

Editorial

Road weary

Apart from the weather, it's the one thing most Canadians like to complain about—the state, or rather, poor state of roads.

Halton Hills residents are no different. The roads in our town are either (a) in poor condition (b) not paved (c) not paved often enough (d) paved incorrectly (e) not plowed often enough, etc., etc.

The fact is there ARE numerous roads in Halton Hills that are in terrible shape, hazardous to drive and require extensive work. The problem, however, is road repairs are costly and there is only so much money the town can allocate towards fixing these “highways to hell”.

This past week Mayor Rick Bonnette introduced a motion asking the town to spend the lion's share of the federal government's New Deal gas tax monies headed to Halton Hills on resurfacing the town's gravel roads. Combined with yearly money set aside for road repairs, this will see Halton Hills spend \$2M over the next three years on fixing bad roads.

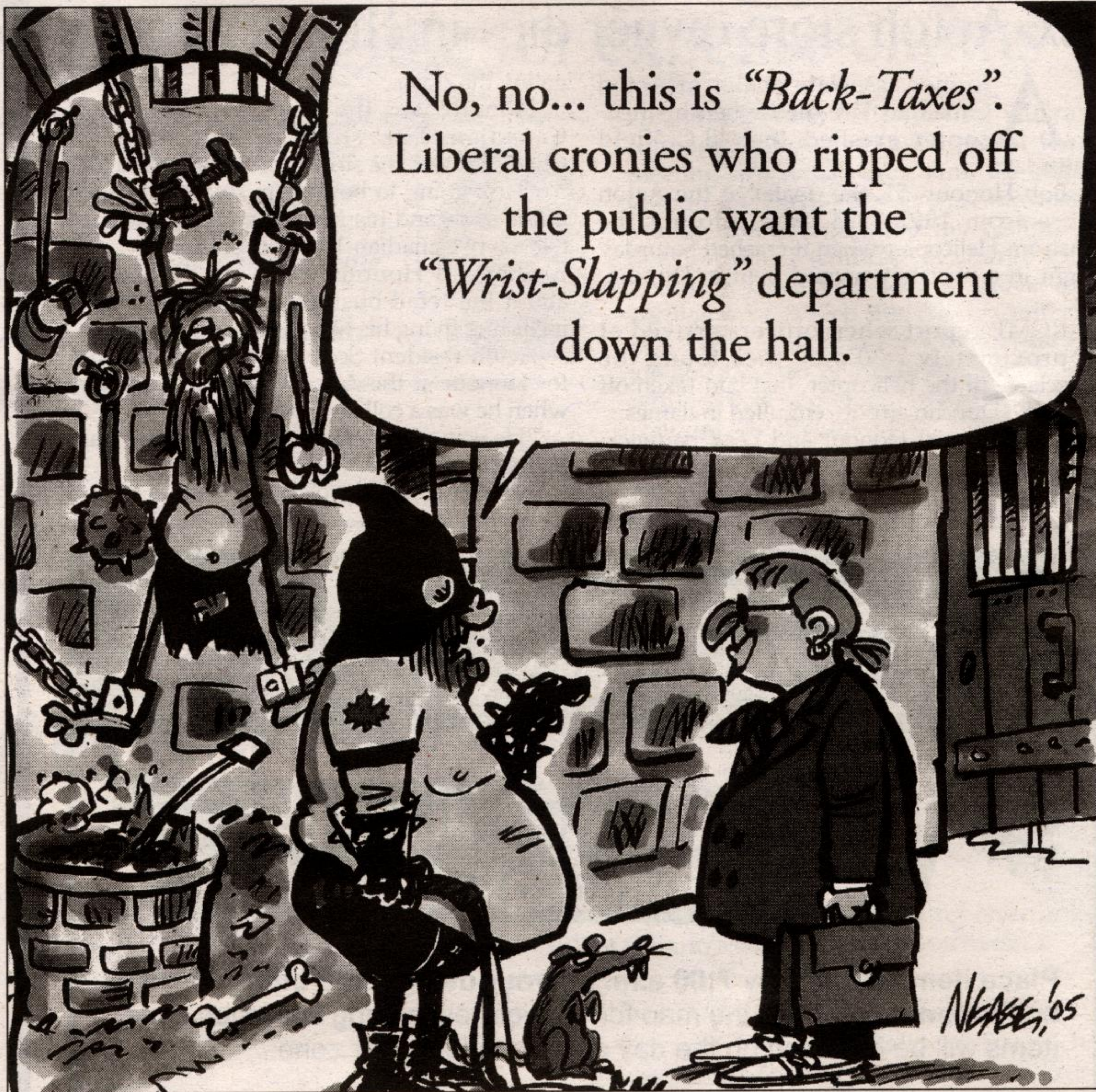
Council, with the exception of maverick Mike Davis (who wanted the issued looked at from “a global level”), supported the motion. Good for them.

Some residents have literally waited decades to have roads near their homes paved. This federal money was targeted for just such work and there will be \$500,000 left over for other road/bridge/tunnel work.

This reconstruction work will not likely stop all the complaints, but it's a good start.

...

As an aside, the Municipal Roads Coalition has launched a shame campaign to pressure governments to improve poor roads. Details on how to nominate a road can be found on page 3.



Letters to the editor...

Councillor right to bill mileage for bike use...

Dear editor,

Re: Town closes loophole in personnel policy after councillor claims mileage for bike use (September 9

Independent & Free Press).

Where is the logic? Ward 3 Councillor Mike Davis rides his bicycle to various functions and claims mileage. So?

People who make conscientious decisions based on logic, community and environment should be applauded. Placing common sense above convenience of smoking, eating, drinking and cell phone chatting while driving deserves some credit.

In a healthy world we would regard Mike Davis' mode of transport as a good example. Instead, in a world based on money and self-service we focus on the dollar and loopholes.

Good golly people, try getting value from each other instead of a focus point of ridicule. Perhaps then we would be an iota closer to being the people the gods intended us to be.

T. Bullock, Acton

...councillor acted irresponsibly

Dear editor,

I would like to applaud town council in recently closing a loophole that allowed Councillor Mike Davis to claim mileage on his bicycle.

It is sad that council has to spend time attacking issues like this caused by only one man acting irresponsibly, but I'm glad that the large majority of councillors are on the ball and looking after my money.

I am appalled that Mr. Davis would be so bold as to claim mileage

expenses for the use of his bicycle. No matter what the exact legal wording of the town expense policy used to read, I consider his actions to be bordering on theft. I believe that Mr. Davis should start acting as a responsible member of government or tender his resignation.

It is my sincere hope that Mr. Davis makes this decision soon because the resources of the town are better spent on more important matters.

Phil A. McBride, Georgetown

Parking illegally in front of bank is a hardship to seniors

Dear editor,

This letter is directed to the CIBC customers who illegally park in front of the bank at the Georgetown Market Place.

Every Thursday I take a van full of seniors who are between 80-90 years old for our weekly shopping trip. Because of these illegally parked cars, I cannot drop them off or pick them up close to the doors at the mall. What seems a short distance to you is a very long way for the seniors with their walkers.

I have seen my seniors stand outside in the pouring rain and the sweltering heat of this summer because I couldn't get the van close enough for them to just get in.

Please have some consideration for our seniors. They deserve better. A little exercise never hurt anyone, but at 90 years old the trip to the mall is all they can handle.

Pat Pennacchietti,
Life Enrichment Co-ordinator
Mountainview Residence

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must 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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The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

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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, 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, 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, Orangeville Banner, Orillia Today, Oshawa-Whitby/Clarington

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