

The Independent Weekend Edition & Free Press

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Sunday 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, East York Mirror, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene 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.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate.

In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. 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 Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

EDITORIAL -- 873-0301
Editor-in-Chief: Lorne Drury
Editor: Robin Insoce
Acting Editor: John McGhie
News Editor: Cynthia Gamble

Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt

Photography: Ted Brown

Composing Manager: Steve Foreman
Composing: Mary Lou Foreman, Dolores Black,
Shelli Harrison, Debbie McDougall, Kevin Powell

ADVERTISING -- 873-0301

Advertising Manager: Sandra Dorsey
Classified Manager: Carol Hall
Display Sales: Jeanette Cox, Lana Walsma, Tanya Allenburg,
Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Demo, Sharon Pinkney,

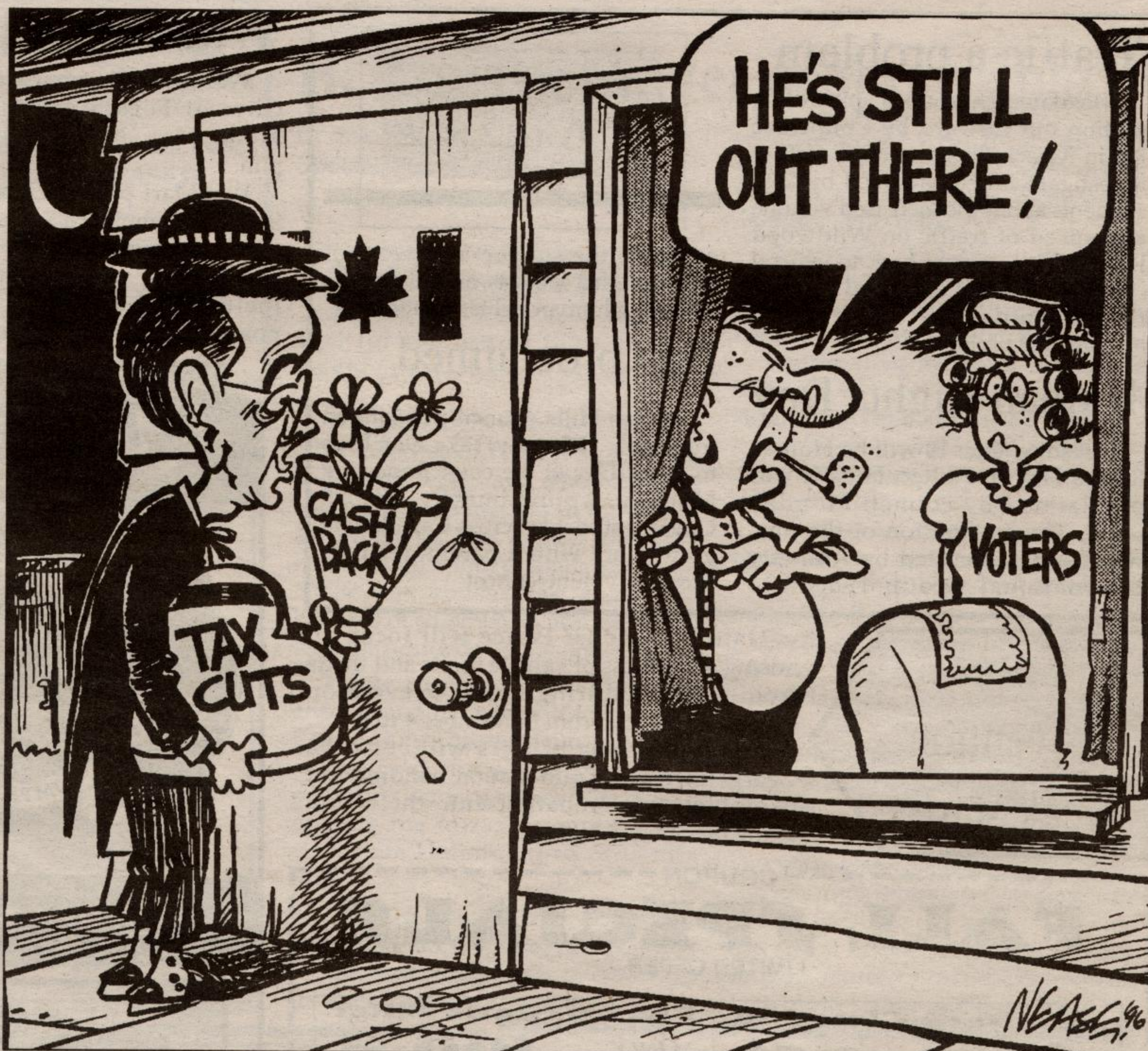
BUSINESS OFFICE - 873-0301

Manager: Carol Young
Accounting: Pat Kenner, Rose Marie Gauthier

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
e-mail: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com



What a waste!

No matter how loud taxpayers shout, it seems that some people on the public payroll just can't hear them.

Take for instance, the story which appeared on the front page of Wednesday's Independent & Free Press which reported that the annual meeting of Halton's elementary principals was held outside of Halton at the posh Hockley Valley resort near Orangeville.

The cost for this two-day meeting (Oct. 17-18) was pegged at \$11,000.

The cost and location of the meeting, which included Halton principals, and some vice-principals, superintendents and trustees and was an idea trading/workshop conference, was heartily defended by Cindy Durdan, co-chair of the Halton Elementary Principals' Association.

"We considered local sites in our deliberations," said Durdan who couldn't recall if the meeting had ever been held in Halton.

A total of 102 people attended the conference at a cost of \$147.20 per night per person which was paid for by HEPA through the professional development fund created by principals at each Halton school.

These funds ultimately come for the school board which, of course, is taxpayer funded.

Could a Halton location not have sufficed? Did this meeting have to be held at an upscale ski-golf resort which sport pools, saunas, games room and hot tub?

We don't question the need for these meetings, but the cost and locale of this get-together was unacceptable.

That's our money that was spent. And not wisely.

Fire 'a tragedy'

Dear editor,

In response to the letter written by Terri Sullivan about how the Popp family had no insurance. First of all, when a tragedy like this happens it is sad, insurance or not.

As you put it, "the old-fashioned country spirit of the people of Nassagaweya" are helping the Popp family—it is a choice to help them. If they felt taken advantage of, then I'm sure they would not help. It was not the Popp family who asked for help, it was the community which was willing to give help.

In my opinion, I think you should keep your rude and judgmental opinion to yourself instead of broadcasting in the newspaper. You do not know the circumstances.

Denise Schmidt, Acton

Home's age no factor

Dear editor,

With regard to B. Bremner's letter in the Oct. 20 edition of The Independent & Free Press.

I find I must side with Terri Sullivan. If the Popp family did not have insurance on their residence then it wasn't due to the age of their home as Bremner stated. I own a home built in the year of confederation (1867). I have no trouble insuring it—fully.

Letter of the day

Final word on fire victims

Dear editor,

I would like to make a final comment with regard to the responses generated by my letter to the editor which ran Oct. 2.

I have spoken to representatives of several insurance companies and these representatives have all assured me that the age of a house would not be the only factor in refusing to insure it. According to these representatives, the following would be factors in refusing homeowners' insurance:

- Non-payment of premiums for previous homeowners' insurance
- High incidence of claims (indicating abuse of insurance coverage)
- House (old or new) is poorly maintained therefore the high risk of fire, water damage, etc.
- House (old or new) is a high risk for liability (eg. steps rotted, no railings, etc.)

Please note that these are examples. There may be many other reasons why someone might be refused insurance and I urge anyone who has been intrigued by these letters to call a few insurance brokers or agents and ask for themselves. I also caution people not to take every word spoken or written at face value.

Finally, I am not a selfish person and this was not an attack on the Popp family. As I stated in my letter this is the third time that this has happened in the six years I have lived in Georgetown. In these difficult economic times when a lot of people can barely pay their own bills and support their own families, they should not be expected to pay for other people's negligence. That was my point.

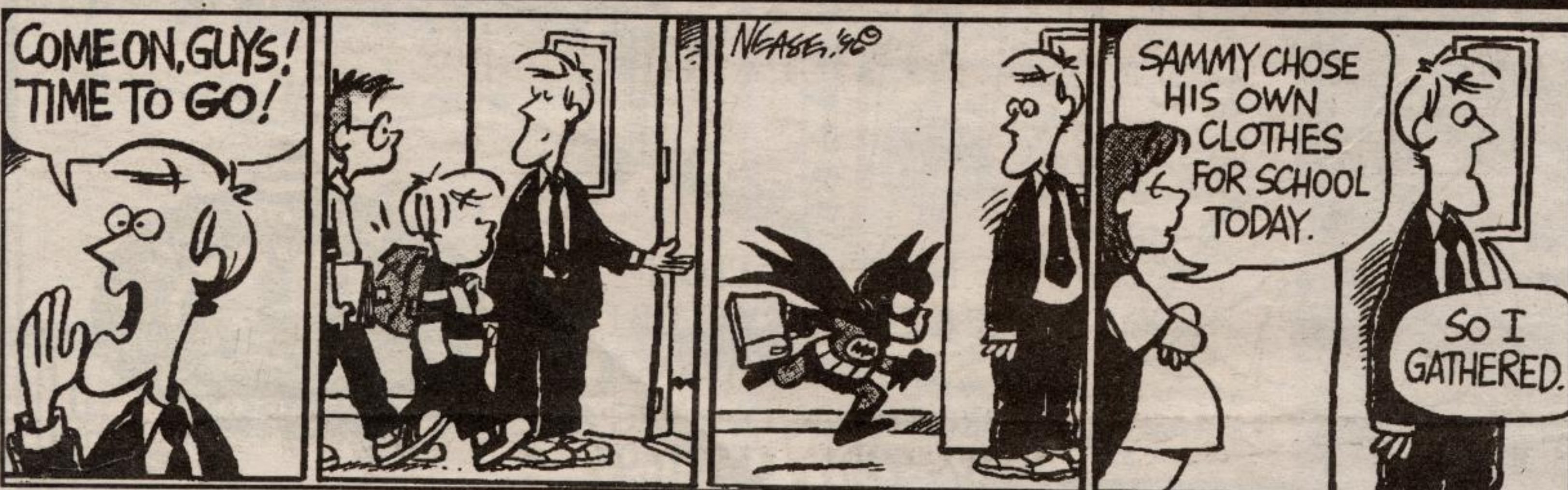
Terri Sullivan, Georgetown

Further, had the writer taken time to absorb what Sullivan had written, they would have realized that she was talking about individuals taking responsibility

for themselves, not selfishness or uncaring on her part. Bremner's generosity, I fear, is misplaced.

Don R. Dagenais, Acton

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