

Established 1861

The Canadian Champion

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Just preliminary

Preliminary proposals are out now for the 1.3 million acres of the Niagara Escarpment land and it remains for municipalities and individuals to assess their value, advance suggestions and pave the way to the final plan for the area.

The maps show the broad brush treatment that paints in areas for mixed agriculture, forest, mineral resource, and "scarp" areas which are to be permanently preserved as a continuous natural environment.

Around the Milton area there is a heavy emphasis on mixed agriculture, some general rural, a fair amount of forest, and of course mineral resource.

Mixed in is the plan for a scenic drive, and the Bruce Trail routes are also much in evidence in the area.

The scenic drive is intended for leisurely and enjoyable recreation driving for local residents, tourists and vacationers. It is envisioned as a two-lane road to accommodate low speed travel. Indications are that it will generally follow existing roads. Existing trees and shrubs will be promoted throughout the length of the route. Roadside facilities such as picnic areas would be incorporated, where possible.

On the Bruce Trail it is an-

anticipated the province will secure the "optimum route" through gradual acquisition of the trailway using one of several devices such as purchase, lease back, easements or other arrangements.

Your interest in the plan will be colored by your involvement in the escarpment property. As a hiker you'll probably nod in agreement with the plan to have the province work toward acquisition of more of the property involved in the Bruce Trail. But as a farmer, perhaps hoping some day to sell off a lot or two, you may have a different idea. And then those with quarrying interests will see areas of concern as will those who see quarrying as a rape of the land.

There are to be meetings and opportunities for public input. After millions of dollars worth of expenditures, there is still no final plan for the protection and enhancing of the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area—just preliminary proposals.

How those preliminary proposals shape the final plan will depend on the input of those most deeply involved and the commissioners who listen.

Now is the time to know the effect of the proposals from your point of view, and speak constructively toward the objective.

A great day

With the sun at its best, the winter air at its sharpest, and the Kelso setting at its most pleasant, the Halton Region Winter Carnival on Sunday provided a great mix.

Our congratulations to all those who put in the necessary effort and planning to bring the second combined event off in the face of such crowds.

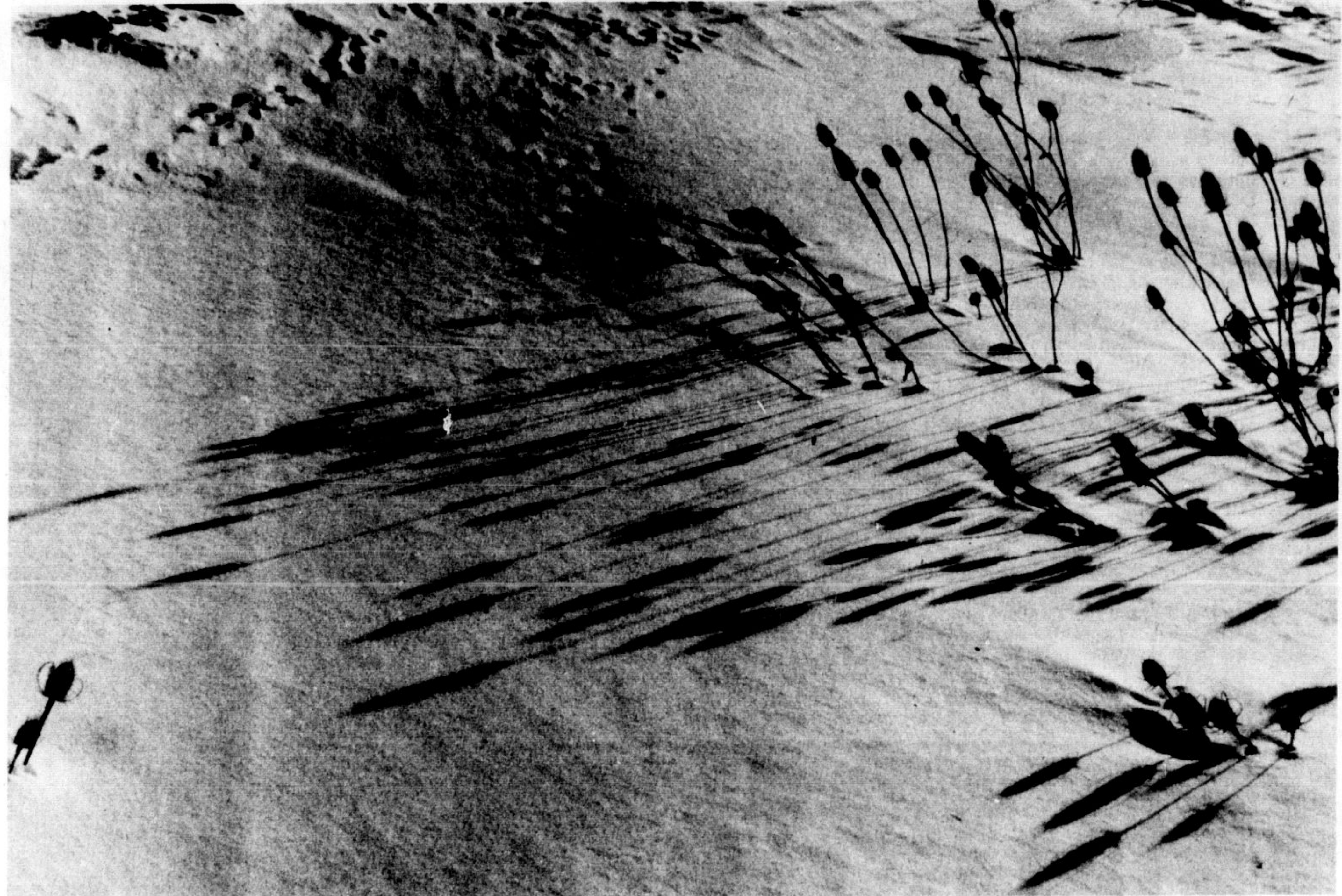
Milton, Halton Hills and Oakville combined for the event this year with Burlington going its own way and providing its own carnival the previous week.

The beautiful weather undoubtedly swelled the numbers this year, in contrast with last year's combination rain and snow. The crowds just weren't anticipated and supplies at some of the food

outlets ran out quickly. Getting on the bus at Milton Mall and returning did remind us of a sardine squash, but it didn't seem to dim the spirits any and it certainly beat trying to get a car near the park.

Kelso was a great outdoors arena too. Its space left everyone with the uncrowded feeling of a pleasant day in the country. Activities drew good crowds and the Museum was certainly crowded. It just seemed to be a happy combination of good preparation, great weather and pleasant crowds in an ideal winter setting.

And we think some Miltonians came to appreciate some of the wonderful facilities that exist within such close reach.



LONG SHADOWS cast by a late afternoon sun stretch out across the clean white snow. (Champion photo by Roy Downs).

Sugar and Spice

By Bill Smiley



Some choice in next election

Well, who are you going to vote for when they call the election? The youthful, righteous, quivering jowls, or the aging but still elegant shrug?

What a choice! One of the guys is so hungry for the big job that he looks as though he can already taste it. The other is so mesmerized by failed bilingualism and his personal feud with Rene Levesque that he wouldn't know an ordinary taxpayer if he climbed into bed with one. Of either sex.

If Joe Stalin were alive and well and living, say, in Moosejaw, he'd probably garner more votes than the other two put together.

That other Joe was chosen leader of the Tories by a handful of votes. Approximately 49 per cent of the convention delegates didn't want him. Since then, one of the latter has become a Liberal cabinet minister, another his Quebec "Lieutenant," has faded into the woodwork.

His opponent, the ubiquitous Pierre, bedevilled by domestic troubles, a sagging economy, high unemployment, a feeble dollar, and an apparent lack of touch with reality, looks and acts every one of his nearly 60 years.

What's a million? This famous line, spoken by the arrogant but extremely competent C. D. Howe, builder of Canada's industry, almost toppled a government a couple of decades ago, when he uttered it in

the famous Pipeline Debate.

Red-blooded Canadians across the land shuddered in horror at this scornful attitude toward that magic figure.

Today, a politician could stand up in Ottawa and say: "What's a billion?" without raising a ripple.

A minor example: the government people in charge of unemployment insurance have launched a \$1 million advertising campaign to warn cheaters of the system of the dire consequences should they be caught. What a farce!

The system is so full of holes that it is being ripped off—legally it must be added—to the tune of millions, and we all know it.

It's a nice commission for the advertising agency handling the account, but they are the only bodies who will get anything out of it. Who is going to read the ads?

Certainly not the people who are cheating. They already know all the loopholes and fine print. Only the very stupid are caught.

Certainly not the employers who also cheat, "laying off" a skilled workman when things are a bit slack, with a tacit agreement that he go on unemployment insurance until things pick up, when he will be "re-hired".

Certainly not the millions of people like me who (a) pay into the fund and (b) will never get a nickel back from it.

That leaves, as readers, the guys who drew up the ad, the civil servants who authorized it, and a scattering of pensioners who can afford a newspaper and read everything in it, for want of something better to do.

But what's a million, if it keeps some advertising types and civil servants happy, and makes the blood of a few pensioners boil?

Unfortunately, those ads and that million, along with many more squandered on such pettifoggery piffles, don't mean a thing to the man or woman in Glace Bay or Sudbury or Chilliwack who has been out of work for a year, and has no prospect of being in it in the near or distant future.

Clark carps and Pierre pontificates and Broadbent issues broadsides. And factories close because Canada's prices are too high, because Canada's wages are too high and because Canada's production is too low.

Many people—mostly young people—rejoice at our release from the slavery of the "work ethic", even though they don't really know what it means. To my generation it merely meant doing an honest day's work for a day's pay.

Today's generation ranks the work ethic with slavery, racism and having a bath Saturday night, whether you need it or not, all the trappings of a vicious, misguided past.

So be it. It's their funeral, not mine. They are the ones who will be paying the horren-

dous taxes for welfare, medicare, unemployment insurance and indexed pensions for civil servants when I am sporting about in the Elysium fields with a couple or three nymphs.

What with the half-hour coffee break twice a day, the calling in sick when you have a hangover, the sneaking off at noon Friday for the weekend, and various other little games, which you know about as well as I, we are turning into a nation of layabouts. And we're already beginning to pay the price.

Add to this incipient separatism and the stranglehold of the mandarins on the wafflers at Peking-on-the-Rideau Canal, and you can see why I, and many another honest Canadian, look forward to another federal election with a certain lugubriousness. It seems to be a question of "turn the rascals out" or "turn the turkeys in."

Nuff said. Don't think me a gloom-pot. It's 2 a.m. and I've just put No. 2 grandson to bed. For the fourth time. He loves those late movies.

Turning the Pages of the Past

From the files of The Canadian Champion

One year ago

From the Feb. 23, 1977 issue
Milton's promised GO train service to Toronto was shelved this week when the federal government backed out of a 1974 election campaign pledge and cancelled support funds. Federal Finance Minister Donald Macdonald said Thursday in Toronto that Ottawa is withdrawing its urban transit aid, which was a campaign plank in the 1974 election campaign.

Milton Fire Department wants a new pumper truck and a station wagon for fire prevention work, plus eight more full time firefighters and fire inspectors, according to Milton Fire Chief A. E. "Babe" Clement's annual report to council.

Milton may soon add a McDonald's Restaurant to the array of eating establishments in town. A representative of McDonald's said the firm wants to open a 123-seat restaurant at the corner of Market Dr. and Highway 25.

Robberies and other crimes are up across Halton again, Chief Ken Skerrett told Halton Police Commission Thursday.

Campbellville School won't be closing. Halton Board of Education rejected an administration suggestion Thursday that the school be closed and students there be bused to Brookville School.

Pending a final agreement on how sewage will be handled, construction of the expansion of Frankel Steel could be underway by the middle of the summer. Frankel Steel president Milton Harris said the move from Toronto to Milton could come about early in the new year, if all goes well.

20 years ago

Taken from the Feb. 20, 1958 issue
Canada's Liberal party leader Lester B. Pearson lunched today at the Milton home of Halton Liberals' standard bearer, Kenneth Y. Dick. Halton Liberal officials attended also.

Milton Council will seek legal advice following a letter from the Lords Day Alliance that complaints had been lodged since hockey practices were allowed Sundays at Milton Arena.

Const. Ron Rupert, Milton's safety officer, has asked council to consider registering the more than 500 bikes in town. He said it would give him a chance to make sure the bicycles are in good mechanical condition.

A fourth Brownie pack is being launched

this week.
Three men and a girl were arrested Sunday and charged in connection with the \$17,000 armed hold-up at the Bank of Nova Scotia branch in Campbellville Jan. 23. The suspects were arrested in Northport and Ottawa. Some of the money has been recovered.

Halton Conservatives have named Charles Alexander "Sandy" Best their candidate, again. Halton voters sent him to Ottawa last June with a large majority.

Only about 10 per cent of Milton's incoming mail arrived this week when heavy snows prevented the CN trains from getting through on the Hamilton-Georgetown line.

Pupils from the new W.I. Dick Public School, presently attending classes on the staggered hour system at Bruce St. School, expect to move to the new school next Monday.

Milton Police report 2,200 pairs of wool socks stolen from Model Knitting Mills have been recovered in Toronto.

75 years ago

From the Feb. 19, 1903 issue
A pig fancier, who is inclined to fancy other people's pigs, is putting in 30 days at hard labor in jail here, rather than pay the amount of his fine and costs, about \$50. It might trouble him to earn \$50 a month and his board if he were out of jail.

Miss Shuert gave a very pleasant dancing party at her father's residence, Nelson on Friday evening. There were about 60 guests, all from her neighborhood, and all enjoyed themselves greatly.

On Monday a 15-year-old youth was arrested on the information of Postmaster James Matthews, charged with stealing "a quantity of silver money and several registered letters" from the post office Saturday night.

Following the lamented death of John A. Featherstone, the cause of which was appendicitis, two new cases of the same disease developed in this neighborhood within the last week. Wm. Walker of Nelson, and Miss Hannah Whites, of Milton, are the sufferers. In both cases operations were performed, on Mr. Walker on Saturday and on Miss Whites on Tuesday. Both are doing well.

Milton's junior hockey team went to Georgetown on Tuesday evening and were defeated by the juniors of that town, 2-0. Last night, matters were squared here by the local intermediate team of the O.H.A. defeating the Georgetown senior team of the same association 4-2.

On the News Beat

No faith in the 'pirate'

By Bob Burt



When Ric Morrow called Wednesday's special meeting of regional council, he had hoped to have council adopt a form of equalized assessment and in so doing, finally accept the spirit of regional government.

Council rejected his proposal and hurled criticisms and insults at Morrow and the senior regional staffers during a special three-hour session.

It was bad enough that those who didn't want to see the pooling of resources implemented, blast Morrow—but the abuse didn't stop there.

Proponents of the scheme also blasted Morrow for bungling the issue. They went on at great length, chastizing him for not coming up with proper information and documentation.

Fair enough, Morrow didn't face the question head on and did try to soft pedal the fact that he was talking about a form of equalized assessment for sewer and water charges.

But the fact of the matter is, it didn't matter a damn what he said or what anyone else said, the councilors' minds were made up before they ever got out of bed that morning.

Probably the real telling part of the whole debate was a brief but emotional performance by Jack (The Pirate) Raftis.

"What we're talking about is the essence of regional government. The whole spirit of regional government is at stake here. You have to have a certain amount of faith,"

quoed Jack.
No truer statement could be uttered. You have to have faith and that—more than anything else—contributed to the defeat of Morrow's proposal and the spirit of regionalism in Halton.

What Raftis was really saying was that representatives from all areas of the region had to show faith in him.

Raftis is chairman of the public works committee and probably the most powerful member of council.

He's had close to five years to build a rapport that would let councilors have faith in him.

He blew that opportunity and in doing so he, not Morrow, should shoulder a lot of the blame for what happened on Wednesday.

You see, under the current system all sewer and water facilities are constructed and maintained by the region. But because the region charges back all related costs to the benefiting municipalities, the political power rests with the area council.

Regional councilors who really can't understand needs outside of their local area are satisfied to approve projects in the other municipalities, as long as the local municipalities are prepared to shoulder the cost.

Under the proposed system, everyone would share in the cost of all projects across the region and the regional councilors would no longer be satisfied to say this is what the areas want. They would want to be darn well satisfied that the project was

of necessity before they approved it.
In other words, the power base would shift to the region. Because Milton has only three representatives of 24 on the council they are afraid they would be shafted and end up paying a share of the regional cost but not be able to get approval for projects in their own area. Politically, it is enough to make their hair stand on end.

Raftis said it, "You have to have faith." In the past Raftis or one of the public works committee members has always raised the question on proposed projects, "who'll pay for this?"

The answer dictated the way in which the project was scrutinized. Now in all fairness, Raftis hasn't done badly by Milton and Halton Hills.

With the notable exception of the landfill site, he has taken a regional outlook and has assisted in some rather tight spots.

But his dominant, overpowering personality leaves other councilors in awe. They know they can't control him and because of that, they won't trust him. There is no faith.

Wednesday's vote wasn't a non-confidence vote in Morrow as some said, it was but a clear indication that there is no faith between the councilors.

Until there is, all of the provincial grants in the world won't change the vote.

As Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghey put it, "Separatism is alive and well in Halton Region. Everyone wants to go their own way."