

# 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.

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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.

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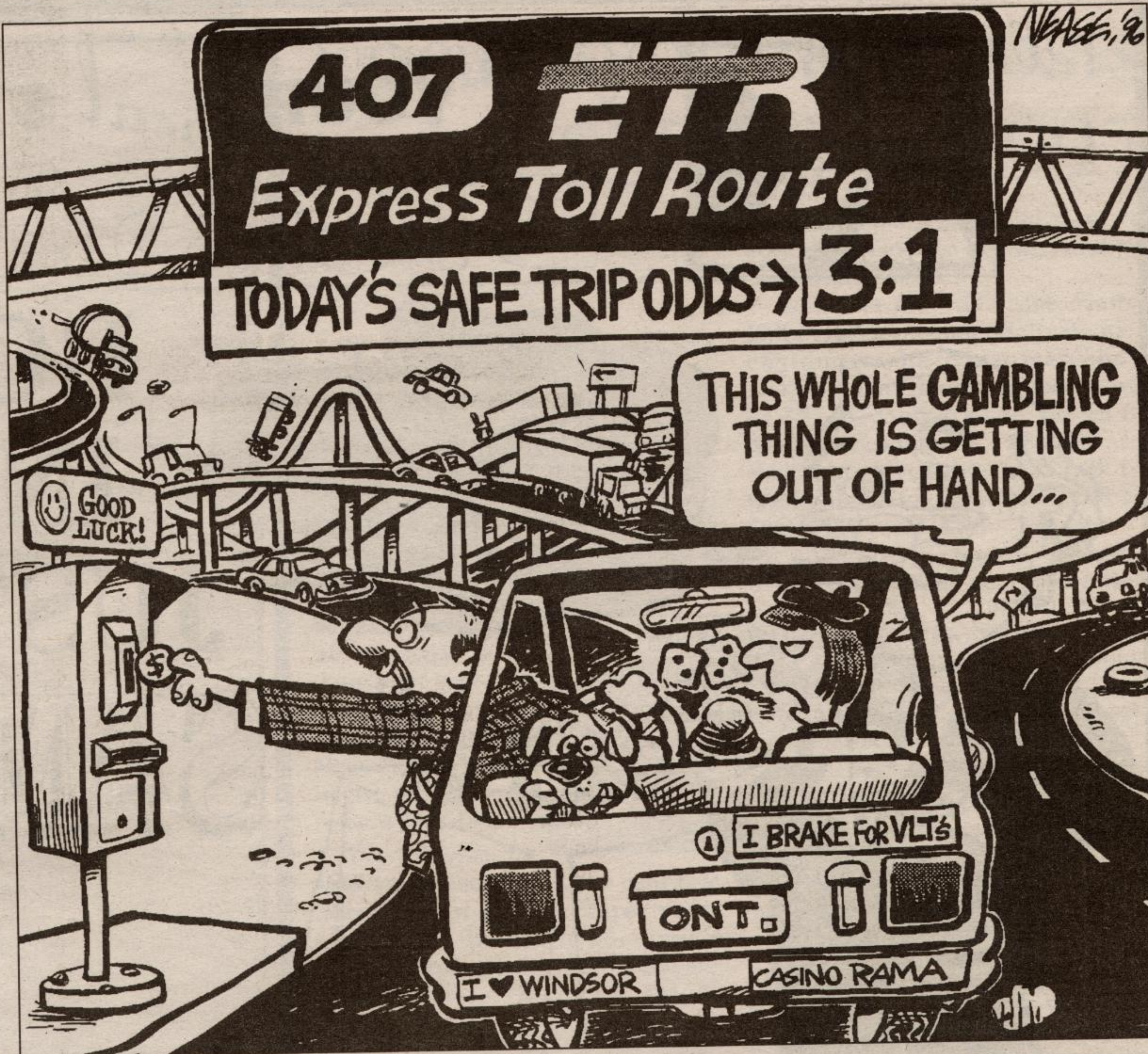
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## Cartoon was 'disappointing'

Dear editor,

Thank you for the kind words in your editorial in this weekend's edition (Nov. 10). However, I would like to voice my disappointment in your editorial cartoon in the same paper.

Most Canadians are aware of the recent problems with our military. But to choose Remembrance Day to parody these problems displayed poor taste by the cartoonist and bad judgment on your part in its use.

Remembrance Day is a time of reflection for most Canadians; a time to consider the sacrifice made by fellow Canadians years ago on our behalf. Making light of today's problems in the context of a remembrance service belittles the event and the people involved.

The depiction of today's soldier as a clown does them a disservice that is unforgivable. These men and women often risk their lives carrying out the wishes of our government. How thoughtless it was on your part to ridicule them in this way and on this day.

Marc. H. Lafleur,  
President, Br. 120  
Royal Canadian Legion,  
Georgetown

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## Shop 'til you drop

The Ontario government's decision to allow Boxing Day shopping this year is welcome news and will finally end the usual open-close nonsense we see every year.

By amending the Retail Business Holidays Act to allow stores to legally open Dec. 26 the Tories are simply giving the people what they want.

Of course, not everyone agrees. Unionists are already bringing out the old "erosion of family life" argument—the same hogwash they spouted when their NDP buddies brought in Sunday shopping. And we all know that the moral fibre of Ontario society has gone to hell in a handbasket since that decision, hasn't it?

Let's face it, Boxing Day is *the* shopping day of the year and one retailers count on heavily. Many Ontarians do not have Dec. 27 off and therefore cannot take part in the annual madness.

By changing the law, the Tories are simply evening the playing field for all businesses (and not just those who get special tourist area exemptions or opt to risk fines by opening). As well, police officers won't be wasting time handing out fines that have proven to be no deterrent to shopkeepers who open illegally.

Solicitor-general Bob Runciman has said the new legislation will ensure that employees are able to refuse to work Boxing Day under the Employment Standards Act—as they should.

Since no one is being forced to work and no one is being forced to shop, we can't see any harm in allowing Boxing Day shopping on Boxing Day.

### PUD



## Letter of the day

### Immersion creates a surplus

Dear editor,

As a concerned early immersion parent, I would like to comment on the Halton Board of Education's school programs renewal report.

As reported in the Nov. 17 edition of The Independent & Free Press, one of the recommendations is the phasing out of extended or late immersion.

The federal and provincial grants for immersion students are guaranteed until 1998. What most of us don't know is that the Halton immersion program consistently runs at a surplus, this year having \$7,000 left over which the board uses as it sees fit. While transportation costs are a problem, we must keep in mind that it was a board decision to create late immersion centres, thus creating the necessity of long distance busing in the first place. Perhaps solutions must be found to the transportation problem, but since through good management, the immersion program is actually creating a surplus of funds for the board there is no compelling reason to cancel the late immersion at this time.

If this issue is of concern to you as a parent, please contact your school trustees Dick Howitt (875-4340) or Ethel Gardiner (873-7888). Stewarttown parents can contact Mrs. C. Sparling (877-3055).

Marny Malcolmson, Georgetown

## Acton Food Drive help was appreciated

Dear editor,

I would like to thank you for distributing the bags in your newspaper for the food drive.

Once again, we had a successful drive thanks to the generosity of people like yourself and others. We were able to collect more than 9,000 pounds of

food for the Acton food bank. All the guides and scouts had a good time while performing this worthwhile service project.

We could not have done it without you. Again, thank you.

Andrew Kayess,  
co-ordinator  
Acton Food Drive

## 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