

# The Independent

Weekend Edition & Free Press

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager

Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief

John McGhie, Managing Editor

Carol Young, Business Manager

Dave Coleman, Director of Distribution

Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble

Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt

Photography: Ted Brown

Advertising Sales: Dianne Fascinato, Sharon Pinkney, Pat Tosh,

Cindi Dermo, TerryLynn Guest, Jeanette Cox, Mary O'Brien

Classified Manager: Carol Hall

Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier

Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

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/Penetanguishene 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.

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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.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.

Mailing Address: 211 ARMSTRONG AVE. GEORGETOWN, ONT. L7G 4X5  
Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398  
e-mail: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com



## Avoiding the axe

We didn't believe for a minute that the Halton District School Board was seriously considering closing (amalgamating?) McKenzie-Smith Bennett (MS-B) and Robert Little Public Schools in Acton.

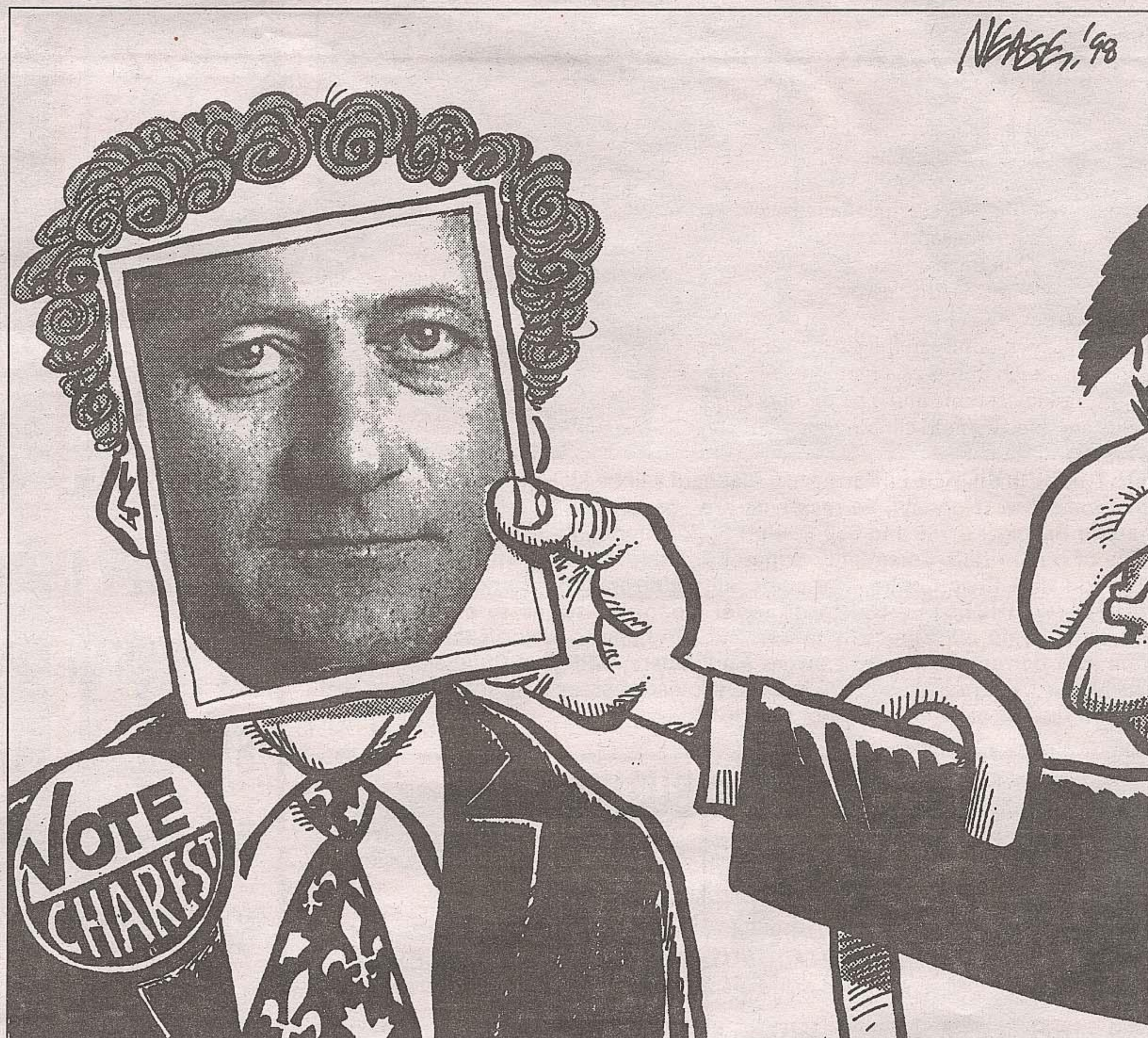
However, since those two schools— Acton's only public elementary schools we might add— appeared on a board closure and consolidation review list last month, some Acton parents have, understandably, been concerned.

Thankfully, common sense appears to have ruled, and a recommendation will be forwarded to the committee studying school closures to keep both schools open.

According to Superintendent of Education Al Greyson, the Acton schools remained on the list until this point because the committee needed clarification on how the Ministry of Education would view MS-B since the two schools were physically linked three years ago and have been operating as one school. Seems the committee was concerned the province might still consider the school as two schools.

We're all for the province's plan to eliminate waste of space and to make better use of Ontario schools but we'd like to think that perhaps the parents of students attending these schools could have been spared some unnecessary anxiety if someone have been able to decipher the bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo a tad earlier.

### PUD



## Sponsors of blitz dinners thanked by support group

Dear editor,

Halton Hills Community Support and Information would like to thank the following sponsors for contributing to their United Way Blitz Night Dinners held October 5 in Acton and October 6 in Georgetown:

Georgetown Seniors' Centre, A & P, Belamy's Restaurant, House of Buddha, Jack Spratt Subs, KFC, Mr. Sub, Pizza Delight, Pizza Hut, Pizza Pizza, Tim Horton's, Godfather's, Mr. Mugs/Pizza, Manny's Four Seasons Restaurant, and Queen's Pizza.

We hosted a dinner for our canvassers before they went out into the community to collect donations for Halton Hills United Way.

We were very successful and appreciate the communities' support.

Rosslyn Dowell,  
Acton

## Letter of the day

### Council urges end to impasse

(This letter was originally sent to James Sherlock, chair of the board of trustees for Halton Catholic District School Board, and Joseph Pece, president of Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) Halton secondary unit. A copy was made available to The Independent & Free Press for publication.)

Dear sirs,

We are writing this letter to you as the parent representatives of the Bishop Reding School Council, advocating for our school's students' interests in this long and drawn out dispute. We feel that it is our responsibility, on behalf of our children, to express our utter disbelief at the unwillingness of both sides to find common ground in order to put an end to this impasse.

Both sides claim to have the best interests of the students in mind; yet to us, neither side is willing to compromise on any issue fundamental only to themselves. Students not receiving extra academic help from a teacher after class, the board not making clear where the increase in funding received from the government has been allotted, for example, do not denote a wholehearted concern for the students.

The lack of creativity on both sides in applying the provisions of Bill 160 as they relate to the duties of educators, and the intransigence in not appreciating the difficulties under which the other side must operate within the provincial context have effectively removed negotiations from what should be the main point— what agreement can we come to in order that our consumers (students) can receive the best Catholic education we can provide.

These students will be our decision-makers in the global economy. Let's show them another way to settle differences than the "my way or the highway" approach.

Paul T. McDougall,  
Chairperson, Bishop P.F. Reding  
Catholic School Council

## 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 and 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