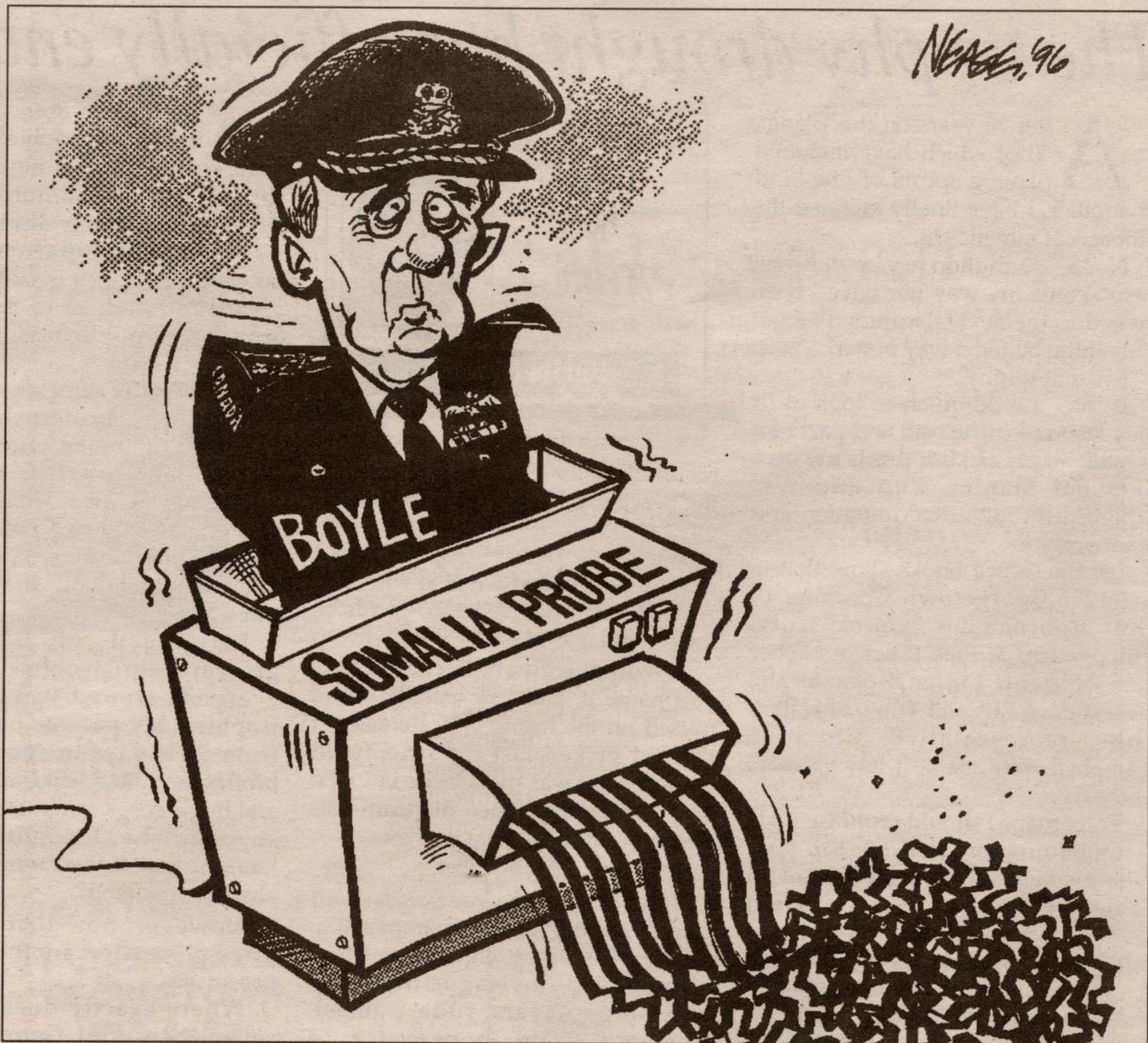
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## One more tax

We've often been left bewildered by some of the rulings of the Supreme Court of Canada and its decision earlier this month to allow the Halton Board of Education to collect Education Development Charges (EDC) is the latest confounding decision from Canada's highest court.

These lot levies will be imposed on new homes built in Halton by both the public and separate school boards with the intention all the money collected will go towards building new schools. A noble thought, indeed, but at what cost?

This new tax, and that is exactly what it is, will not be paid by all residents—only new home buyers, as an additional \$1,200 will be added to the cost of the average new home.

Is that a fair form of taxation?

The economy, albeit slowly, is showing signs of picking up and new home sales are vital to a healthy economy. Every dollar by which new home prices increase is another home not sold.

It's easy to point the finger at homebuilders and say they are only looking out for themselves in their opposition to EDC, but they know these charges are going to have potential new home buyers thinking twice. Fewer new home buyers results in fewer new homes which results in fewer construction jobs and so on down the line.

But, sadly, you can't convince the Halton board of that.

## Reader urges public to support museum

Dear editor,

Sometimes we have to nearly lose something before we miss it. I'm concerned that may be the case with the Ontario Agricultural Museum which is located in the centre of Halton region in Milton.

The museum's regular season ends Sept. 2. No provincial funding will be available to open it next season. Funding ends March 31, 1997.

On Sept. 14, Ontario's rural Heritage Preservation Committee,

which is committed to preventing the permanent closure of the museum, is holding a fund-raising fall festival. The group faces trying to raise \$1 million to keep the museum operating.

The festival has been well-supported by volunteers intent on revitalizing the museum. It will need the attendance and financial support of many from this area and from across the province.

This museum in our midst has more than 30 historic buildings,

15,000 artifacts, 3,000 cubic feet of archival material and more than 7,000 rare and reference books, all on an 80-acre site beside Highway 401. It is regarded as one of the best and most extensive collections in North America.

It is the largest public museum in Canada to face closure.

I urge all those who can, to be a part of the fall festival Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

Jim Dills

## The 'celebrities' of Halton Hills

Dear editor,

Halton Hills is getting more famous by the minute. I started reading the August Reader's Digest and came across Acton's Murray Brown.

It's funny to see someone you know in a magazine, especially wearing a toad on his head. A few pages later I came across Georgetown's Hazel Gorin complete with orange peels in her nostrils. (Both were depicting old-fashioned remedies for allergies).

I knew so many people I though I was reading a new compact version of The Independent & Free Press.

Lois Fraser

## Letter of the day

### Do Tories have secret agenda?

Dear editor,

I found the recent article on the Niagara Escarpment by Cynthia Gamble, (Independent & Free Press, Aug. 21) very disturbing.

In what has become the Tory style, the public is assured that nothing is changing while in secret significant changes are being planned.

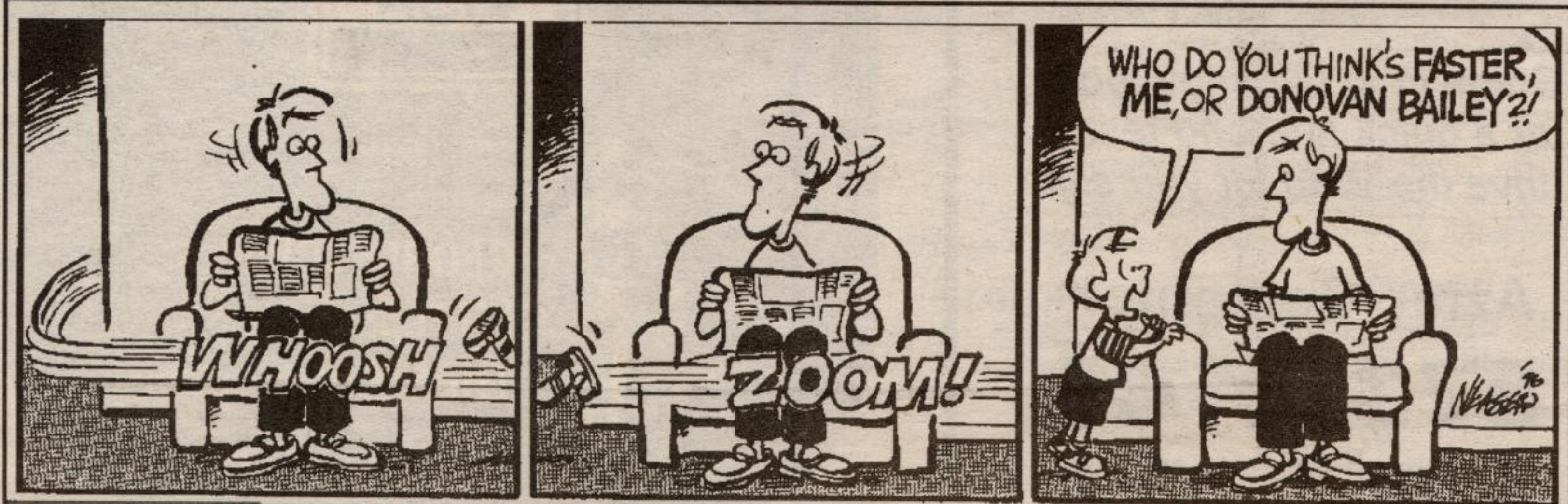
If United Aggregates Ltd. are given an exemption to the Niagara Escarpment Planning Act, then RSI will expect the same exemption.

Does the Harris government have a secret agenda to solve Toronto's garbage problem by sacrificing Halton Hills' quality of life?

Tory politicians in Queen's Park will not care if our aquifer and the Credit River watershed are at risk from leachate. The errors and excesses of the Harris government will be changed by future governments, but unfortunately, damage to the environment is usually permanent.

Norman Elson

## PUD



## Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com