

Editorial

Civics in action

We applaud the three teenage girls, who felt so strongly about the issue of a proposed bike ban in Hungry Hollow, that on their own initiative spent three days gathering signatures and then presented their petition at the Halton Hills council meeting Monday.

What was even more impressive were the people in the public gallery who showed up to support the girls. Just on word of mouth, young families, teenagers and seniors came—about 30 in all—a feat that this politically apathetic town doesn't often achieve.

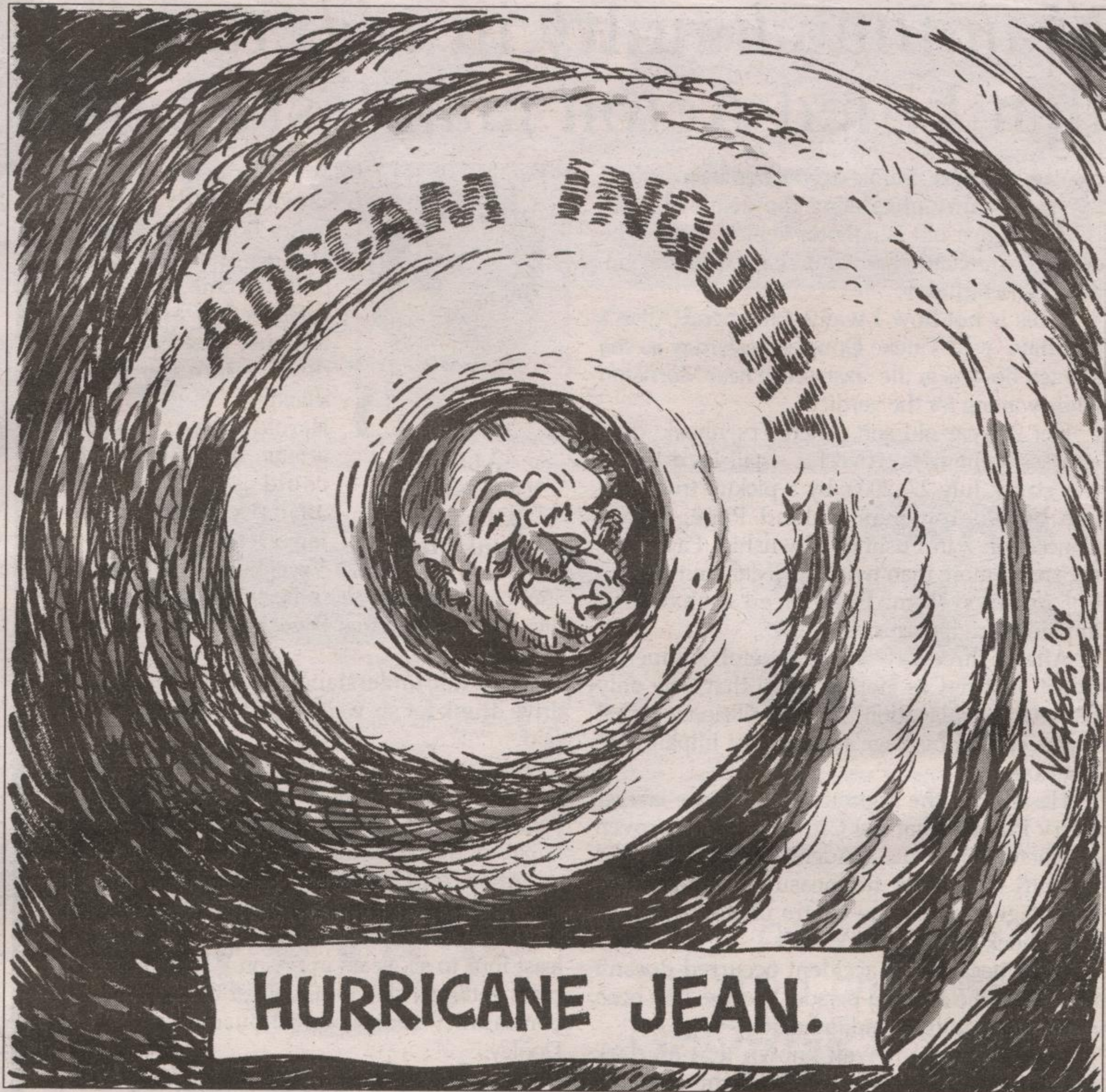
It showed the conviction that these young people have is shared by all ages, genders and social backgrounds in this community.

Ignoring the obvious—a bike ban is unenforceable—town staff do have a point: Hungry Hollow is an environmentally sensitive area and what has been done for years in the valley lands—biking, partying, building forts, digging out trees, rare flowers, dumping garbage, etc.—cannot continue without permanent damage being done.

Can Hungry Hollow's environmental sensitivity be protected in the future?

Yes, if the town can harness the enthusiasm of these young girls and all the other bicycle supporters, as well as hikers and other environmentally aware citizens. One of the intentions of the Hungry Hollow master plan is to set up a stewardship organization for funding, monitoring and public education, run by volunteers.

While it's heartening to see three young girls stand up and state their opinions in a civic forum, hopefully they understand that's not the end of it. It's just the beginning of turning their opinions—and everyone else who supports them on this—into action.



Letters to the editor....

Mill St. redesign in Acton frustrates one driver

Dear editor,

Regarding an article that I had read in your newspaper a week or

so ago...

Main St. has just recently been renovated and paved, in addition to this they have added "No Parking" signs and "No Stopping" signs on both the east and west sides of the street.

Who's decision was this?

Also, I wonder if they thought about why then they wasted money paving the road into wider lanes in front of these stores, and narrowing them where the streets cross.

If the idea was to prevent cars from parking in front of the banks and restaurants then why didn't they just solve the problem by not making the road as wide at these spots and make the sidewalks wider instead?

Maybe whoever makes these decisions spent too much time getting a degree and not enough time learning common sense.

S. Cain
Acton

Salvation Army store is not a garbage dump

Dear editor,

I agree with Erik Kowal (letter to the editor, Sept. 3) that it's disgusting when people drop their garbage off in the country. But leaving it behind the Salvation Army store is just as bad.

Last weekend was one of the worst. Two ripped and filthy couches were left among some good items people had left.

One man I approached said, "I don't give a damn, as long as I get rid of it." That's the wrong attitude, folks. The Salvation Army has to pay for hauling away your garbage. And when it rains, everything gets soaked. Please do not leave anything at the back of the store.

Henry Vanden Top,
Georgetown

Proposed bike ban in Hungry Hollow 'absurd'

Dear editor,

In support of Scott Becksted's open letter about the proposed ban of bikes in Hungry Hollow. As a resident of Georgetown for 10 years and a regular user (almost every day) for both walking and biking, I have never heard anything so absurd as a bike ban in Hungry Hollow.

Both walkers and bikers get on exceptionally well and in my experience are extremely courteous to one another. Many of the friends I have made since coming to Georgetown are lifetime residents who have been walkers and bikers in Hungry Hollow since they were kids with no problems.

There is currently no problem in Hungry Hollow except the one that Mayor Bonnette and his other council cohorts seem to be creating. Despite the significant increase in Georgetown's population in the past 10 years, I have not noticed a similar increase in usage of Hungry Hollow. That should tell us one very simple fact. Hungry Hollow looks after itself. Leave it alone!

Malcolm Moffat
Georgetown

Letters to the editor

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