

Boy scouts were right: Be prepared

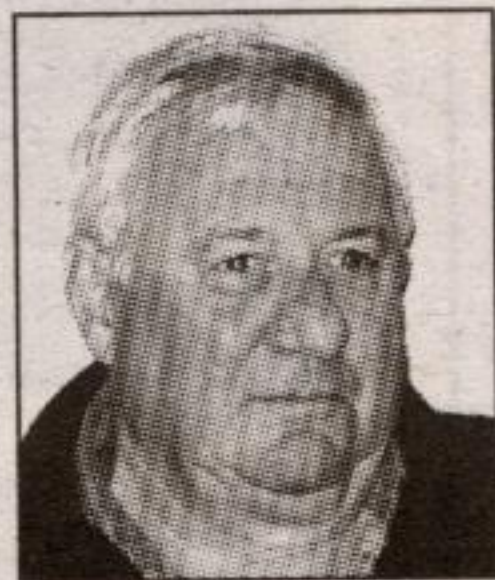
Over the summer, we have all been unwilling participants in matters beyond our control: West Nile virus, SARS, BSE, forest fires, and close to home, an e-coli outbreak and the blackout.

Our sympathies and condolences go out to those who have lost a loved one, been afflicted by illness and suffered losses. Running through these tragedies is a common thread. What can each and every one of us do to help ourselves?

It reminds me of the Scouts Canada motto that is simple and meaningful: Be Prepared. It also speaks to old-fashioned common sense: washing your hands thoroughly cuts down on the spread of illnesses; removing standing water from around your home reduces the risk of mosquito larvae; be prepared for emergencies like a power outage or a winter storm; have a plan and watch out for the neighbours.

Recently, two key issues have impacted on the riding of Halton. First, new riding boundaries have been drawn up for the next federal election. The Town of Halton Hills will be combined with part of Wellington County to form a new riding called Wellington-Halton Hills. Rest assured, however, that we remain available to help you access federal services and convey your comments to the Prime Minister

PARLIAMENT HILL REPORT



Julian Reed

and members of cabinet.

The second issue that dominated the summer was same-sex marriage. Local opinion was overwhelmingly in favour of supporting the traditional definition of marriage. On September 16, during a free vote in the House, I voted in favour of maintaining the traditional definition as I had previously done in June 1999. The role of the judiciary versus Parliament still needs to be sorted out.

For many of us, September means a return to school or back to work and that's just as true for our nation's business including pre-budget consultations and work in parliamentary committees. As always, keep in touch.

—Julian Reed is the MP for Halton

Town to host information kiosk this weekend

The Town of Halton Hills will be setting up municipal election information kiosks at the Georgetown Marketplace on Friday, 1-4 p.m. and on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Representatives from the Clerk's Department will be on hand to confirm electors'

eligibility to vote, based on the 2003 municipal election voters' list. Any necessary amendments (additions, deletions or corrections) to the voters' list can be made at the kiosk.

A similar information kiosk will be held at the Acton Arena, 10-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

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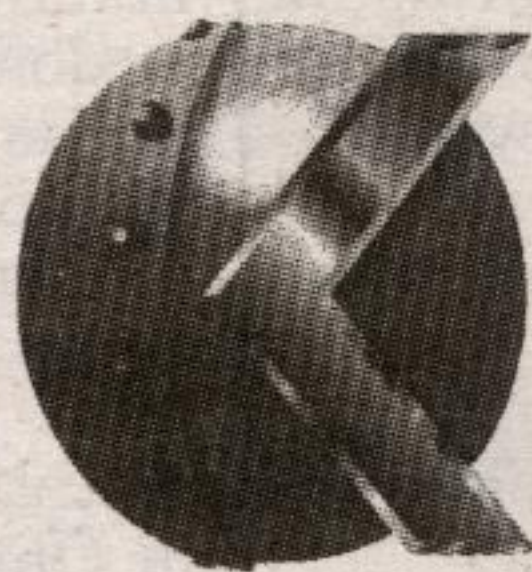
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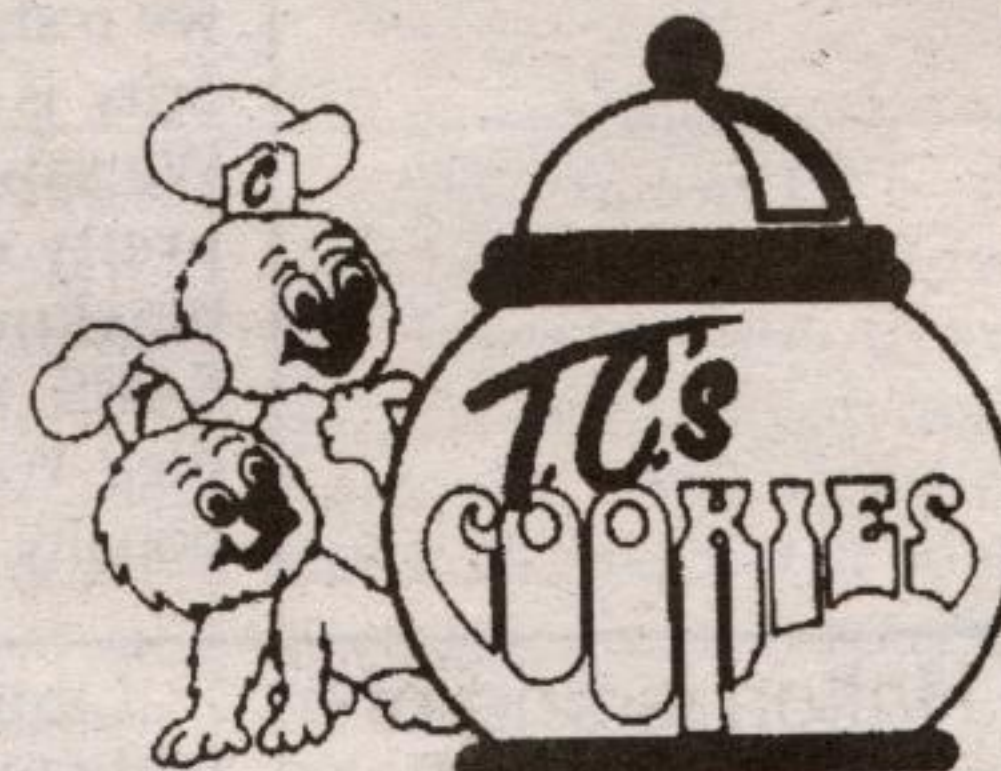
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