

Editorial

Money well spent

It has started a little early this year, those little whispers about how Halton Regional Police Service costs residents so much money and why aren't the men and women in blue expected to tow the line when it comes to budgets and taxes.

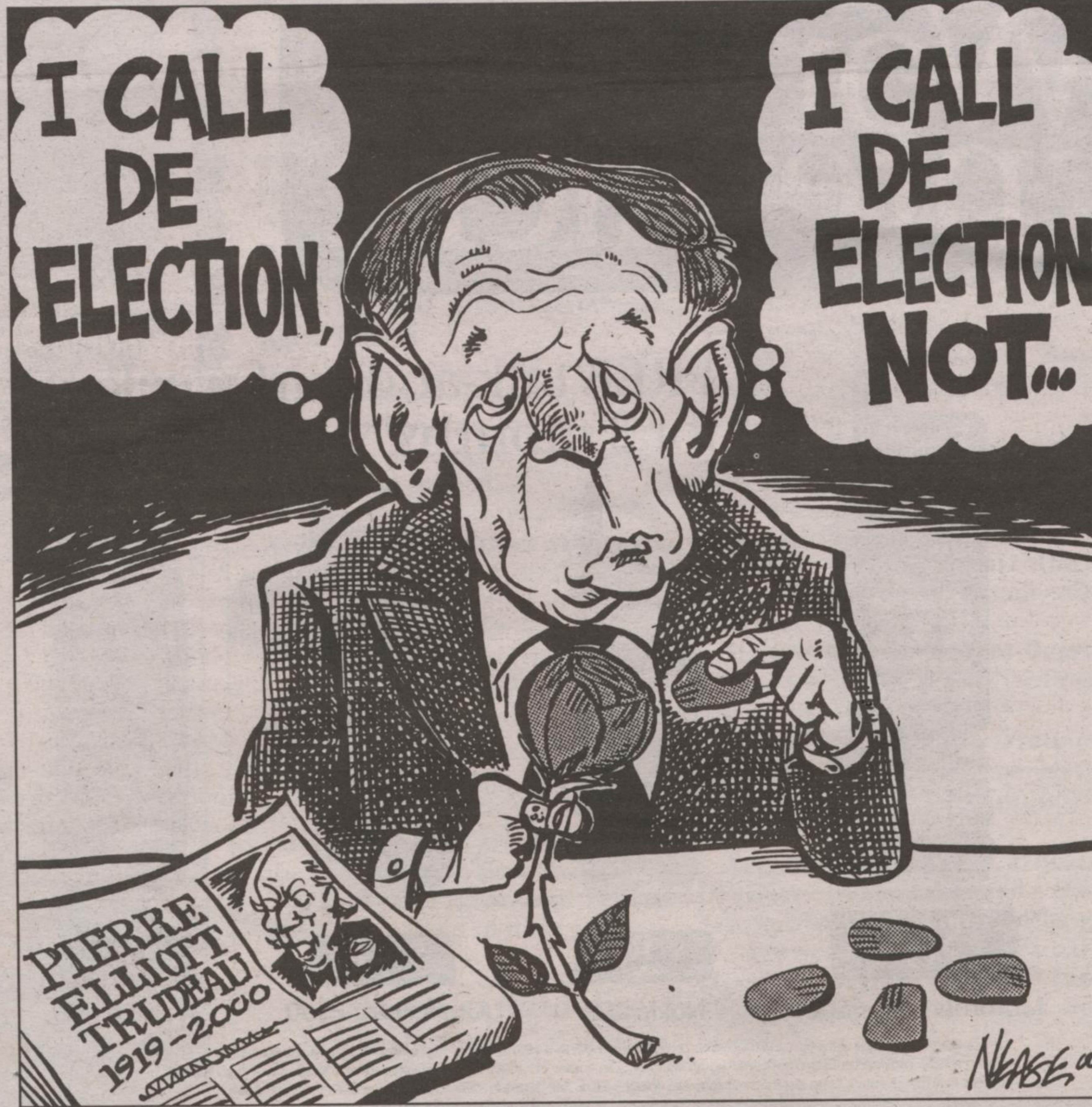
Milton Mayor Gord Krantz wondered aloud recently why police are not pushed like the rest of regional staff to produce a budget with a zero per cent hike. For the past several years, Halton police have sought increases to their massive budget, which eats up a fair portion of the tax bill.

Like education spending, much of the police budget goes to paying salaries. Halton's growth spurt demands that new officers be hired. That's something Halton Police Chief Ean Algar has no control over.

When budget discussions begin in earnest at the region, we can expect Algar will be admonished for bringing in a budget with a tax increase. Like his predecessors, he will doff his police services hat and don his political cap in an effort to explain the Police Services Act and the many challenges within it.

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale suggested that police costs be broken down so taxpayers can clearly see what percentage of the service's budget is spent on fulfilling provincially-imposed standards.

While any explanation of where our money is being spent is always greatly appreciated, we believe most residents are more willing to see their money being put towards improving our police service. Halton is a safe place in which to live and we want to keep it that way.



Letters to the editor....

Mountainview residents need street parking

Dear editor,

I am astounded at the idea of motorists who believe parking should be prohibited on Mountainview Road South.

Many years ago, Mountainview was developed as a

residential street, ending at Eden Place/Summit Lane. There was nothing more than a dirt track heading south into the ravine and southwards. Now, motorists want a limited access, high speed route out of town.

Whether or not the planners made an error those many years ago, the fact remains Mountainview is a residential street, just like Delrex and many more of our streets. We must respect the rights of all those residents living on Mountainview.

They, like the rest of us, need street parking. How else can family and friends visit without having to park on side streets, which are few and far between? Would the complainers expect their visitors to walk the equivalent of four or five blocks, particularly in mid-winter?

I travel Mountainview at

least several times each day—sometimes by car, sometimes by foot. I am well aware that cars are legally parked and adjust my driving accordingly. When walking, I feel perfectly safe, having several traffic lights and pedestrian lights to assist me in crossing.

Nolle Ohashi (letter to the editor Sept. 29) feels sorry for the bus driver who struck a parked car. Hello? Note the police have laid a charge against the bus driver.

Let's all just slow down a bit, relax and remember we are driving through a residential area with school crossings, day care centres, churches and seniors residences. Otherwise, take an alternative route such as Eighth Line, Trafalgar Road or Winston Churchill Boulevard.

John Rankin,
Georgetown

Clearing the air of pet peeves

Dear editor,

Just a quick letter to say thanks to all the inconsiderate people who live in Georgetown. I have some "pet peeves" and I would just like to "clear the air".

Thanks to the people who walk their dogs in the parks that my kids play in, and don't clean up.

I watch you walk your dogs every night. Shame on you and shame on the town for having bylaws with no teeth. All the parents with young kids would like to thank you for making our kids' playground your dog's toilet. We can either ban all dogs from kids' parks, or enforce the bylaw with a pooch patrol. Which do you think would be easier and take less money?

Thanks to inconsiderate smokers in restaurants.

You obviously could care less about kids or anyone else. We sat in a no smoking area on the border of a smoking area in a small local pizza place. You didn't think twice about lighting up around young children, so we moved. I also watched three young adults in the same restaurant sit a baby on their table and all light up.

The smoking bylaw is a farce. If you want a bylaw that makes sense, it should restrict parents or guardians from sitting with children in smoking areas.

To all the smokers who do take it outside, we may not always say it but, thanks. To all the people that do clean up after your dog, your efforts are noticed. The mothers and fathers of small kids thank you.

Bruce Clifford, Georgetown

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All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters requesting names be withheld will only be published pending a valid reason at the editor's discretion. Letters should be not exceed 300 words and may be edited for content or length.

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The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Friday at 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown Ont., L7G 4B1. It is one of the newspapers published by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Bancroft This Week, 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,

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