

The Independent & 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, Alliston Herald/Courier, 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/Port Perry 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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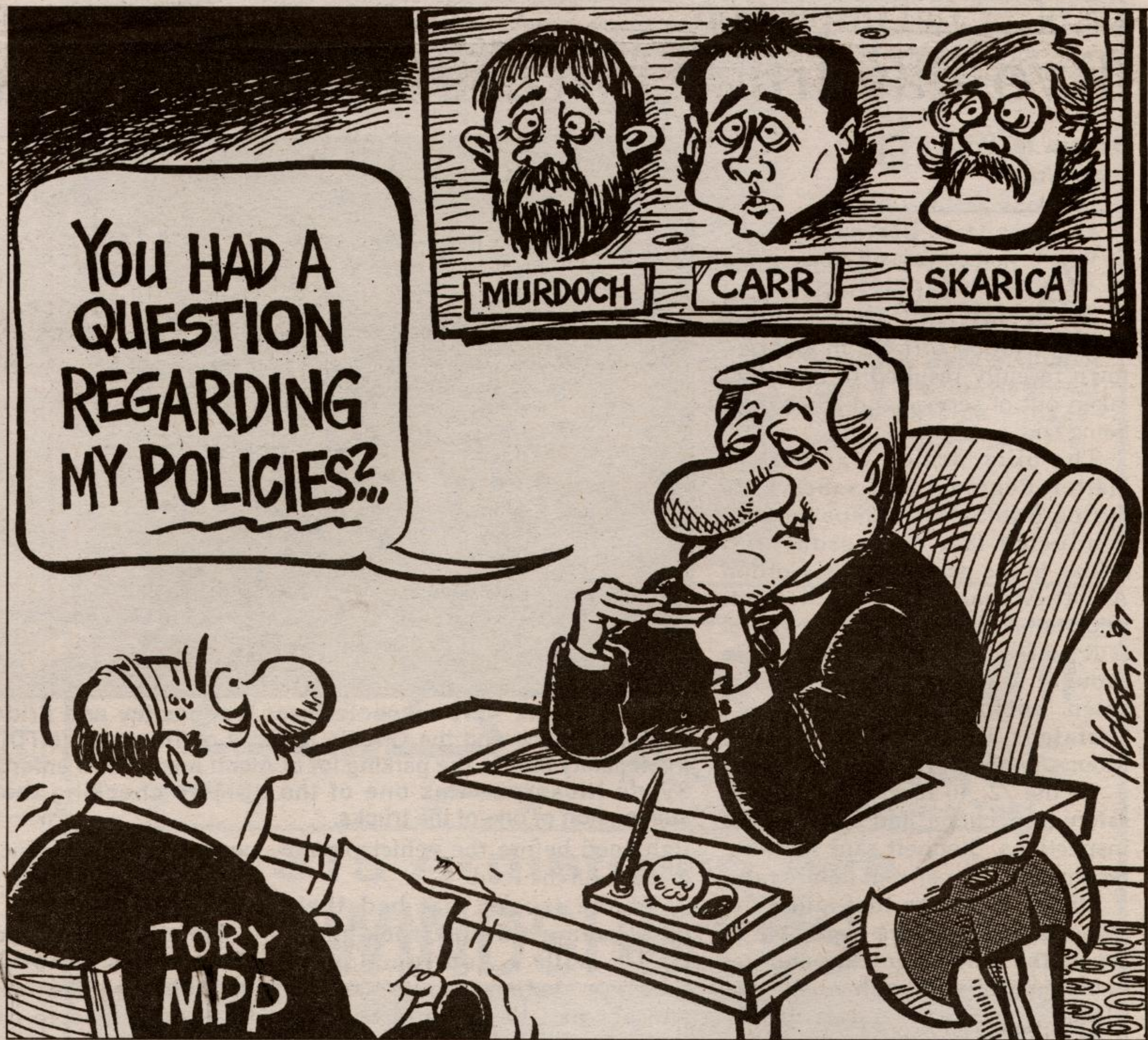
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Reader likes our editorials

Dear editor,

I would like to congratulate you on your editorials on local concerns that have appeared in the last two issues of The Independent & Free Press. We in Halton Hills are virtually in a media desert when it comes to information on local issues from the large city newspapers and TV stations.

We are well-served by these corporations on national and provincial issues who have dedicated writers to cover these stories in great detail. We need your staff to cover our local stories and concerns. We need your unbiased questioning of local problems to stir up constructive thought in the community.

Keep up the good work!

Fraser Robin,
Georgetown

GMHA offers big 'thank you'

Dear editor,

The Georgetown Minor Hockey Association would like to thank the following for their generous donations and support of our successful house league tournament: Kiwanis Club of Georgetown (tyke division), Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 (novice division), Georgetown Chrysler Ltd. (atom division), Georgetown Kinsmen and the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council dinner committee (peewee division).

Tim Somerville
Georgetown Minor
Hockey Association

Letter of the day

Slow down; avoid a tragedy

Dear editor,

Spring has sprung and, as the snow and ice of winter once again relent, many a residential neighborhood will face the menace of increased traffic often traveling at unsafe speeds.

This past week I was outside doing yardwork with my four-year-old when a high school student lost control of his motorcycle and crashed across the street from our house. Fortunately, other than being badly shook up, the young man was not seriously injured. However, the consequences could have been much more tragic particularly if an innocent bystander, for instance my four-year-old and I, had been in his uncontrolled path.

If this so-called minor accident was just an isolated incident, it might soon be forgotten, yet at this very same spot scarcely two years ago (shortly before we moved into the neighborhood) a speeding car took out a small tree. McDonald Boulevard is a winding street that happens to be a favorite thoroughfare for traffic going to and from the Acton High School. It is all too common to see speeding traffic (including school buses) around 9 a.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. traveling as fast as 70-80 km-h. With a number of pre-school and elementary-aged children living in the neighborhood, past attempts have been made to slow it down including requesting a four-way stop at Division and McDonald (to the disappointment of anxious parents, a request turned down by the town's traffic department).

If a stop sign is apparently not justified, then could we not see a lower posted speed limit—40 km-h—such as is the case along Churchill Rd. N. (a wide-open and straight stretch of road) opposite the McKenzie-Smith-Bennett school playground and some periodic monitoring by Halton's finest?

Surely we need not wait for the next accident that could have more tragic consequences—perhaps the loss of a child's life—before doing something. In the meantime, I would ask all motorists to please slow down and drive carefully.

Bob Matton, Acton

A futile meeting?

As this editorial was written, Halton's Board of Education was gearing up for a meeting with area MPPs to discuss its current budget crisis.

But, if recent comments from Halton Centre MPP Terence Young are any indication of what will be said at today's meeting, the board isn't going to find a sympathetic ear.

Young did not hold back his feelings when he spoke about the Halton board.

"I've never listened too much to what this board has to say. They handed out 500 pink slips (to teachers in 1996) and almost all of them were recalled..."

Young had much more to say on the subject, none of it flattering. Therefore, it is safe to say the public board will not receive a warm and fuzzy reception. It is also probably safe to say the board chair will not walk away with a fistful of dollars.

Our trustees will be back at it again tomorrow (Thursday) and it will be interesting to see if this time they can come up with a budget that doesn't stick it to the taxpayer. That is what they are paid to do, isn't it?

Truckin' on

Frankly, it's getting rather tiresome to keep picking on the trucking industry and the way they keep putting rigs out on the road that have no business being there.

But, until trucking firm operators and drivers begin to understand the potential danger they pose to other motorists, we'll have to keep harping on them.

Last week Halton police and Ontario Ministry of Transportation officers conducted a two-day safety blitz. A total of 72 trucks were pulled in for safety inspections and 31 per cent failed. While the fact that only one truck was in such bad shape that its licence was pulled is certainly an improvement over the horror stories we've seen in the past, it's clear that some operators still aren't getting the message.

The question is, why not?

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