

Editorial

Looking ahead

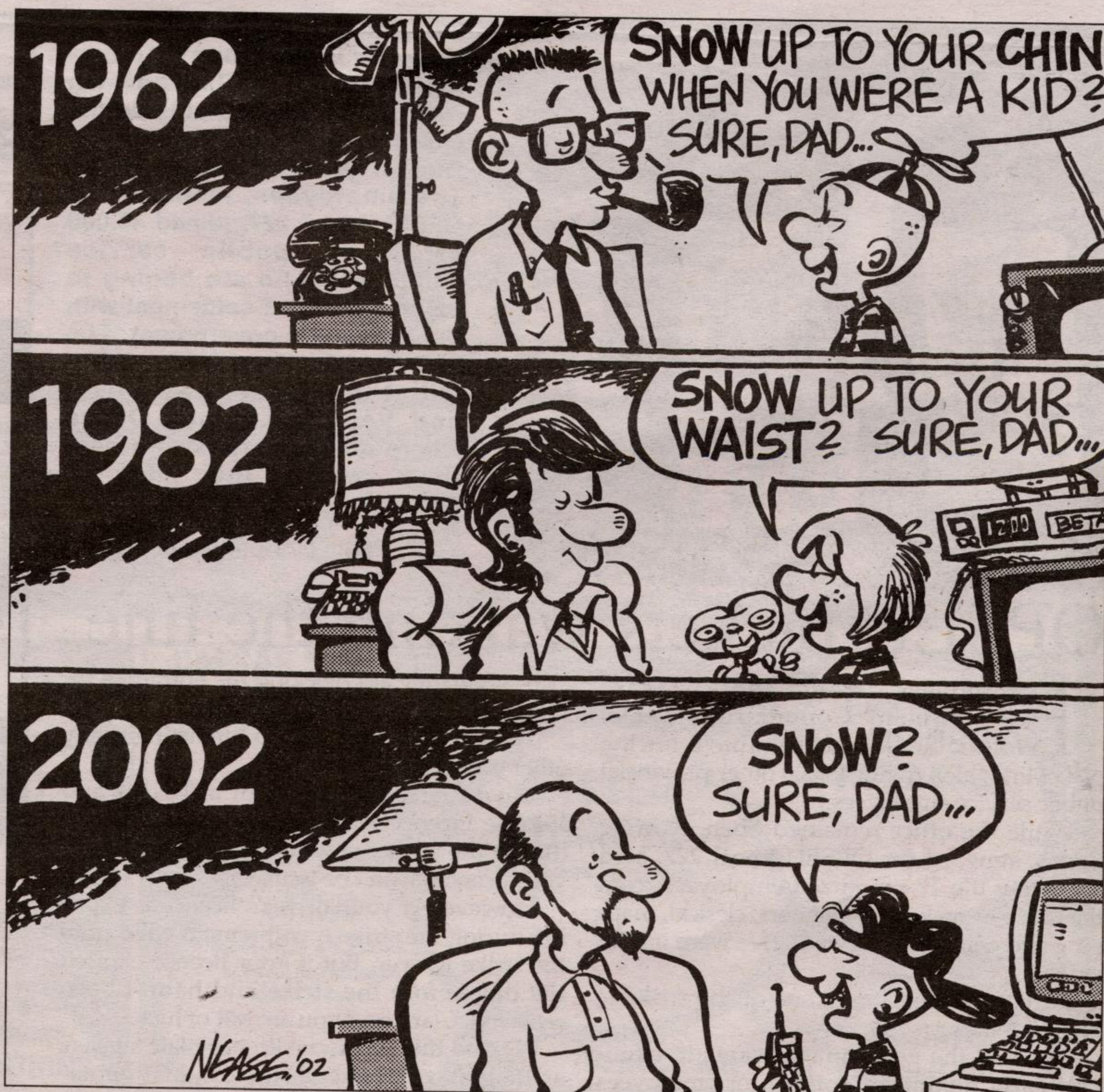
To the surprise of few, the numbers from the just-released 2001 census data show the population numbers of the 905 area have skyrocketed since the last census in 1996.

Population in the Greater Toronto Area— from Halton in the west to Durham in the east— topped more than five million— an increase of almost 10 per cent since 1996.

In Halton specifically we are feeling the full effects of urban sprawl. Halton Hills' population sits at 48,184, up almost 5,600 in the past five years. Burlington has climbed more than 13,000 to more than 150,000 residents and Oakville's population rose to more than 144,000— an increase of 16,333. In Halton, only Milton showed a decline in population of 633 but those numbers will change dramatically by the time the next census rolls around as Milton's housing industry has boomed in the past year and a half.

The bottom line is that it's getting crowded here folks— and it's going to get worse (or better if you're a developer). We are losing our green spaces and our roadways are overcrowded.

If there is a clear cut vision— not a guesstimate or an ever-changing plan— from our federal, provincial and municipal leaders as to how they expect us to handle this sprawl in the next 10 or 20 years, we'd like to see it.



Letters to the editor...

Covered bridge idea a washout— reader

Dear editor,

Re: Covered bridge for Cedarvale Park.

Maybe the mayor needs to move

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

Mail or drop off

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to Guelph where they already have a covered bridge or maybe to New Brunswick and the general east coast where they are very common.

Being from Newfoundland myself, I hope this is just a Newfie joke.

Former Councillor Rob Heaton took almost 10 years playing the proper capital budget game and not jumping the budget process just to get the parking lot paved at Cedarvale. This was for a town item that wasn't even directly in his ward but the parking lot was an embarrassment to the town for years, like the parking lot at the Alcott Arena is now.

When is it going to stop?

We've already spent millions expropriating the trailer park out of Norval and now we've been dumping taxpayers' dollars into Norval like a sinkhole that never going to fill up. There's a tunnel budgeted at \$130,000 to go under Hwy. 7 and another bridge down there that's hidden in the trees that's already

cost us \$75,000 just to put it there— and the bridge itself was free indirectly via a development agreement from Georgetown South developers.

Just in case the Georgetown South residents were wondering where their bridge went, there was a cost of about \$350,000 to put a trail down into the valley to the creek and up the other side but the bridge went AWOL and can now be found in the floodplain of Norval Park.

Maybe the mayor has forgotten that Cedarvale is also part of the same floodplain?

I wonder how a covered bridge will hold up is we get another flood down that same valley similar to the one that washed out Maple Avenue a few years ago. You could have put a dump truck in the hole that was left and covered it over and there wouldn't have even been a bump. It's just a few feet from the existing bridge.

Derek Williams,
Georgetown

CASHH appreciates support

Dear editor,

In *The Independent & Free Press* March 1 under the column, volunteers, there was a notice under the heading Georgetown Cancer Society.

This letter is to inform the people of Georgetown that when the Canadian Cancer Society closed its office in Georgetown in 2000, Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHH) assumed the following responsibilities— transportation to treatment centres (96,000 km annually, 28 volunteer drivers), emotional support, financial assistance, patient aids, oncology dietician consultation.

Assisting 52 patients last year, we have 450 canvassers and special events volunteers, 13 board members, five volunteer office helpers and one part-time staff.

CASHH not only serves patients in Georgetown, but all of Halton Hills as well as Milton, Brampton and Cheltenham. CASHH will soon launch its April residential campaign (door to door). Our volunteers will be identified with nametags so as to avoid confusion to the householder.

We are Georgetown's own and we are so grateful that your newspaper has supported and assisted us in acquiring a separate identity in this community.

We acknowledge that you have been a large part of our success in keeping a community that cares.

David Hasan, vice-president
CASHH

The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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