

The Independent

Weekend Edition & 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



Fair fun

There is no surer sign that summer is winding down than the approach of fall fair season in Ontario.

Dozens of fairs will start up across the province this month and next and here in Halton Hills, we are lucky to have two of the better fairs in Ontario—the Georgetown Fall Fair which runs this weekend (Sept. 10-12) and the Acton Fall Fair which runs Sept. 17-19.

While local residents are spoiled with being able to enjoy the sights and sounds of a fall fair on consecutive weekends, residents who live in more suburban areas of the province (some which are close to Halton Hills) don't have that luxury.

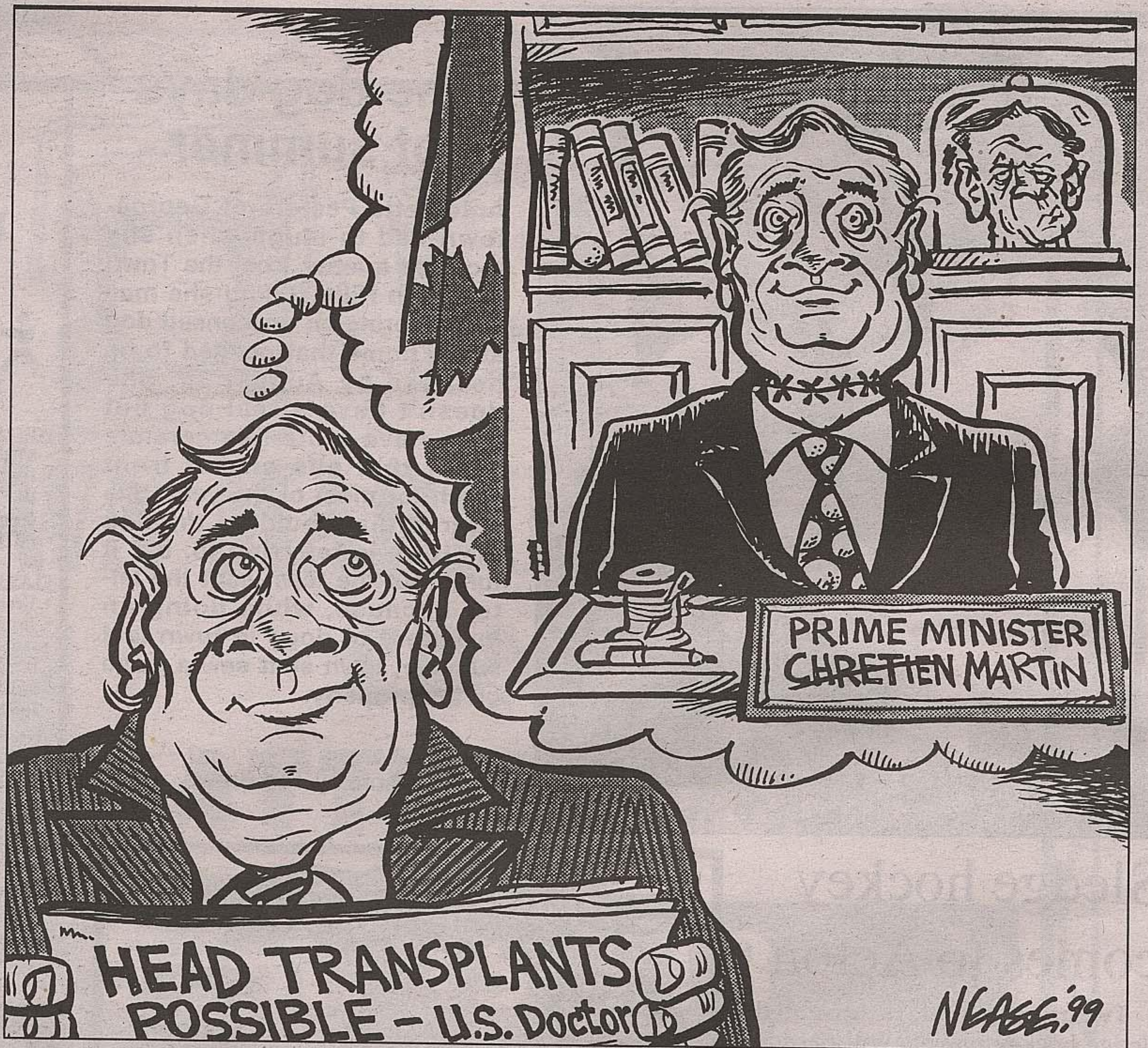
It's too bad, really.

A fall fair generally offers a little bit of everything for fair-goers. There's the hustle and bustle of the midway that's a magnet for the younger set, the horse shows and tractor shows that put on a smile faces of local farmers (and non-farmers), and the demolition derby, poultry shows and pet shows that are just plain fun for everyone.

The local fairs are like a yearly community get-together. Old friendships are rekindled and new ones made as thousands will congregate over the next two weekends to celebrate the ruralness of the area in which we live.

Do yourself a favor and take in a fair. Or better yet, visit both.

PUD



Music festival a great success

Dear editor,

The Happy Fuzzy Music Festival, an all-ages music concert held recently at the Acton Arena was a huge success.

More than 300 people came out to enjoy the talented music provided by 11:11, Scratch, Static Eden, Holli, and Scratching Post. The Halton Hills Mayor's Youth Action Committee (HHMYAC) would like to thank all the businesses who sponsored this event and in particular The Georgetown Marketplace, Charley FitzWhiskey's, Halton Regional Police Association, Standard Products and Sparky's DJ.

Without their generous support this event would not have been possible. HHMYAC would also like to thank Youth Services Canada, The Halton Regional Police, The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department, the Health Department, and everyone else involved with making this concert unforgettable.

Andre Garneau,
HHMYAC member

Letter of the day

Shouldn't we legalize marijuana?

Dear editor,

I read with some interest the recent accounts of the efforts of our local police force in destroying a number of marijuana plants in the area.

I have never used marijuana myself, as I am able to do enough damage to my health with legal drugs like alcohol and tobacco. Using an illegal drug is simply not worth the risk of the penalties for its use. However, I do wonder about our collective priorities.

I have never read about drivers who have killed people while driving under the influence of marijuana or of anyone dying of lung cancer induced by marijuana. I did have an acquaintance who was dying of another form of cancer and his wife became a criminal in order to obtain the marijuana which made his last months of life more bearable. I note that society is unable to pay farmers a decent living for the legal food crops which they produce, yet is apparently willing to pay millions for a few illegal plants.

Interestingly, we are able to hire very expensive helicopters to track down marijuana plants, yet can't afford enough officers to deal with more serious crimes.

Rather than devoting both a front page item and an opinion piece by Ted Brown to glorifying the tracking down of the dreaded marijuana plant, society and your readers might be better served by engaging in some discussion of the merits of our current laws and societal values which encourage the legal use of two very harmful drugs, yet devotes extensive scarce resources to the elimination of a few marijuana plants. Of course, there are undesirable criminal activities associated with marijuana, however, legalization and taxation of the drug would reduce the criminal activities and provide good employment opportunities for both the distribution system and our beleaguered farm sector.

Brent Heath, Acton

Our Readers Write

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