

The Independent & Free Press

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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, Barry's Bay This Week, Barrie Advance, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penelanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Today's Seniors, City of York Guardian.

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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.

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Nowhere To Hide

Somewhere out there, quite likely in a rural part of Canada, there is a man living under an assumed name and hiding the sinister fact that he is a suspected child killer.

He could be here in Halton Hills, or Red Deer, Alta., or Squamish, B.C. He has evaded capture by the police for 15 years. His name is Dennis Melvyn Howe.

It has been more than 15 years since nine-year-old Sharin Morningstar Keenan waved goodbye to her mom Lynda to play in a small park in the Bathurst-Dupont neighborhood of Toronto and disappeared. That was Jan. 23, 1983. For 10 days police officers and volunteers searched for the young girl before her body was found, stuffed in a refrigerator, in a rooming house just steps from the park. She had been sexually assaulted and strangled.



DENNIS MELVYN HOWE

Ever since Dennis Melvyn Howe, then 42 and wanted on a first-degree murder warrant, has been on the run.

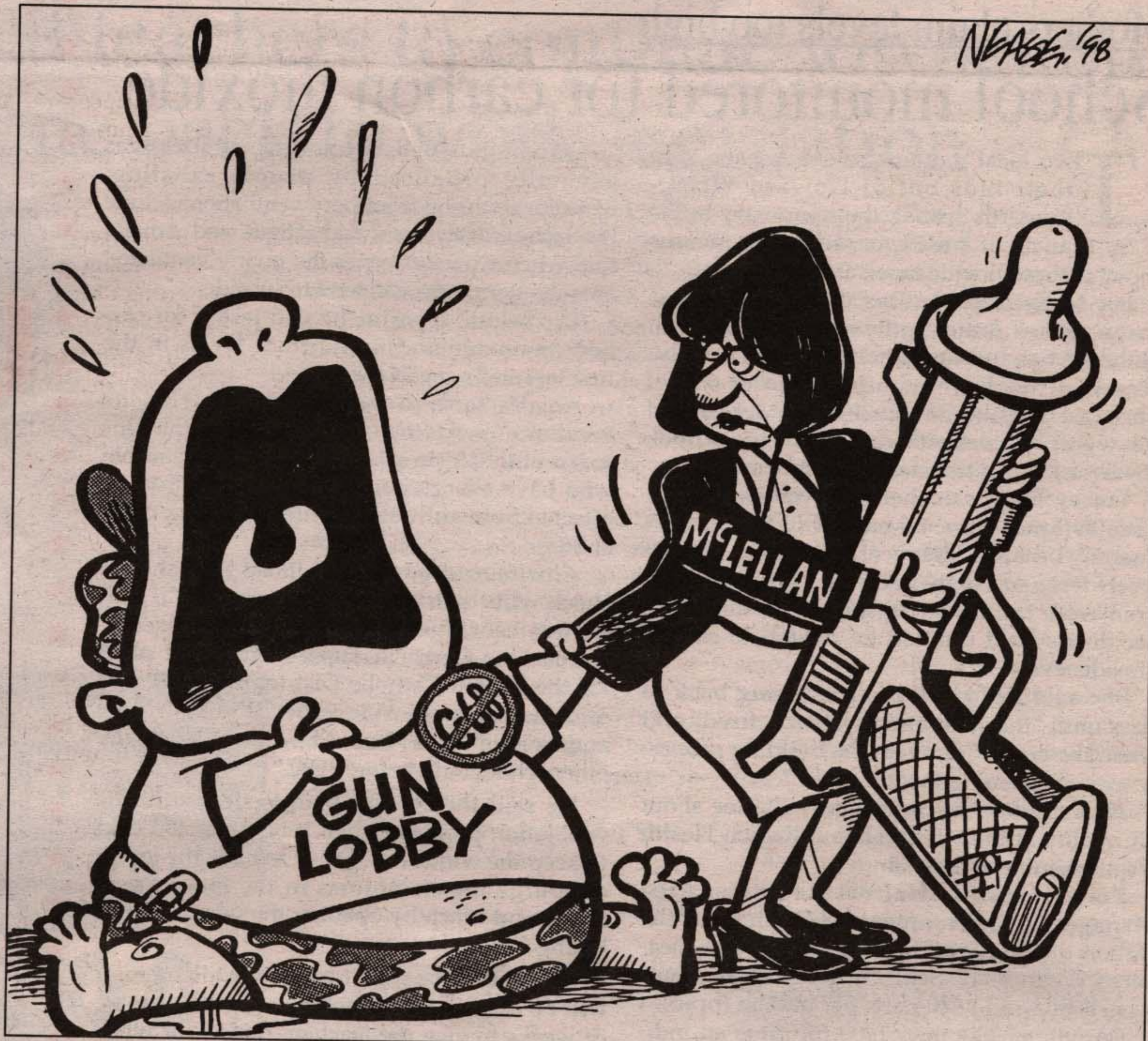
The drifter was well known to police for a series of minor offences and even though police have chased hundreds of leads over the past 15 years, Howe has managed to elude capture.

Now, thanks to an enterprising idea by the lifestyles editor at one of our sister papers, the Barrie Advance, community newspapers across Canada this week are running a story on the hunt for Howe (see page 3). The campaign is called Nowhere to Hide.

Police believe that Howe, now 57, is living under a assumed name in a rural part of Canada which is served by a weekly newspaper. Officers working on the case say community newspapers are the only way they can blanket the entire country with information on Howe that will hopefully lead to his arrest.

The Independent & Free Press wholeheartedly endorses the Nowhere To Hide campaign and hopes that it proves successful in the arrest and conviction of the young Toronto girl's killer.

Time, hopefully, is running out on Dennis Melvyn Howe.



Fair not fair to ball players

(This letter was originally sent to Don Brander, president of the Georgetown Fall Fair board and a copy was made available to The Independent & Free Press for publication.)

Dear sir:

A day that should be wonderful, fun and challenging for the girls who participated all season long in baseball turned out to be frustrating for the organizers, infuriating for the parents and, in some cases, disappointing to participants who could not have all of their fans watch them play their final games.

The two tickets provided to us by the fair board were not sufficient. Our family, which is quite common in the 90s, consists of a mother, father and stepfather. We all attended our daughter's games on a regular basis. We also had a dedicated grandma who attended her granddaughter's games all season. The kids who play on the Kinsmen teams all have a team shirt with the Kinsmen logo and are clearly identifiable but, they were to use one of the tickets provided. The other ticket provided by you was for one other person of our child's family.

Did you expect us to flip a coin to see who got the ticket? Or did you expect our daughter to pick who she wanted to go? Many other families have siblings who have attended the games all season. Were the parents of these families supposed to just drop their player off at the gates and pick them up later, or did you expect them to pay many dollars for an entire family to watch their own child play?

I am sure that your reasoning is of a financial nature, but would it not be better to receive the

Letter of the day

Reader protests 'tax grab'

Dear editor,

My realty taxes went up 18.7 per cent. This is exorbitant. (I hope we all had a happy time at the Victorian Inn).

The several phone calls I made pointed the blame to the provincial government. The government assessed my property, that is true, with the following guidelines to the municipality, which I was not aware or told about. (Maybe the municipality advertised these guidelines and I missed reading the ad?):

"Municipality responsible for setting mill rate."

"Municipality can change amount of tax raised from each property class within ranges of fairness, set by the province, for each property class." (Is 18.7 per cent fair?)

"Municipalities are required to offer a program of tax relief, tax cancellation or tax deferral to homeowners who are low income seniors and low income persons with disabilities."

"Municipalities can choose to phase in any tax changes over a period of up to eight years."

My last assessment was in 1992, and is not 50 years out of date. I have no choice but to pay under protest this tax grab by the municipality. I would like my, and other seniors', tax bills reviewed and brought in line to fairness.

Edward M. Cachia, Georgetown

revenue from all of the children and their families who might stay after their game and enjoy the rides or eat some food or play some midway games? I am sure that as reasonable and honest people, we would watch our children play ball and then pay the admittance to the fall fair if we wanted to.

I understand that Jim Ford, the co-ordinator of Kinsmen ball, had an agreement from the fair board

to share the facilities for the Day of Champs. Please note that Kinsmen ball has operated this event on this day for many years. It was the fair board who changed their days.

There must be a reasonable solution to this problem. The last day of our children's summer sport should be memorable for the games played, not for politics.

Laurie Burns, Georgetown

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 may be edited for content or length and 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