

Editorial

# Uniform law needed

When it comes to drafting a smoking bylaw two things are patently clear: not everyone will agree with every proposal and we all may be long gone before we see a uniform law in this province.

Ironically, most everyone—including local bar/restaurant owners—agree that sooner or later legislation will see to it that smoking is banned in all public places—including all restaurants, bars and even Royal Canadian Legion halls.

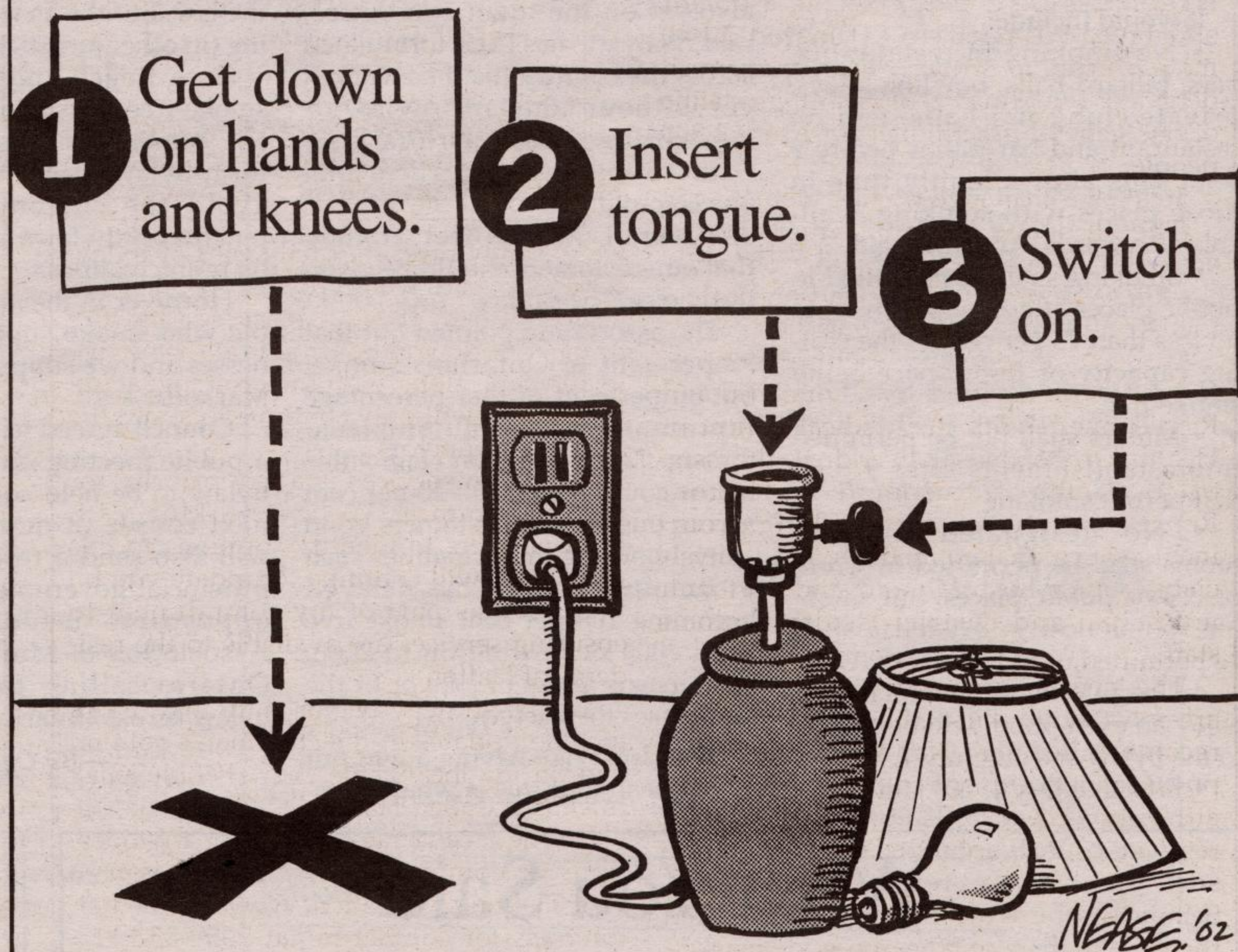
But, the problem it seems is getting to that point.

In yet another local kick at the non-smoking can, the Stakeholders Smoking Control Review Committee, a group made up of town staff, community members and bar/restaurant owners, unveiled a new proposed smoking bylaw that, among other things, would ban smoking in area bars, restaurants and other public places before 9 p.m. Smoking would be permitted after 9 p.m. but those places would have to be three-quarters smoke-free and minors would be barred after 9 p.m. As well, effective July 1, 2003 all workplaces and public places would be 100 per cent smoke-free.

Not surprisingly, local bar/restaurant owners are not pleased, predicting this bylaw would result in a 30-40 per cent loss in business. That remains to be seen. However, they are right in bemoaning the inequity that remains from municipality to municipality. Brampton won't be smoke-free until 2004 while Burlington will delay the move to 2008.

Since all concerned appear to agree we're headed to a smoke-free province, perhaps this hot potato should be left in the hands of the next provincial government to make the correct decision in banning smoking in all public places and workplaces and thus ending this haphazard method of governing.

# ONTARIO HYDRO PRIVATIZING EXPLAINED:



## Letters to the editor...

# Council thanked for efforts to save ravine

Dear editor,

On behalf of Save Our Ravines (SOR) and the community generally, we wanted to write and publicly

express our appreciation to Mayor Kathy Gastle, Councillors John Day and Moya Johnson and the rest of council for their willingness to work with the community to explore all options towards the preservation of the Hungry Hollow ravine for the everlasting benefit of future generations.

In a recent resolution of council, dated Feb. 4, council agreed to work with SOR and other interested environmental groups, in partnership, with a view to seeing if other resources might be available from any source to secure the lands designated for development within the valley.

The resolution provided as follows: "That Save Our Ravines and other interested environmental groups in partnership with the mayor's office co-ordinate efforts to pursue a combination of resources including foundations, community, provincial and federal sources to secure the lands designed for approximately 150 units of housing

development owned by Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. within the Silvercreek Valley."

There was no suggestion that the town should attempt, on its own, to purchase the entire parcel. However, it is our hope that by working together and exploring all possible options, that we might together find a solution to this problem.

We do believe that the preservation of the Hungry Hollow ravine is an important goal shared by the vast majority of the community.

The next step is to find a means by which to acquire these valley lands and the town's support in seeking a solution is welcomed and very much appreciated.

If you want to get involved, please contact us at 905-873-9263 or visit our Web site [www.saveourravines.org](http://www.saveourravines.org).

**Bert Zonneveld,**  
president SOR

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# Acton campaign needs helpers

Dear editor,

To the residents of Acton and the surrounding area: The other day I noticed some green tulip shoots pushing their way through the hard ground and I realized that spring is just around the corner. That means the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is very busy preparing for the April residential campaign and daffodil sale.

In this time of Olympic fever I can liken our trusty band of volunteers to that of a gold medal team. We just keep improving our record of helping you, the people of Acton, to donate to this very worthy cause.

I would like to invite you to join our winning team as we always need more help, especially in the following areas: Kingham, Greenore, Duby, Berry and Wellington. The rural areas are very big and extra volunteers there are always welcome. If you would like to canvass another area I'm sure we can find a place to suit you. If you would like to help sell daffodils we'd love to hear from you too.

Great strides have been made both in research and in the treatment of cancer during the past few years. This trend can only continue with the help of dedicated volunteers such as yourselves. Please accept my invitation and together "let's make cancer history".

**Liz Bailey,**  
Acton Branch  
Canadian Cancer Society

## 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**

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1

**Fax**

(905) 873-0398

**E-mail**

[jmcghie@independentfreepress.com](mailto:jmcghie@independentfreepress.com)

**Editorial e-mail addresses**

**John McGhie**

[jmcghie@independentfreepress.com](mailto:jmcghie@independentfreepress.com)

**Cynthia Gamble**

[cgamble@independentfreepress.com](mailto:cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

**Lisa Tallyn**

[ltallyn@independentfreepress.com](mailto:ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

**Herb Garbutt**

[hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com](mailto:hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com)

**Ted Brown**

[tbrown@independentfreepress.com](mailto:tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

# The Independent & Free Press

Mailing Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1  
Telephone: (905) 873-0301 Fax: (905) 873-0398  
E-mail: [production@independentfreepress.com](mailto:production@independentfreepress.com)

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager

John McGhie, Managing Editor

Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief

Carol Young, Business Manager

Dave Coleman, Director of Distribution

Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

Distribution e-mail: [distribution@independentfreepress.com](mailto:distribution@independentfreepress.com)

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble  
Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt  
Photography: Ted Brown

Advertising Sales:

Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Kerlaan, Alexandra Stabins,  
Jeanette Cox, Sue Spizziri, Angela Reynolds

Classifieds Manager: Carol Hall

Classifieds: Mary Watson, Sharon Pinkney

Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier

Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison,

Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

Distribution: Kim McClure

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, Aliston 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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