

Editorial

Balancing act

Trying to strike a balance between economic progress and environmental conservation has never been an easy feat. As evidenced by last week's Niagara Escarpment Committee (NEC) hearing, it is becoming an even more difficult task.

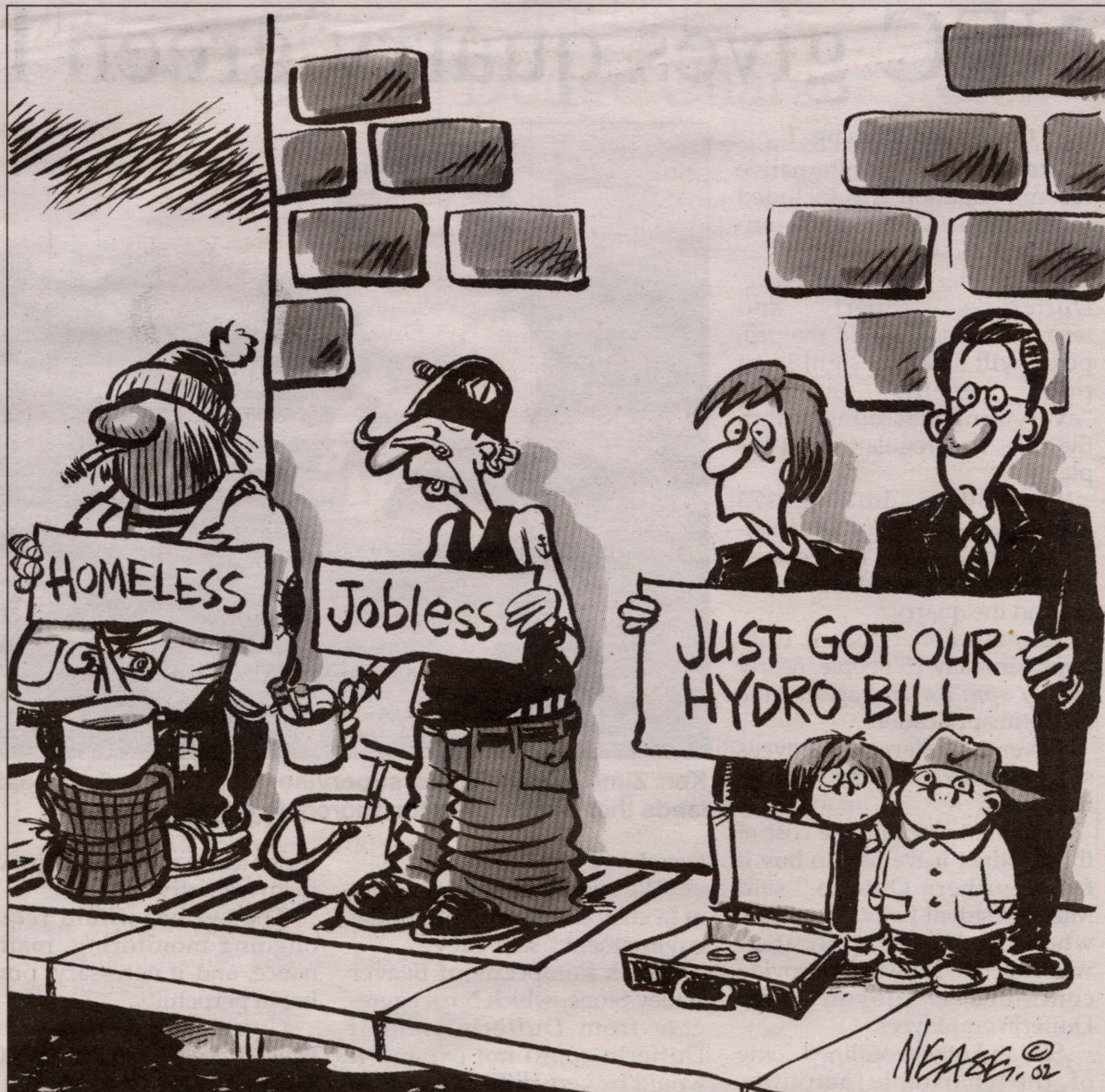
At the end of Thursday's hearing, the NEC voted 11-5 in favour of Dufferin Aggregates' Milton Quarry application to change the designation on about 169.5 acres in the Niagara Escarpment Plan area from Escarpment Rural to Mineral Resource Extraction Area. The quarry straddles the Milton-Halton Hills border.

Both Dufferin Aggregates and its opponents in this matter (which included area residents and various environmental groups) argued well for their respective sides.

Dufferin and its proponents for the expansion pointed out the economic impacts not allowing the expansion would have. The fact is, the Dufferin property is rich in high quality aggregate and without expansion the firm argues its reserves will run out in 8-10 years. This land is Dufferin's bread and butter and dozens of people count on Dufferin, a good corporate citizen, for employment.

Those arguing against expansion also made a good point: when it comes to development when is enough, enough? The Niagara Escarpment is an environmental gem in Ontario. How many more species of birds, animals and reptiles have to be displaced all because of man's pursuit of the almighty dollar? How can we be certain plans designed to maintain the wetlands will work?

Only time will tell if man and nature can share this land and strike the balance that too often proves elusive.



Letters to the editor....

MPPs' current show should be entertaining

Dear editor,

In my experience, nothing stirs passion in people more than a good political discussion. Except maybe a

religious one.

As the Ontario Legislature has returned for the fall sitting, I find myself awaiting the different party machinations with the same anticipation that I await the punch line of a good joke.

After electing a government in Canada, whether federal or provincial, the constituents lose any voice in the political process until we're about a year away from another election. During that period we may as well be communists.

Our members of the legislature or parliament are required to vote the party line on all legislation no matter what their constituents want. We put up with it because that's the way the British parliamentary system works. It has always kept the nameless, uneducated rabble from having to help make important decisions and today places the power firmly in the hands of lawyers where it belongs.

Close to an election though, is another story. Getting elected is so important that the parties now pre-

tend to listen to us, to what we want, to our opinions. Of course, it is just another sham, but it works every-time because we uneducated rabble have such a short memory.

Nothing will change, politicians are politicians no matter whether they lean left or right, and we're stuck with them.

Watch this one closely though, it promises to be very entertaining in a *Three Stooges Do Queen's Park* kind of way.

Darrel MacCrae, Georgetown

Medical staff thanked

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the two ambulance medics who drove me to Georgetown Hospital Oct. 7.

They put me at ease; one stayed with me and talked to me while the other drove and missed most of the pot holes. It seemed we were there in no time.

I would like to thank the two doctors who looked after me and all the nurses and others who helped. They are like one big family. All are wonderful people. Keep up the good work.

Alice Davis, Georgetown

Hospital workers 'went the extra mile'

Dear editor,

Being a 43-year-old resident of the Halton Hills area, I have constantly heard reports, from numerous people, on the inefficiency and "don't care" attitude exhibited by a great variety of our hospital staff.

My elderly mother recently spent three months at Georgetown Hospital, one month in the main facility and two months in the chronic care unit. On a daily basis, she was treated with care, concern and compassion. The nursing staff continually "went the extra mile" to

ensure that her stay was comfortable. As her health deteriorated, the chronic care nurses constantly attended to her with professionalism and empathy. In addition, Dr. Karmi was such a supportive physician.

I would not imagine that she could be treated any better, during her last days, than she was at our hospital. Thanks to a superior nursing staff.

Bob McKay, Halton Hills

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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.

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