



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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A few ideas on litter

Garbage, like vandalism, seems to be one of those issues that is both everyone's problem and no one's problem.

That at least seems to be the gist of recent exchanges between disgruntled downtown merchants and representatives of the Town of Milton.

The upshot is, we all seem to want to blame each other. Meanwhile, not much constructive is getting done about the matter.

Litter downtown is an issue — despite an informal survey carried out by this newspaper late last week indicating, in a random and wholly unscientific sampling of 20 or so downtown shoppers, that they found the situation quite acceptable.

Perhaps last Friday, the day of reporter Karen's Smith's survey, litter was at a low ebb.

But it isn't always like that.

There are days when garbage blows around downtown, creating an eyesore and sapping vitality from the core.

A few thoughts on the issue:

The so-called 'igloo' recycling bin adjacent to the parking lot just parallel and north of Main Street (almost beside The Canadian Champion building) is a largely worthless eyesore.

This is a classic example of good intentions gone wrong.

The igloo — originally a Halton Region concept — was to be a recycling depot for glass, pop bottles and newspaper.

Instead it has turned into a catch-all disposal area for all kinds of junk dumped by negligent people.

For example, on a recent weekend somebody (or some group) dumped several worn-out gas barbecues beside it.

Routinely, people pile garbage such as crushed boxes beside it, without bothering to wrap them up, and they blow all over.

The igloo is often surrounded by broken glass and various other unrecognizable debris.

No upstanding business owner would tolerate having such an installation on his or her property, but it is tucked a bit off the beaten path, so few people know about it. Yet many of them see the garbage that blows around from it on windy days.

Also, the other morning in front of a local downtown business — which must belong to the Downtown Business Improvement Area — there was a pile of cardboard stacked for recycling, but it wasn't tied, so it could easily have been knocked over and strewn about. The same holds true for the recycling bins put out by people who live downtown. Often their contents are not secured in any manner.

The municipality should get rid of the wretched igloo and fine people who don't properly secure their garbage, or put it out too early.

This is easy to do, if the Town and the downtown merchants work together. Here's a quick, simple way to improve the situation.

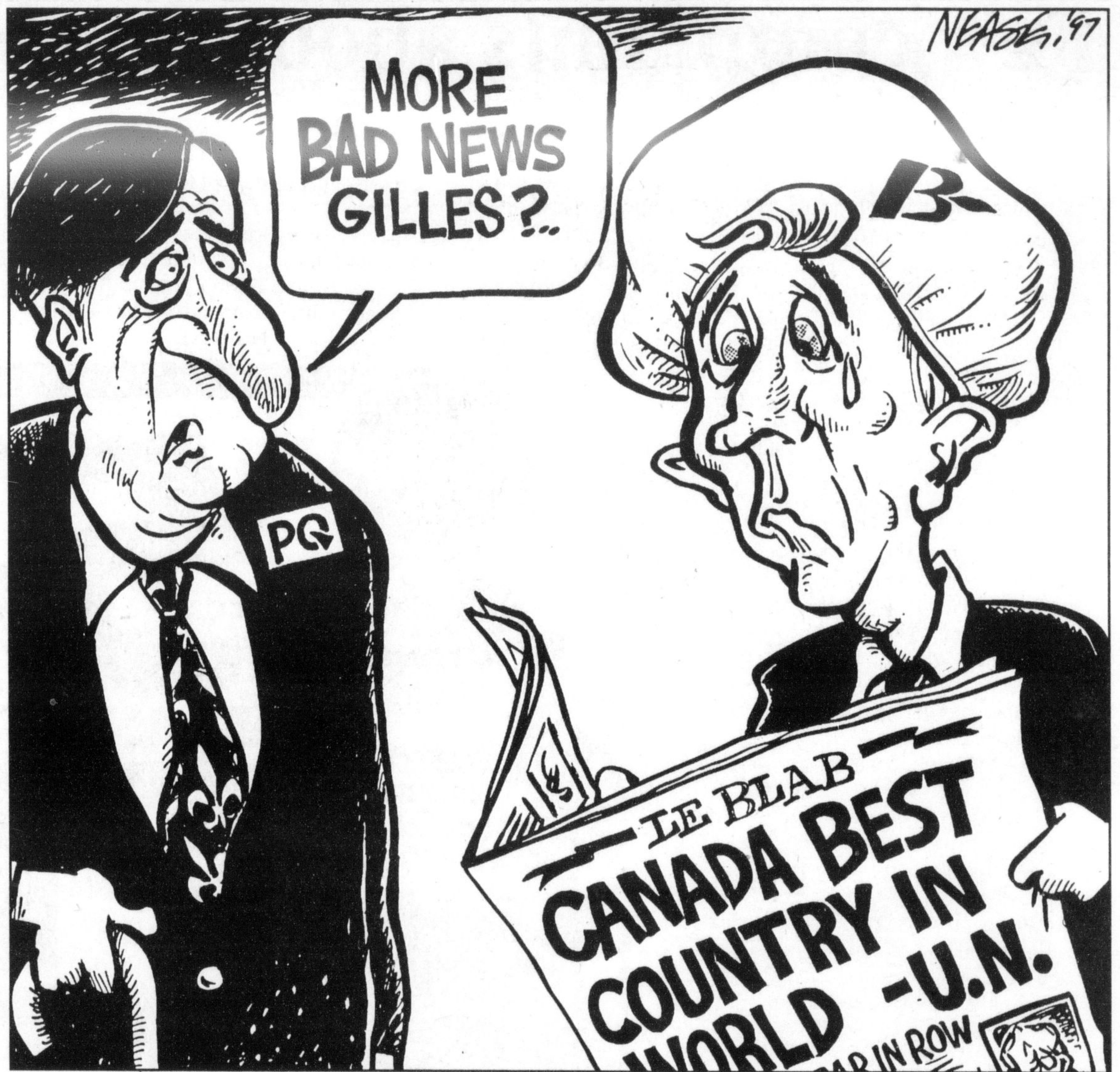
The merchants should hire a summer student to generally spruce up and pick up in the downtown area. They should also make that student a special bylaw enforcement officer. That means he or she could give out tickets.

The municipality appoints such informal bylaw enforcement officers for residential complexes where parking is a problem, and gives them the authority to issue tickets, so that would not be a particularly big deal.

Failing that, the Town could just have their regular bylaw enforcement officers do a few tours downtown to warn people about improper dumping or putting out unsecured blue boxes and the like too early. If no bylaw is in place to effect this, one should be created.

These measures would likely go a long way to improving the situation.

Rob Kelly



Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the June 19, 1996 issue

• Former MPP Walt Elliot was heading up a local group aiming to become the management board for the Ontario Agricultural Museum. Under Mr. Elliot's plan, the group, known as Country Heritage Inc., would take over management of the facility, but ownership would remain in government hands. Many fundraising events had been planned and several large hotel chains had expressed interest in being affiliated with the facility. "One of the first things we'll do is have a contest to name the facility," said Mr. Elliot. "We hope the private sector will get involved in a big way."

• After a 4-0 victory over the Brampton Centennial Bucks at Connorvale Park in Etobicoke, the Milton District High School Sr. Boys baseball team was headed to Skydome for the Blue Jay Cup championship game. MDHS would be taking on Mississauga's Woodlands Rams in the finals.

20 Years Ago

From the June 22, 1977 issue

• Even though the new headquarters for Halton Region would cost \$581,000 more than the anticipated \$2 million, regional council voted 13 - 11 in approval of giving the green light for construction. Among those who disapproved with council's decision was Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson who claimed the new building "can't be

morally justified." Over the past two years council had emphasized repeatedly that the building could be and would be built within budget.

• Bill Howard, managing director of the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority (TATO), claimed that Milton could expect GO Train service by late 1979. The proposed commuter line would run from Milton to Union Station with stops at Meadowvale, Streetsville, Burnhamthorpe, Highway 10, Dixie and Kipling. The promised funding for such a link had been earlier withdrawn by the federal government, but Mr. Howard said that TATO would continue to expand using the \$25 million provided by the province as part of the transit Master Plan.

• Milton resident and National Hockey League senior referee Bruce Hood was preparing for hockey camp of a different sort. His International School of Refereeing was expected to bring 96 referees from across North America to Memorial Arena in Milton.

50 Years Ago

From the June 19, 1947 issue

• A memorial service was held to honour Miltonians who lost their lives in the Second World War. The Lorne Scots Regimental Band led a parade to the cenotaph in Victoria Park where a Union Jack was veiled over part of the statue. In a ceremony that involved three mourning fathers, the flag was removed, revealing the 23 new names on the cenotaph's south side.

Pud

by Steve Nease

