

Editorial

Well water

The leaky faucet that has been dripping bad public relations for the provincial government since the E. coli disaster in Walkerton is going to be shut off by Ernie Eves' government. Or so the premier hopes.

Eves and Environment Minister Chris Stockwell announced last week the Conservative government is introducing legislation to better protect Ontario's drinking water.

The Safe Water Drinking Act, said Eves, takes into account the recommendations made last January by Dennis R. O'Connor in his official report on the E. coli disaster that killed seven people in 2000 in Walkerton.

If passed, the proposed act will mandate licensing and accreditation for all drinking water testing laboratories, ensure all operators of drinking water systems are certified and appoint a chief inspector to oversee inspection policies, training of ministry inspectors and frequency of inspections and annual reporting.

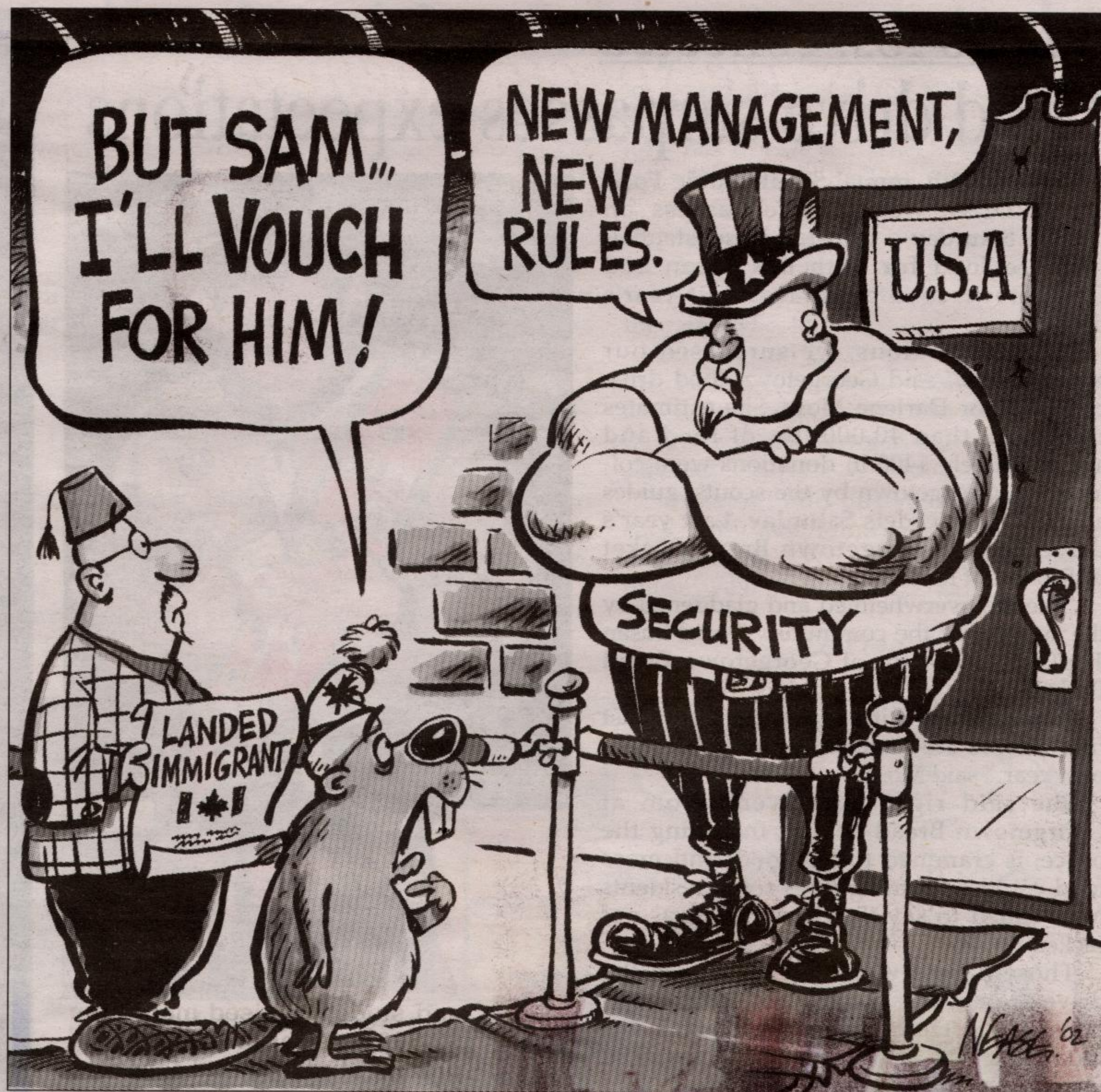
Eves says his government consulted with the public and various stakeholders in drafting the proposed legislation and will continue to do so as it's sent to government committee this fall. Those who want to get involved should contact their MPP.

While Eves claims the crux of the proposed act stems from O'Connor's report, the proposed rule changes contained within it seem based on common sense.

Water testing facilities should be licensed, all inspectors should be certified and there most definitely needs to be a hierarchy in place to ensure the summer Walkerton experienced two years ago is never repeated.

There's little chance the public will tolerate even one more death caused by someone sipping a cup of tap water.

Nor should they.



Letters to the editor...

West students also deserve board busing

Dear editor,

Although the busing issue was resolved in Georgetown South, students in Georgetown West con-

tinue to walk approximately 55 minutes each way to Christ the King Catholic high school.

Despite raising concerns with safety (no sidewalks, dangerous shortcuts, walking along a busy Highway 7 thoroughfare, etc.) and the wellness of students (distance, time, effort, weather), the Halton Catholic District School Board declined to provide busing for Georgetown West.

The rationale for their decision was that they did not want to set a precedent for other municipalities. By approving busing for Georgetown South, which is considerably closer to Christ the King, wasn't a precedent already set? Or is the board only interested in protecting the interests of those who provide them with the largest tax base? Shouldn't all students residing in Georgetown have the same right to services?

Furthermore, students in other municipalities in Halton have the option to use city busing or more

frequent GO bus service. These options are not available to the students in our community.

Although the Acton bus currently passes by Georgetown West at less than full capacity, we have been told that the board would have to approve an additional bus stop.

It is our understanding, through conversations with the board staff that there is not enough money in the current budget to meet all transportation needs. Certainly, higher transportation costs should have been anticipated when the board decided to build a school in a primarily industrial area.

Christina Huras,
Georgetown

Poppy chair's message: We must never forget

Dear editor,

As the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy campaign is under way, we should stop and think about Remembrance Day and what it means to each of us.

We must never forget the lives that were given so we may enjoy the freedom we have today. We need the support of the community to reach the goals of our convictions for assisting not only needy veterans and their families, but also the widows and dependents of our deceased ex-servicemen.

With your support we are trying to help future generations know and understand the importance of Remembrance Day.

Marion Carney, poppy chairman,
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 120, Georgetown

Businesses thanked for fund-raising help

Dear editor,

I would like to personally thank the following businesses that donated items to my neighbourhood fund-raiser haunted house.

Their generosity and support helped

make our event a big success: Looney Lizard, Dollarama, Loblaws, Brian's Food Basics, Home Hardware, Office Magic and Tim Hortons.

Sheila Jobin, Georgetown

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
Georgetown Market Place

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

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble
Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt
Photography: Ted Brown
Advertising Sales:
Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Campbell, Alexandra Stabins,
Christina Marshall, Angela Reynolds, Elaine Thomas
Real Estate: Sue Spizziri
Classifieds: Mary Watson, Kristie Pells
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, 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,

Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Mississauga Business Times, Napanee Guide, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa-

Whitby/Clarington Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Forever Young, City of York Guardian.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance

of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate.

In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. Price: Store copies 50c each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

