

Editorial

No library in sight

Consultant Jim Morgenstern didn't pull any punches when he recently addressed a public forum to discuss the state of Halton Hills' libraries.

In short, he called the local libraries "an embarrassment."

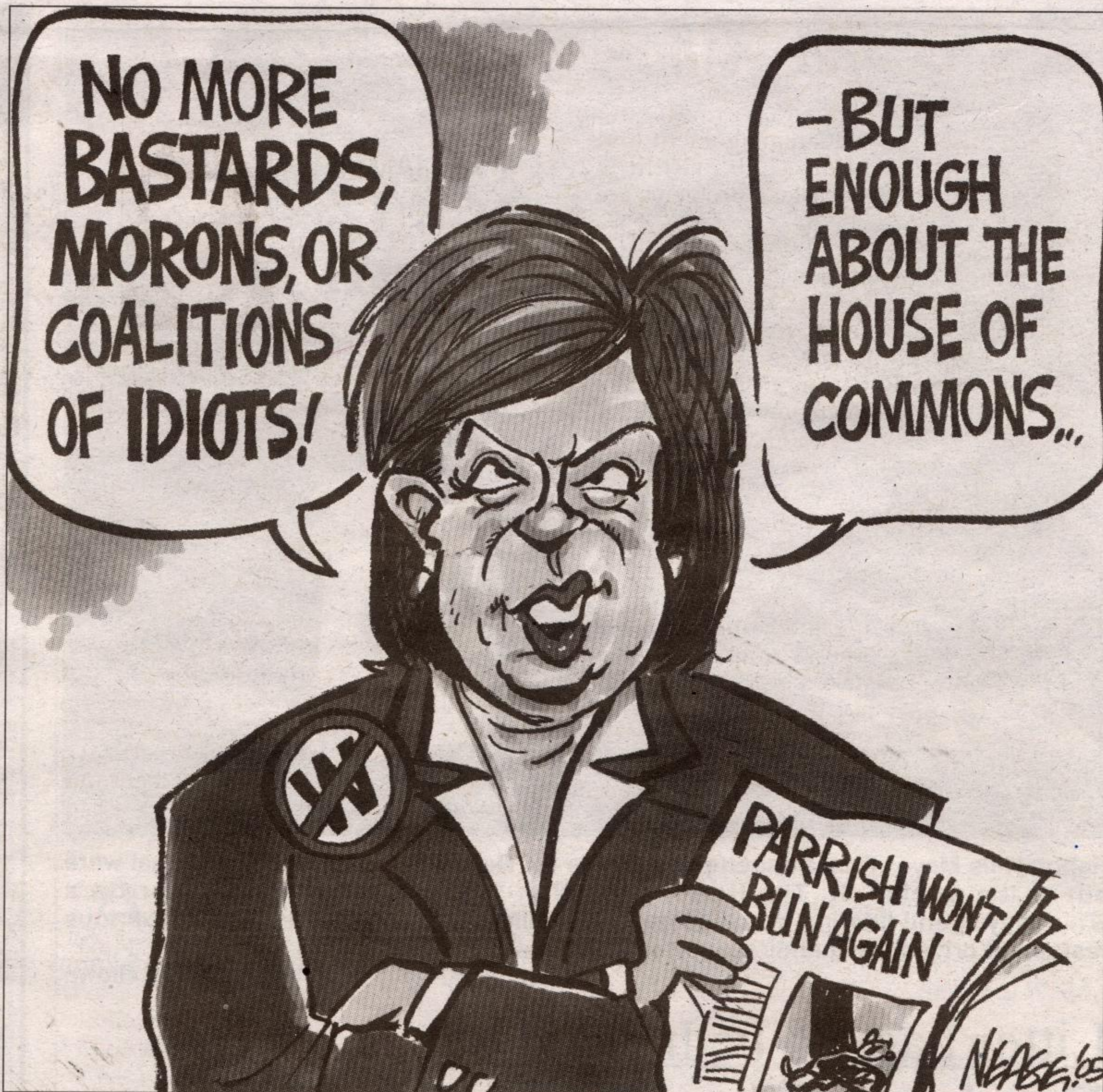
With no disrespect directed to those people who run and staff the two local branches, Morgenstern's right. Both buildings are outdated and too cramped for staff.

In his report, Morgenstern suggested building a new 33,000 sq. ft. facility would be his "first choice" in replacing the current Church St. location in downtown Georgetown. While the report primarily dealt with the Georgetown facility, it was acknowledged that the Acton library also needs upgrading or replacing. In our humble opinion, perhaps even more so than Georgetown.

However, as damning as his report was, it's doubtful a new library is on the horizon. With an initial proposed price tag of \$11.8 million—these facilities never come in on or under budget; for proof see the Gellert Community Centre—it's unlikely there is the political will around the council table to throw that large a chunk of change at one facility.

With the Trafalgar Sports Park in an apparent state of limbo, Memorial Arena on its last legs, a new firehall apparently on the way, road repairs aplenty, there is no shortage of items council can spend your money on.

Heck, if they can't even find the cash to open the library doors on Mondays, it's not likely councillors will be eager to build a new building... or two.



Letters to the editor...

MPP putting politics ahead of students

Dear editor,

This letter is in response to yet another truly objective "report" from our member of provincial par-

liament, Mr. Chudleigh. This report was entitled 'Liberals lowering education bar (Oct. 5)'.

The fact is that the curriculum is regularly reviewed. Each subject is reviewed to address concerns such as the impact of technology, recent research, etc. Are the courses made easier? Why not ask the next 14-year-old if their math class is too easy. Or even better, ask his/her parent how many times their child comes home and tells them that this school thing is a breeze.

All the data shows that a student in Grade 9 who fails one or more courses is at a much higher risk of dropping out. The data becomes even more telling if that student is in the applied program. The applied math curriculum was changed to address the fact that many students were coming into Grade 9 without the prerequisite skills. The academic programs were left largely untouched. A fact that Mr. Chudleigh is either unaware of or just conveniently forgot to mention.

Why would a curriculum be implemented without giving our kids the tools needed for success? Perhaps Mr. Chudleigh can answer that question since it was his government that implemented the current curriculum across the grades, rather than by using a year-by-year rollout. It would be akin to building the ninth storey on a building before the foundation is poured.

Why is Mr. Chudleigh so set against seeing a greater proportion of our kids succeed? Perhaps it isn't our kids he doesn't want to see succeed, but the ruling government. He's placing his partisan petty animosity ahead of what's best for the students of this province.

Is he implying that by making the courses too easy that we will be graduating a generation of dolts? He should be careful. This generation will be of voting age soon. Besides if they really do possess fewer skills they can still do something with their lives. Maybe they can run for office.

Paul Alves, Acton

Thanks for a great dog day

Dear editor,

The staff, volunteers and animals at the Upper Credit Humane Society, would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to everyone who participated in our first 'Amazing Dog Race and Doggie Picnic' held Sept. 18 at Cedarvale Park.

More than \$5,000 was raised to help the animals in our shelter and in our community.

Thanks to local businesses and community members who helped promote the event, as well as donated wonderful prizes for our participants. We were overwhelmed by the generosity from Creature Comfort, Global Pet Foods-Georgetown, Blue Springs Spa and Salon, Happy Tails on the Trails Pet Car Services, just to name a few.

A special thank you to SOAR (Southern Ontario Animal Rescue), for sponsoring the dog games and helping throughout the day. A special thank you also to our small committee of volunteers who worked very hard to make this event possible, as well as those who volunteered the day of the event. Your dedication has made a difference in the lives of our animals. Thank you.

Plans are already under way for next year's race. We hope to see you (and your dog) there.

Cheryl Allard, volunteer co-ordinator,
Upper Credit Humane Society

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.

Mail or drop off

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1

Fax

905-873-0398

E-mail

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Editorial e-mail addresses

John McGhie

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Cynthia Gamble

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Lisa Tallyn

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

Herb Garbutt

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

Ted Brown

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

The Independent & Free Press

Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, (Georgetown Market Place)

Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398

E-mail: production@independentfreepress.com

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