



# COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## It's a slap for Milton

Granted, Oakville has a stake in growth to be fueled by a pipeline from Peel Region west toward Halton, but that stake is not as significant as Milton's.

Yet when negotiations get underway with Peel about how much money will change hands for Halton to rent their water, no Milton political representative will have a formal voice at the table.

Instead Stephen Sparling and Liz Behrens — two Oakville regional councillors — will steer talks from the Halton side, with assistance from Halton Chair Joyce Savoline of Burlington.

Ms Behrens and Mr. Sparling are formulating the Halton strategy because they chair two important regional committees most exposed to this issue.

Ms Savoline is going because she is to represent the interests of the entire Halton regional constituency.

That all sounds very nice, but why couldn't Mr. Krantz have attended as a recognized delegate, instead of some backseat observer, as well?

The argument advanced to him was that Halton negotiators didn't want to get into one-upmanship with their Peel counterparts, who weren't scheduled at this point to bring as many negotiators.

But how valid a point is this? Does taking along one more person trigger a spiral of deal-making brinkmanship, in which each side adds a delegate until they need an arena to hold talks?

Not likely. In fact, having one more person present at the table would have done little to alter the pace or scope of negotiations.

As well, such a gesture would have illustrated to Miltonians and Milton politicians that they form an integral part of the equation in these discussions.

Perhaps Milton was frozen out — as the town has been frozen out of most growth opportunities for more than a decade — because Miltonians are viewed as too close to the situation.

Perhaps Halton politicians from the south — who know Milton representatives are anxious to get moving on this after years of frustration — feared Milton would give away the store in talks just to get the ball rolling.

Whatever the reasoning behind this strategy, it doesn't stand up to scrutiny. Milton deserves a place at the table. It is Milton that has been profoundly affected by this situation.

There has been, after all, no growth freeze in Oakville — quite the opposite, in fact.

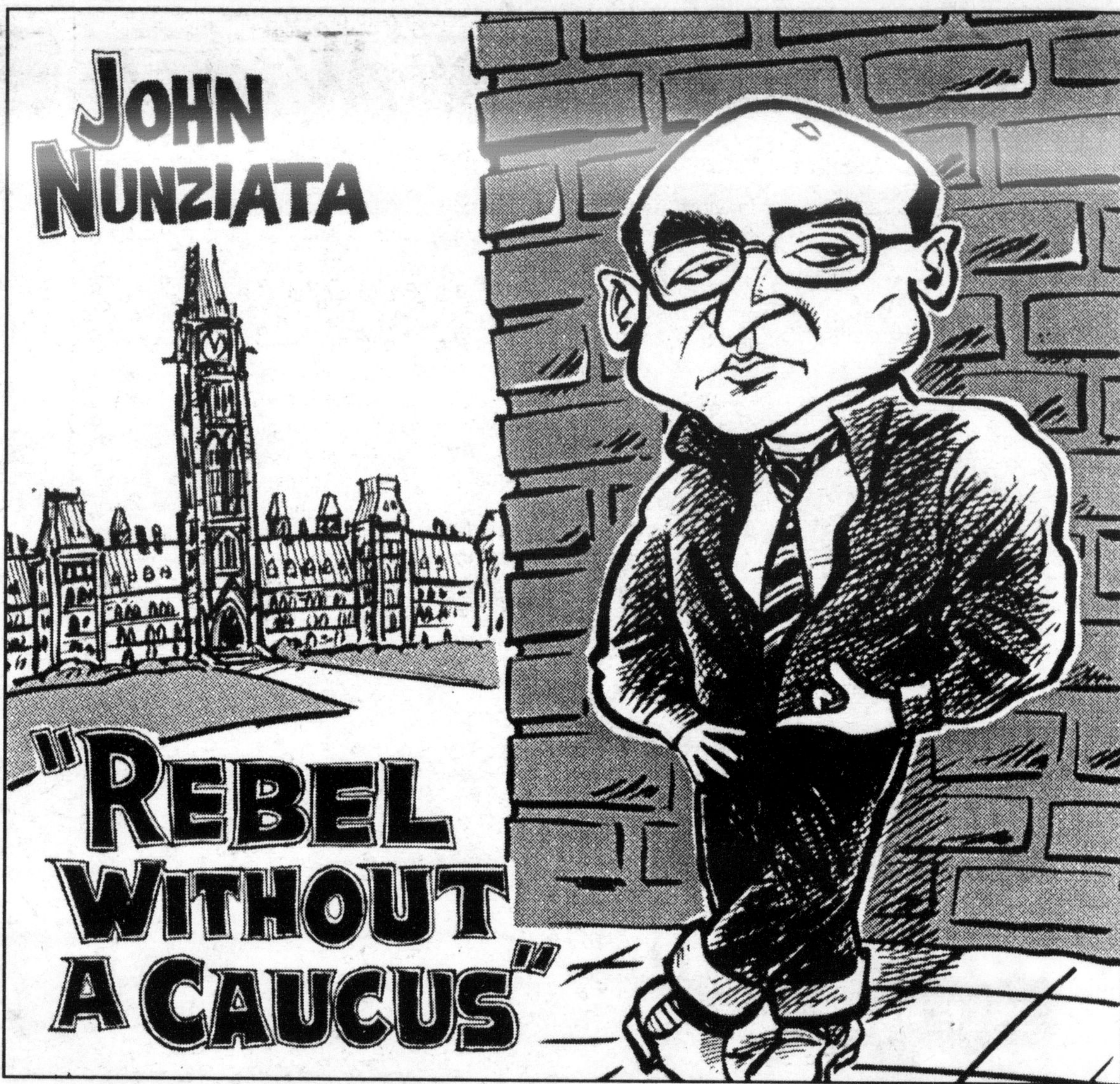
On top of that, a case could be made suggesting Miltonians, those who will be most affected by growth, would be among those who would strike the best bargain for Halton in the name of protecting community interests, both esthetic and financial.

One does not have to venture far from Milton to see the dismal effects of pell-mell, virtually unplanned sprawl.

Mr. Krantz went out on a limb, spending political capital, taking a risk, for naught because fellow regional councillors opted to spurn him.

It was embarrassing for our most high-profile politician, through no fault of his own, and it does not auger well for where Milton's sensitivities stand in regional negotiations with Peel.

• Rob Kelly



## Pages of the Past

### One Year Ago

From the June 26, 1996 issue

• Deidre Scholtz, a five-year-old sufferer of aplastic anemia, was expected to return home in a couple of days after a successful bone marrow transplant. The Holy Rosary School student underwent the procedure at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children May 24 after an extensive search found a suitable donor. Doctors were satisfied with her progress and foresaw a quick return to her Satok Crescent home. "She's in very good shape," said Clem Scholtz, the girl's father. "The transplant appears to be working."

• A solution to Milton's water shortage problem appeared to be a little bit closer when Peel Region expressed an interest in connecting its water system to Halton's. A lack of water was preventing Milton from any further development and Peel had a surplus capacity in its water treatment plants. The neighbouring region was looking to put that surplus water to use and the Milton area appeared to be an obvious customer.

### 20 Years Ago

From the June 29, 1977 issue

• Percy Merry School was the site of a protest put on by parents angered by the Halton School Board's decision to have their principal, Fred Young, administer the 66-student

Palermo School as well. Twenty parents picketed outside the school and all but 13 of Percy Merry's 263 pupils boycotted classes.

• After a successful season in which his Houston Aeros lost in the WHA semi-finals to the Winnipeg Jets, Milton hockey player John Tonelli was drafted by the New York Islanders in the 13th round of the NHL draft. Tonelli still had one year left on his contract with the Aeros, after which he would have to choose between staying in the WHA or moving to the NHL. The possible merger between the two leagues would also contribute to the choice Tonelli would have to make.

### 50 Years Ago

From the June 26, 1947 issue

• Nearly 1,000 school children, parents and Junior Farmers attended the second annual Halton Federation of Agriculture field day at Milton's Agricultural Park. Nassagaweya Township won top honours in the inter-township events and took the Milton District Co-operative Cup when they defeated the Nelson softball team 15-11.

• Dr. James H. Mather was appointed as Medical Health Officer and Director of the Halton County Health Unit. Dr. Mather graduated in medicine at the University of Toronto, worked with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Michigan, lectured at the University of Toronto and served with the medical department of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

• The Tansley Bridge on No. 5 Highway was closed by the Department of Highways for at least six weeks.

### Pud

by Steve Nease

