

The Independent & Free Press

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



Crazy cap

One can't help but wonder if the provincial Tories and Finance Minister Ernie Eves, in particular, are taking some perverse pleasure in watching municipal number crunchers and politicians twist in the wind.

We're talking, of course, about the province's recent decision to cap all business tax increases, resulting from reassessment, at 10 per cent in 1998 and five per cent each in 1999 and 2000.

Not that we think the Tories are wrong in placing a 10 per cent cap in tax increases this year, but their timing is atrocious—especially when you consider Halton Region had already approved a four-year phase-in of tax increases that included a 15 per cent in 1998 and that most final tax bills have been sent out.

Why didn't the province institute this cap months ago? Bringing in this cap at a such a late date is both foolish and, in the words of Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline "unbelievable".

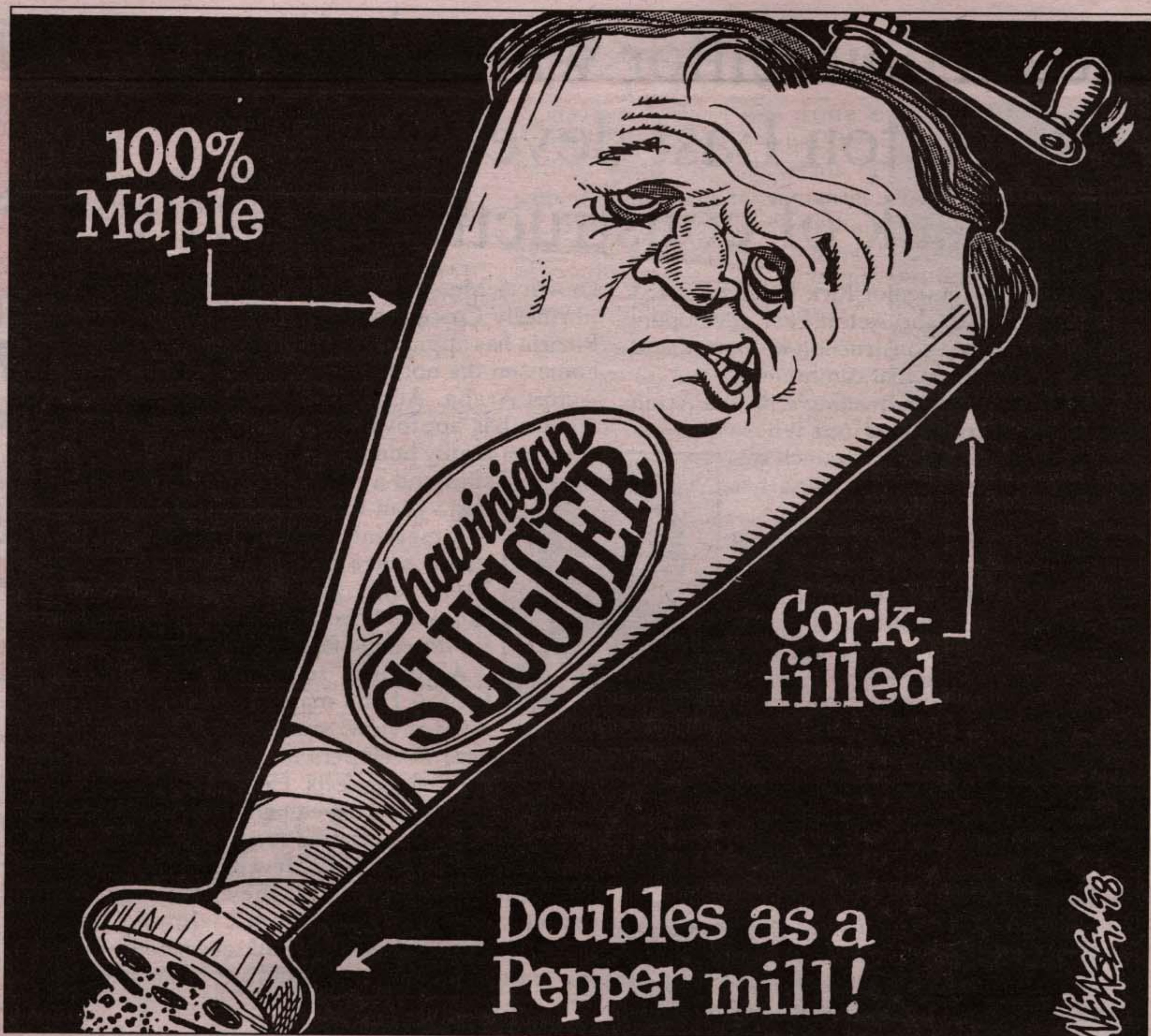
"We are in the 10th month of our 1998 budget and a week away from the last tax installment date, and the province has sent regional council back to the drawing board," said an angry Savoline.

New tax bills will now have to be sent to about 4,000 properties region-wide and half of those property owners will find their taxes, which would have dropped under the region plan, will now go up under the provincial plan.

Even Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh must suspect that something smells about the provincial plan since he offered his "qualified" support for a region request to ask Queen's Park for an exemption since the region had already sent out its final 1998 tax bills.

Local chambers of commerce also don't think much of the provincial cap and Bruce Wenham, president of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, said, "This is the seventh or eighth or ninth fix that this legislation has undergone and it just creates a lot of instability for the business community."

Correct us if we're wrong, but aren't the Tories supposed to be business' best friend?



Cancer chair thanks all for support in '98

Dear editor,

As chair of the Canadian Cancer Society residential campaign in Georgetown, I would like to thank the volunteers who canvassed this past year.

The community also deserves praise for its generous support. As a result of the hard work of the volunteers and the generosity of the community, we were able to surpass our campaign goal of \$70,000. Total givings in this year's residential campaign during the month of April, 1998 were \$76,750.42.

Almost half of the money raised by the Canadian Cancer Society goes to the most promising cancer research across Canada; the rest is used for community programs such as patient support and transportation.

Until the early 1930s, few people with cancer had any hope. Now, as a result of generous communities like ours, over 50 per cent of people treated for cancer are likely to recover successfully.

I would like to encourage residents to join the team and volunteers so that the 1999 campaign will be even more successful. We particularly need volunteers in the newer neighborhoods in the south and west parts of town.

Recognition is due to both the volunteers and the citizens of Georgetown for the success of the campaign. THANKS!

Bob Bairstow,
Campaign Chair,
Canadian Cancer Society

Letter of the day

Thank you, veterans

Dear editor,

The Remembrance Day service at the Elora cenotaph caused me to reflect on the supreme sacrifice of the war veterans; their lives given so that we may live in peace.

Soldiers returning home from overseas were often missing limbs, had faces blown off and also had other injuries too numerous to mention. They spent months in mental hospitals trying to put their lives together after facing the horrors of war. They returned to hard work with minimal wages and no social plans, and within years were living under the threat of nuclear war.

Today, in contrast, I see a continual parade of greedy faces screaming demands from my television set. For example:

- Union members who have EXCESSIVE wages AND benefits want more and more, it's never enough!
- Corporate CEOs whose bottom line is the dollar, cancel thousands of jobs and destroy lives
- Ungrateful Canadians who are not thankful to live in a country such as ours—free

These parasites live off the backs of hardworking taxpayers, many of whom can barely afford to make ends meet.

In retrospect:

- We should stop to consider the fact that if we were not so well paid others would be employed as well
- When we have our daily bread-plus, we should pray for those in other countries who have no bread at all—better yet, contribute to their needs

• We should be thankful armed men do not come to our doors to drag us away if we protest against the government
We owe so much to our veterans, LEST WE FORGET, God bless them all!

Thank you Lloyd Owens, veteran of the Second World War, I'm proud to be your daughter.

Wendy Russell, Elora

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