

# OUR READERS WRITE

## PRIME NEEDS FORGOTTEN

Dear Sir:  
At a recent discussion of the Sixteen Mile Creek, I was able to observe that no section of the community would have its own particularly individual PRIME NEED met, if the present poorly thought out system to drain the "flood plain" area were to be put into effect, and I was quoted as saying that "what we needed was time to stop and think it through."  
As a resident living on flood plain property north of Woodward St. bridge, may I please explain what I mean by PRIME NEED for my area?

Our local school (kindergarten up to and including grade five), plus some of our homes, have all been built on "flood plain" land and this means that the creek runs through our property. The combined forces of creek water volume, plus its pressure, plus its high speed, have long since eroded away any legal responsibility that we may have had for the far bank, (this unfenced, unmarked, unsafe, unprotected area seems to be the responsibility of the local school board), but the moral responsibility remains. My neighbors and I have for years accepted the duty of "unofficial guardians" for each and every child who either "plays" or "schools" in this area, particularly during the time of year when the creek is running 10 feet high (or higher), 20 feet wide (or wider), and is attaining incredible speeds. We can all recall heart-stopping incidents when children avoided drowning only by the flimsiest of circumstances. This is quite some burden to bear, especially as we have to adopt very authoritative postures most of the time. As the years have passed, our end of the creek has become more and more unstable as an ecological system, and more and more of a health hazard to the youngsters who would like to enjoy it during those months when it is not actually a lethal menace to them.

The sheer need for survival is what my neighbors and I think of when we define our PRIME NEED, and the only completely satisfactory solution is that such a large, volatile weapon of destruction should not be aimed directly at us any longer. The SECONDARY NEED of soil erosion and flooding, would also be automatically resolved. The "powers that be" (whoever that august body turns out to be), has imposed upon us its OWN version of what our PRIME NEED ought to be for our area, and along with it a solution. This has been approved by our local town council, but since this approved solution merely assures that this body of water will race through our backyards at an even more alarming rate than it does at present, one wonders what the PRIME NEED was that they were resolving on our behalf.

If the aim of the Conservation Authorities is to protect and conserve all living things, including our children, in what way does any part of their plans for Sixteen Mile Creek make any type of contribution at all to the realization of that aim? I suggest that once this elaborate, expensive system to speed up the creek becomes a reality, we dedicate it in all its hard concrete glory to our local branch of the Conservation Authorities, who have permitted their slide rules and their computers to so obstruct their vision, that they are unable to see the wood for the trees.

Yours very truly,  
Vee Russell  
202 Riverplace Crsc., Milton.

## PRESERVE CREEK'S CHARACTER

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Sixteen Mile Creek is a "sick crick". Some symptoms such as stagnant pondings, rubble, litter, eroded banks and scrambled deadfall are problems that vary with the various branches. This creek needs a stream improvement program and the plan proposed by the H.R.C.A. has some merits.

But there are alternatives that could be just as efficient and more aesthetic. I realize that conservation does not mean preservation, yet if the H.R.C.A. does not preserve enough of the Sixteen Mile Creek's character, the cure is going to kill the patient.

The official plan of the Halton Region Conservation Authority is designed to keep the creek within its banks in the event of the worst storm we are likely to experience. It will not be allowed to flow onto any of the flood plains. Since the use of the present flood plains will be altered by the channelization, will they be then used for parkland or will they be used for residential and/or industrial development?

### Could help beautify

Granted, some of the present plain will become part of the new channel, but how much of what remains will be left a green belt? Channelization could be the first step in a stream beautification program.

But the HRCA's Flood Control Report (1970) makes no recommendations of what should be done with the land adjacent to the "new creek". Let's hope our Parks and Recreation Commissions are planning something in conjunction with the channelization scheme that will benefit us all.

Peter G. Phillips,

## CHALLENGES CHANNELIZATION

Dear Mr. Editor,

The Sixteen Mile Creek must be improved so that seasonal flooding and erosion is remedied and that what has rapidly become an eyesore is cleaned up. But must the entire creek be streamlined so that it will keep us free from flood? Do we need this kind of total insurance?

The Flood Control Plan proposed by the Halton Region Conservation Authority is a storm-oriented program of creek redevelopment. It is not a land reclamation project or a scheme to rearrange drainage patterns. These are only spin-off "benefits".

The plan makes no attempt to predict average flows, seasonal changes or give any idea of what this system will look like in non-flood time. It tells us only what watercourses we should build to carry maximum flows. We have studied the report and have growing questions we would like others to consider. Surely the urgencies of land reclamation rezoning, new construction, creek diversion are not so great that we can't take time to have a second look at this plan.

How much of the channelling and lining of the creek below Main Street is due to the increased flow from the already installed storm sewer diversion and the proposed Ontario Street Diversion? Why should the Ontario Street Creek be diverted into the W.D. branch?

We are told that urbanization, creek diversion and the loss of Kelso Lake as an efficient flood control device will cause our creeks through town to carry more water. They must be reconstructed to carry this additional flow. This is true. But are these factors the reason why our seasonal and usual storm problems can be remedied by reconstruction less drastic than is being advocated. The only picturesque section of the creek needs to be saved.

Do we really need such a massive, expensive, self-flushing drainage system? The Halton Region Conservation Authority says we do, so that present development on the flood plain (and the future development) will not be washed away by a Regional Storm. (A Regional Storm is officially classified as one similar to Hurricane Hazel — but centered on our watershed!)

The Flood Control Report admits that "other sites above Kelso which have not been investigated could be a factor in modifying the peak run-off for flood control and for low flow improvement during dry weather". Channelization will not help low flow problems! If these sites in the escarpment were developed, the paving of the creek beds would not be necessary.

We wonder how many other obvious alternatives were not investigated. We wonder why we must put more water into a creek branch by diversions and then be forced to rebuild the branch to carry the extra flow. We wonder why we must have such similar programs to repair the dissimilar faults of the various branches. We wonder why flood plains and levees, rather than being created, are likely to disappear.

Have we accepted a plan that involves too much deepening and smoothing of the creek bed and too little reconstruction of its headwaters, banks and adjacent lands?

Resources Management Class,  
Geography 430,  
Milton District High School.

## GOD'S LITTLE ACRE

Dear Mr. Downs:

Now that Milton is allowing barn building in town I hope the citizens will be on the lookout for the "Cattle Crossing" signs that may also be erected soon.

Amen to "God's little Acre."???

Yours truly,  
Edith Sharpe,  
429 Pearl St., Milton.

## SINCERE THANKS

Dear Mr. Downs:

A sincere "thanks" on behalf of the ladies' Section, Milton Curling Club for The Canadian Champion's coverage of events during the past year.

Yours sincerely,  
Jean Sales, secretary,  
Ladies' section,  
Milton Curling Club.

## NEED NEW LIBRARY

### need new lintzy

(Editor's Note: the following letter was sent to Mayor Brian Best and a copy was filed with The Champion for publication.)  
Your worship:

I am writing in support of a new library for Milton.  
For the last 10 years I have enjoyed the facilities of our library and the help our efficient library staff have so readily given when I asked for their guidance.

We have now reached the point when our facilities should be enlarged to meet the ever-increasing demand for books, and also to provide space for other cultural pursuits, such as music and art. The children require more room for their story hour and the housing of books especially for them.

I trust our town fathers will see fit to be forward looking and plan ahead to meet the needs of our expanding town.

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret (Mrs. W.B.) Elsley,  
R.R. 3, Milton.

# Better health service for North Halton area

Two public health nurses have been hired by the Halton County Health Unit and will assume duty soon. Both nurses will work in North Halton, where a shortage has existed for some time. A third nurse, off on a leave of absence, returns to the Georgetown office in the near future. The three additional nurses bring the staff on hand from four to seven.

The shortage has been the subject of a raging controversy in recent months. County councillors from North Halton have protested the lack of staff at meetings of the Community Services Committee and at County Council meetings.

### Satisfied

Acton Deputy Reeve Pat McKenzie and Esquering Reeve Tom Hill led a campaign at the county council level to have

better health services in the northern part of the county. The campaign began after an article published both in The Acton Free Press and The Canadian Champion criticizing the inadequate health services in North Halton.

After the announcement of additional help, McKenzie

Ego is the only thing that keeps growing without nourishment.

Ulcers are contagious; you get them from bosses.

You can always start a fire with a chip on your shoulder.

indicated he felt a more satisfactory job would be done and he felt seven nurses were sufficient to serve the current population in North Halton.

# Won't cut supply teachers' pay

Substitute teachers in Halton County will not have to accept a salary cut this year. Several months ago the Halton County Board of Education announced substitute teachers' pay would be cut by 25 per cent. Tight money conditions and a lack of effectiveness of supply teachers were offered as reasons for the cut.

After a series of meetings and delegations on the matter, a solution was finally arrived at Thursday evening. The only change in the rates previously paid is that elementary school supply teachers with a B.A. degree will be paid \$35.50 a day on the same level as secondary school teachers, rather than the \$27.50 paid for elementary school supply teachers without the B.A. degree.

### Pay \$25

Teachers who are not qualified to teach the particular class they become assigned to and operate in a supervisory capacity, will be paid \$25.

One stipulation that could eventually bring about a lower rate of pay for supply teachers in comparison to regular staffers is the unhooking of the rate from the regular staffers. Previously the rate for supply teaching was calculated by taking 1/200th of the regular teachers' salary. This will no longer hold.

### Will negotiate

Mrs. M. Cox representing the Halton Association of Substitute teachers said they would

negotiate with the board for annual increases. Outside of the board room there was some question of whether or not the board would recognize the association as a legal bargaining unit and whether or not supply teachers would have a say in future increases.

The Association was supported Thursday by Ken Gelok, representing the Oakville and District Labor Council. Gelok suggested it would be criminal of

the board to consider pay cuts because the teachers depended on the money for a livelihood just as other employees do.

Tom Marshall, solicitor for the association said the supply teachers were afraid the board was trying to force them out of the labor market and replace them with younger, less qualified people.

### Not proper

He complained his clients hadn't been properly informed of

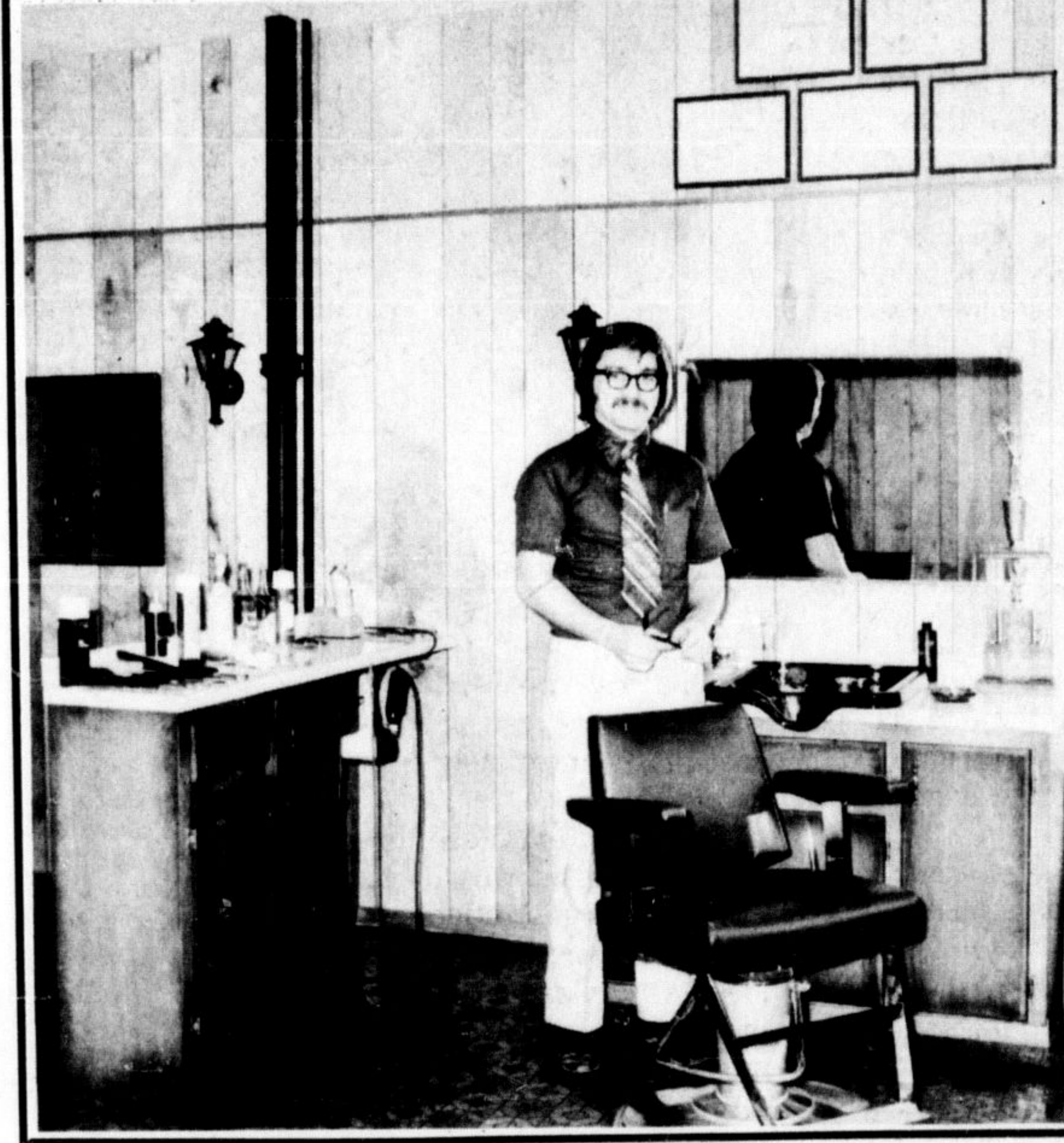
board actions and discussions on the matter. He said it wasn't proper for the board to grant a seven and a half per cent increase to full time teachers and cut the supply teachers by 25 per cent.

Associate Director for the institute of administrative research and staffers at Columbia University rates supply teachers as the least effective of five groups considered. The groups include regular teachers, specialists, substitutes, student teachers and teachers' aides. Even student teachers were rated as more effective than the substitute teachers. The report acknowledged the lack of effectiveness was often not the fault of the substitute teacher.

Had the board insisted on the cut it would have saved the board \$90,000. An average of 55 supply teachers are used each day in the system. Cost of supply teachers has increased from \$268,406 to \$348,660 a year since 1969.

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**NOTICE**

**To all residents of the  
Township of Esquering**

re:

**GARBAGE DISPOSAL**

**Effective June 1, 1972**

The following dates and times  
will apply to the Township  
Garbage Disposal Site

**Mondays to Fridays - 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.**

**Saturdays - 9 A.M. to 12 Noon**

The site remains closed  
**Saturday Afternoons, Sundays & Holidays**

**DELMAR FRENCH  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Township of Esquering**