



# 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*  
**Bill Begin** *General Manager*  
**Rob Kelly** *Editor*  
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## Dogs' barks not always worse than their bites

The unpredictability of domesticated dogs was demonstrated late last month in the unfortunate biting of a six-year-old girl.

The dog, which was reportedly part pit bull, was tied to a fence on the owners' Commercial Street property July 27 when little neighbour Nikki Champoux leaned over to pet it.

The canine lunged forward at the girl and bit her face, ripping part of her right eye socket, nose and mouth. She was horrified and so was her mother.

While we have heard of few dog-biting incidents as serious as this in Milton over the years, it's important to note that this was far from an isolated occurrence.

Forty dog and cat bites in Milton were reported to the Halton Regional Health Department last year. Across the region, more than 250 cases were investigated.

Many of the victims were trusting, unsuspecting children like Nikki.

The fact that she had played with the dog before without any sign of its aggression may have created a false sense of security.

Luckily, Nikki didn't lose an eye or won't be permanently disfigured. Others haven't been so fortunate.

Another sad part of this is the dog that bit Nikki — a loving six-year-old family pet that has reportedly never bitten before — faces consequences that could go as far as being destroyed.

Please remember that pet dogs are domesticated animals — tamed so to speak — but can be prone to unprovoked aggressive and violent behaviour.

This is true in all breeds, as Oakville Humane Society manager Bronwyn Darnley points out in a story elsewhere in this newspaper.

The canine in this case was part pit bull, however the most reported dog bites in the region, according to Ms Darnley, are by German Shepherds.

This statistic may be skewed due to the fact that more people probably own German Shepherds than pit bulls, but her point is still clear.

Never leave your dog unattended where the public, especially children, have access. Don't mistakenly believe that your dog would never hurt anyone. Remember that it is a dog, not a furry child.

Adults need to understand this and explain it to their children.

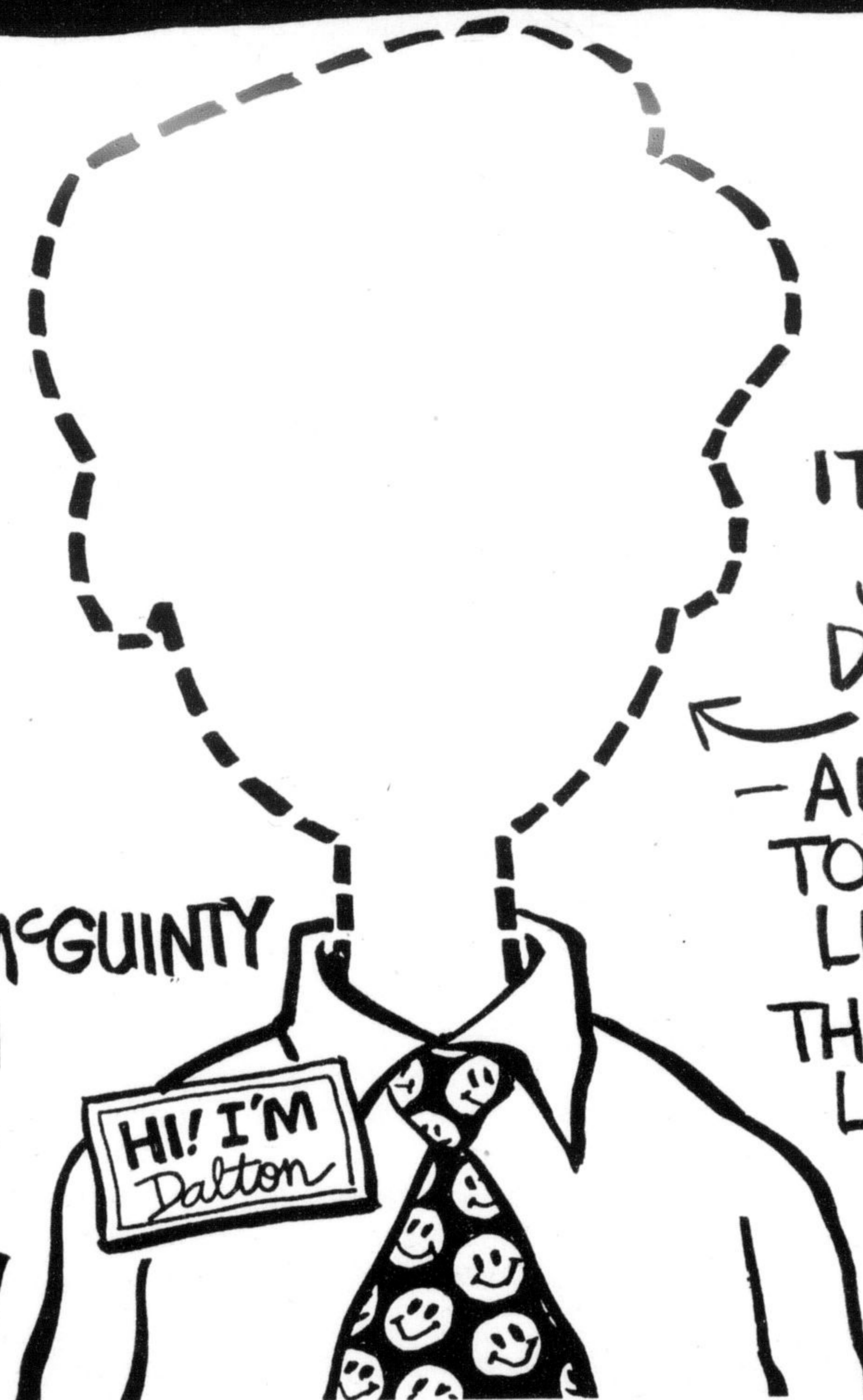
If not, the outcome could be devastating.

Karen Smith

## DRAW DALTON MCGUINTY!

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IT'S EASY! JUST DRAW DALTON HERE!

— AND FAX IT TO YOUR LOCAL LIBERAL HQ... THEY'D PROBABLY LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, TOO!

NASSA 198



## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### Looks can be deceiving

Dear Editor:

This letter is regarding the article on violators who hog disabled parking spots, which was published in your Tuesday, July 28 edition.

Cliff Bignell says in the article that he thinks some of us who are capable of walking without canes or walkers and though we have a legitimate reason and have a sticker in our car that we are abusing our privilege.

I will be 80 years old this year and I have been through two major operations since last October. I am able to walk without assistance but not for long distances.

I suggest that Mr. Bignell review his comments before putting down the senior citizens in this community.

Basil McKnight  
Milton

### Soccer rules, admit it

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank The Canadian Champion's columnists for their extensive commentaries on soccer in recent issues.

First, we had Murray Townsend's article that was quite an entertaining endorsement of soccer. Now we have Brad Reaume's attempt to slam the sport, but in fact once again pointing out to all sports fans the joys of soccer.

I wish to commend both writers for their clever writing skills. But, I also sense that perhaps they are having difficulty openly admitting that they are in actual fact closet 'soccer aficionados'.

Maybe in their next articles they can just come out and

write it: "I, too, love soccer."

I do agree with Mr. Reaume's final point, however, that we should all support our local teams. Come on out to a soccer pitch here in town and catch some of the more than 1,200 local kids having fun. You'll be in great company!

Chris Horbasz, president  
Milton Youth Soccer Club

### It's so sad to see you go

Dear Editor:

I am writing you this letter because I would like to tell you about a very special man in Milton. His name is Mr. Robert Newman. He is the owner of Newman Shoes.

As we all know, he will be closing his store soon and I would just like to share some of my special memories of Mr. Newman with you.

I have a very large narrow foot. One summer my mom brought me in to get sandals. We picked out a pair of sandals and Mr. Newman measured my foot. Then Mr. Newman went into the back to get my size. It ended up that he didn't have my size in stock. So on Saturday, he got up early and drove to Kitchener to the place where he gets all his shoes and picked up a pair of the sandals in my size. How many people would do that just for a pair of sandals?

Another memory I have is when I broke the strap on my doll's party shoe. I took it to Mr. Newman and he took the time to fix it for me.

These are just a few of my memories of Mr. Newman, I have many more. To Mr Newman I would just like to say thank you for being the kind, caring and loving person you are and I wish you many happy years to come!

Katelynn Johnston, 11

### Pud

by Steve Nease

