

Editorial

# Speed demons

**H**alton Hills has a problem— drivers traveling in and through town at excessive speeds.

On the weekend, a Halton Police cruiser was nearly run off the road by a car clocked on radar going 150 km/h in a 60 km/h zone.

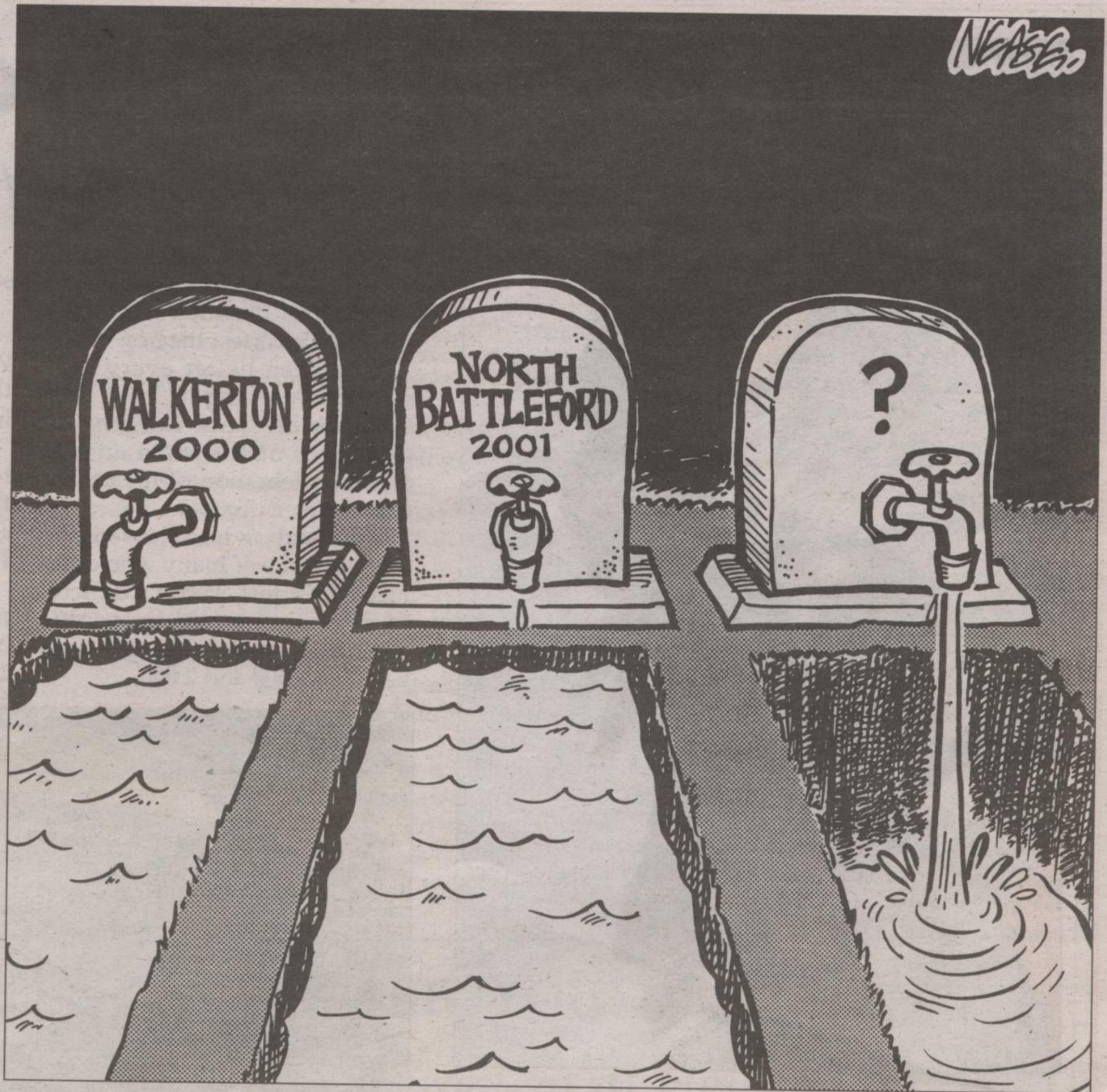
According to Halton Police Superintendent Mike Kingston, "Our officers are routinely encountering motorists exceeding speed limits by 30 to 40 kilometres per hour."

Rural Councillor Bryan Lewis noted at a recent council meeting that speeding was the number one issue brought up at recent community meetings he's attended. He asked for more police presence in rural areas.

However, Halton Police are already in the midst of Project Gateway— a crackdown on speeders on roads entering the town as well as in the rural area. Since the beginning of April, more than 250 tickets and about 140 warnings have been issued to drivers. Police are using moving, stationary radar, laser radar and unmarked cruisers to nab these speeders.

What more can the police do? Not much.

Driving a car is a responsibility which requires adherence to the rules of the road— including speed limits. If drivers are not prepared to do that— then they'd better be prepared for a ticket.



## Letters to the editor...

# Flawed drafting system is to blame for house league hockey's woes

Dear editor,

During this past hockey season, I was a convener with the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association. I have a very different perspective from that provided to you in a recent letter from Tony Graham-Smith and Ron Lefebvre of the GMHA.

I think it is very unfair and simplistic, to state that Georgetown parents are the reason why some teams were not re-balanced this year. A number of factors con-

tributed to this longstanding issue and it is the responsibility of officials from the GMHA to remedy the problem.

The vast majority of coaches I met this year were dedicated and fair-minded men and women who were, for the most part, parents too. There is nothing wrong with coaches, parents, and their children wanting to win. When teams have to be re-balanced after spending a month or so together, it is reasonable to expect resistance especially when the team is showing success and is starting to bond.

The only way to address the angry reactions from parents and coaches as experienced by Tony and Ron is to address the root cause of why teams need to be re-balanced year after year. The problem rests with the flawed drafting system.

First of all, the GMHA should do what other jurisdictions have done and ignore requests made by parents during the registration process that their children be placed on teams with specific kids and only be coached by certain coaches. (Although the GMHA should always follow up when a parent does not want a certain coach.)

Then, assuming the player ratings

assigned by coaches are accurate, the coaches should select their "dream team". The next step would be to put these team selections in a hat for a final selection done at random. This would ensure coaches select a team they can live with— a team that has an even mix of skill levels, sizes and ages. Final adjustments would be needed to accommodate the coaches' children.

Next, the GMHA would have to more fairly distribute rep players who want to return to house league and players who don't make rep team tryouts.

While these changes to the drafting process seem simple, there will be some longtime coaches who will threaten to

quit. Such threats should be seen as a bullying tactic. The loss of experienced coaches would be a problem, but the GMHA would have to resist staying with the current drafting process because there is more to lose than a few miffed coaches and upset parents.

If we really believe hockey is for the players, then the coaches' and parents' views need to take a back seat to what is best for house league. Come on GMHA, let's see your leadership. Try this process. Withstand the parents' and coaches' complaints. The sponsors, parents and players will thank you.

Joanne E. Harrington,  
Georgetown

## Support for child care centre appreciated

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Halton Hills Child Care Centre I would like to take this time to thank all the groups who willingly donated wonderful prizes to the Halton Hills Child Care Centre Spring 2001 fund-raiser

Donations were made by Thrifty Car Rental, Esso, Playjunction, Wal-Mart,

Swiss Chalet, Boston Pizza, Tim Hortons (Guelph St.), Dominion Skate (Brampton), Kelsey's (Brampton, Hwys. 7 and 10) and Garden Brothers Circus.

Catherine and Alan McEwen,  
fund-raiser and donations  
co-ordinators,  
Halton Hills  
Child Care Centre

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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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