

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



Price too high

The Ontario government launched a new task force to investigate rising gas prices just as prices soared to 66 cents per litre.

"Consumers are fed up," says Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh. He said "consumers are angry and frustrated with what is happening at the pumps. They want action."

An understatement.

It's the mandate of the newly-formed task force, of which Chudleigh is a member, to talk to consumers, consumer advocates and petroleum industry personnel.

What is there really to say? The prices are too high for the average consumer and the prices seem to jump every pay day (Thursday) and before every long weekend.

Simple facts.

Why do we need to spend thousands of taxpayers' dollars finding out what we already know?

Even more curious is Chudleigh's claim that the federal government isn't doing enough. "I don't think the federal government is taking the issue seriously enough."

However it's Reed's claim that gas price regulation is a provincial responsibility, not the federal government's. It's a federal responsibility, Reed said, to investigate price fixing among gas operators and for possible collusion between the large oil companies—and they have been unable to prove that.

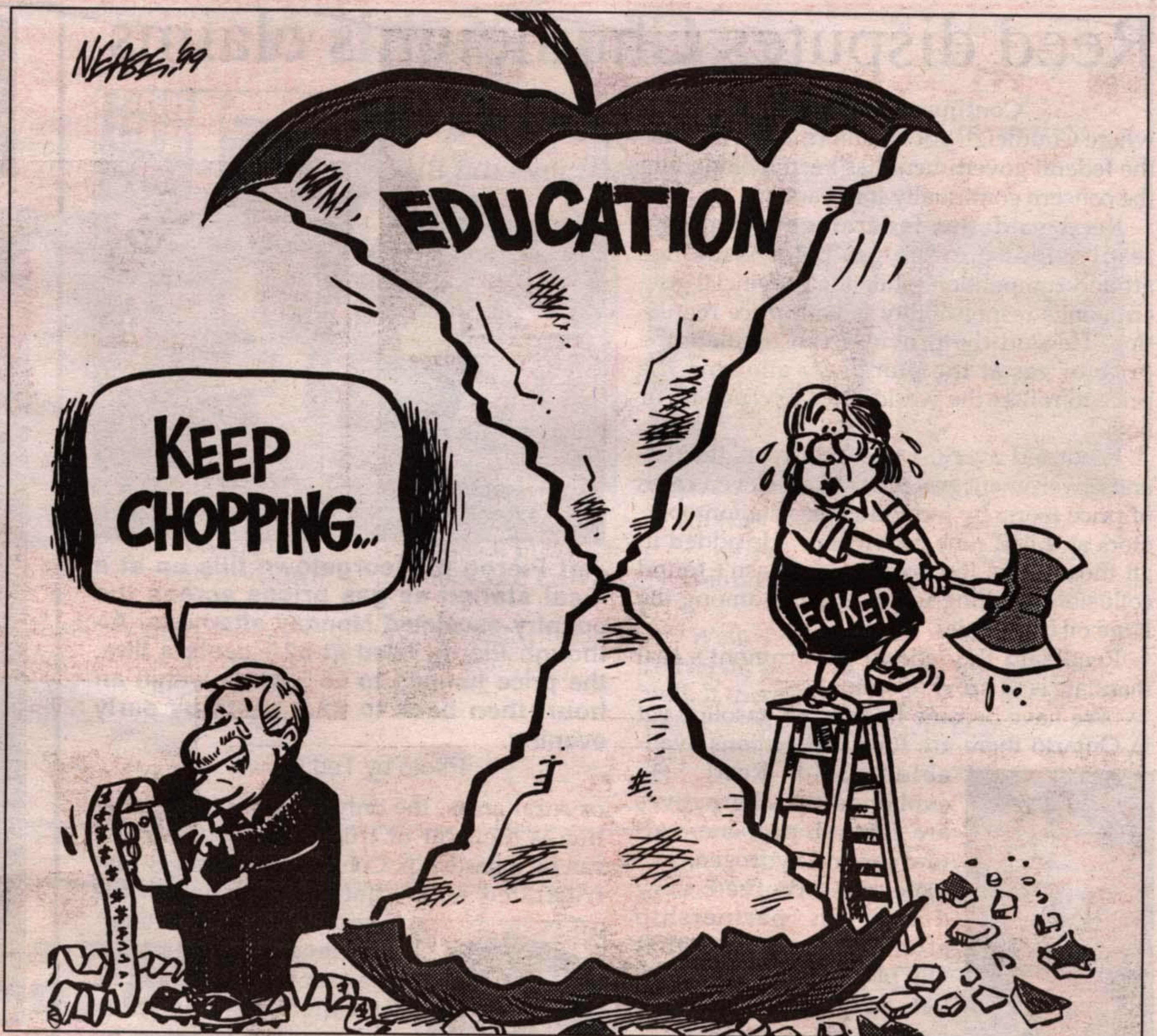
"We are involved very deeply in partnership efforts for a new fuel that will be coming onto the market shortly," Reed added.

No wonder the oil companies consider gasoline prices fair game when even Canada's politicians can't decide who controls gas price regulation.

It sounds like a classic case of passing the buck—onto the taxpayer.

Chudleigh's task force will meet and talk, talk and meet, and report back some time next spring. Reed's government may have a new fuel to market—sometime in the future.

Meanwhile we continue to pay the price at the pumps.



Kudos to teens

The following letter addressed to Halton Hills council, was filed with The Independent & Free Press.

Re: Halton Hills Mayor's Youth Action Committee

Six wonderful members of this group arrived at my home early on the afternoon of Nov. 6 to rake and bag the leaves on my property. Later four others joined the first ones to help complete the job.

Please express to these teenagers my gratitude for their assistance; words alone seem so little to offer. To Bridget, Erin, Cory, Terry, Tracy, Christine, Mihaud, André, Joey, and another Bridget, my sincere thank you. They have learned early in life, that the act of helping gives one a great feeling, and this while being involved with other teenagers gets assistance to those of us who need some.

To the Mayor and council, to establish and meet with these young people must be a great pleasure for you. I am sure they will become great citizens of the future.

H. McNeil
Halton Hills

Leash your dogs and clean up too!

Dear editor,

We are writing to express our concern at the number of people who bring their dogs to our school yard to run at large.

It is our understanding there is a bylaw that states that dogs are not to run at large.

Some of our parents have expressed concerns that their

Letter of the day

Shame, MPP Chudleigh

Dear editor,

Re: MPP demands school board action—or else.

Shame, Mr. Chudleigh, shame.

Instead of trying to make schools a better place for our children, your recent statements have had the effect of bringing into question the integrity of many Halton District School Board trustees. Before doing so again, maybe you should look at your own government.

Read the Provincial Auditor's report, Mr. Chudleigh. the auditor says that Ontario taxpayers are being short-changed on everything from road maintenance to the collection system for deadbeat parents. In one part of the report, the auditor found that a program under which highway maintenance was contracted out to private firms is costing, not saving, money.

Also, before criticizing others, take a look at your government. Currently, a former cabinet minister is under police investigation. Also, questions continue to be raised about the involvement of the premier's office during the shooting of Dudley George. Your government has done everything it can to delay a proper investigation into the death of Mr. George during the peaceful demonstration in Ipperwash.

Mr. Chudleigh, I'm afraid that we are saddled with a government that gets a failing grade in many, many areas.

Richard Boychuk, Acton

children play in the school yard after these dogs have left excrement in the yard.

We are requesting these people obey the town bylaw and we also request they keep

their dogs off our property in respect and consideration for our children who play in the yard.

School council
St. Francis of Assisi

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