



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9
(905) 878-2341
Fax: 878-4943
Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
David Bos General Manager
Rob Kelly Editor
Karen Huisman Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager
Tim Coles Production Manager

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It's not where, it's how

The reasons for concern with regard to Milton growth are substantial and varied, but paramount among them is not whether initial expansion goes to the east or west side of town.

This despite the impressive numbers of protesters turned out by the Milton Chamber of Commerce at last week's town council meeting to lobby, in vain, for western expansion prior to an eastern growth cycle.

The direction of growth will not make or break the current downtown, at least not in the short term, since there is to be growth west of Bronte Road in the not too distant future as well.

What Milton must really look to is the quality of development that takes place.

Much has been said in the last decade or so about 'livable' communities with amenities such as nearby shopping and schools, within walking distance. The aim has been to emphasize communities with more of a neighbourhood feel to them.

Yet where in Halton have we seen this concept take hold beyond lip service?

Not in Oakville, not in Burlington. There the car is still king, the boulevards are wide and unfriendly for pedestrians, strip malls flourish and thrive hard by busy thoroughfares Donovan Bailey would think twice before sprinting across.

The only real concession to a more neighbourhood feel in most of these developments has been to alter the house facades a bit, perhaps shunting garages to the back, minor, and relatively cheap, moves like that.

This is where the real threat lies for Milton, in sleepwalking into nondescript suburban sprawl that has been, and continues to be characteristic of most of the Greater Toronto Area, and most similar large city-plexes across North America.

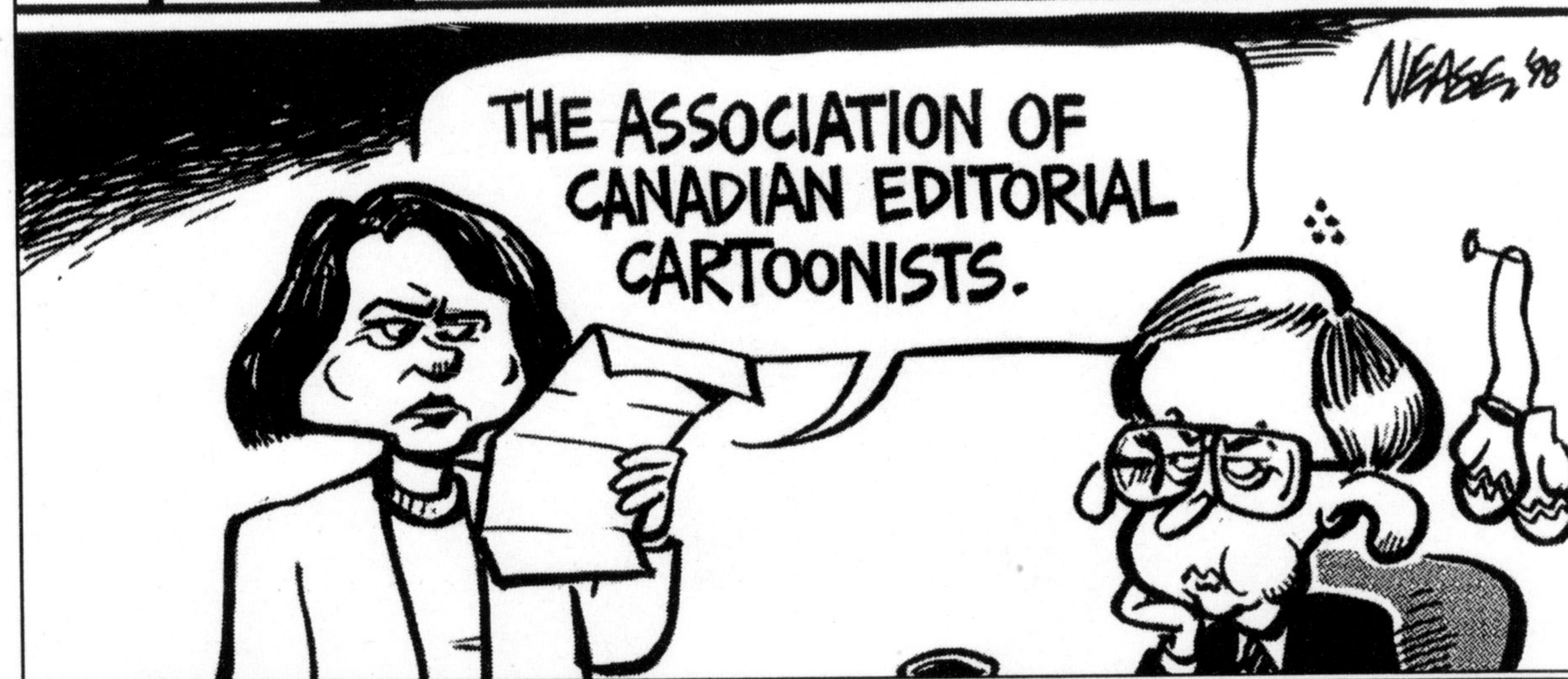
It is perhaps in this undercurrent that an unvoiced fear of downtown merchants resides, with validity. They can look to eastern Milton and see industrial condos converted to retail use, without a whole lot of apparent municipal planning, and an ominous trend for aggressive development in a vigorous thrust toward Ninth Line and Mississauga, the cradle of modern Canadian suburban schlock sprawl.

There is little reassuring in this part of Milton when it comes to any reasonable definition of a neighbourhood.

On top of that, highway development along the 401 corridor rests largely with another municipality, Halton Hills, which has demonstrated its earnest interest in busily making use of the property by commissioning an expensive study on the matter.

It is not so much the placement of development but the thought and effort that goes into it we worry about, because there has been precious little evidence of ample quantities of either elsewhere.

Rob Kelly



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Court intrigue

Dear Editor:

King John and his cohort Lord Gord continue to rule the fiefdom of Milton with heavy hands and, in the king's case, a somewhat testy tongue.

Meddling merchants, caps in hand, came seeking assistance in their search for more trade last week but were repulsed and rebuked for their attempts. Imperialistic blather and condescending vice-regal rhetoric seemed to be the order of the day.

What pray tell, is the source of this confrontation you might ask? It seems the wizards from the regional castle have finally put forth a plan to expand the fiefdom of Milton towards the land of Queen Hazel.

Visions of gold filling the local coffers have entranced King John, his aging knights errant and court factotums to such a degree, say some, that the supremacy of "Destiny

Pond should be cleaned up

Dear Editor:

For the last few years the Mill Pond has been a disgrace due to algae and weeds.

A few years ago the Town, through an infrastructure grant, spent \$600,000 on the area in and around the Mill Pond. Unfortunately the main issue was never addressed properly, that being the fetid smell and unsightly appearance of the pond, as well as the lack of water flow through

Milton", the supposed credo of King John, has been dashed.

Merchants fear that growth towards the land of Queen Hazel only will result in further loss of trade and opportunity, and feel balance is needed with concurrent expansion towards the forbidden lands of the west.

Their plea to King John and Lord Gord for such dispensation was alas spurned.

Queen Hazel's merchants are no doubt pleased.

The full court of fiefdom nobles meets in but a few weeks to formalize their decree.

Will the merchants submit or rise up and demand their share in this rare showing of regional munificence?

Is there a King Richard, or even a Robin Hood, in their midst — or will it be 'Long live King John and Lord Gord?'

We'll see at the next fiefdom gathering.

Patrick Kelly
Milton Ratepayers Association

it.
How much would it cost to get rid of the algae and weeds this summer? It would be small change compared to what was spent before.

I would ask council, and you, to take action on making the pond look like it did for years, instead of looking like a cesspool all summer and fall.

The pond has in the past been a beautiful gem in the heart of Milton but now it is an eyesore and embarrassment to the people who love it.

May we expect some action please.

Kenneth and Alice Brush
Milton

Pud

by Steve Nease

