



OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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P. L. Robertson deserves a big round of applause

Hats off to P. L. Robertson for taking the initiative in cleaning up the four ponds situated behind the Bronte Street plant.

The company is putting up millions of dollars in taking responsibility for the project, which wasn't forced by the Town, the Ministry of Environment or any other government body.

The clean-up is based on the company deciding that although the pond contents aren't dangerously toxic, the firm should act as good corporate citizens in ensuring the chemical-based waste is disposed of by the same people who put it there, and that it be looked after safely.

The move means that nobody else -- particularly taxpayers -- will be stuck with the ugly mess. We've seen that happen before.

At the same time, Miltonians, especially nearby residents and businesses, have been plagued with noxious odours as the deteriorating deposits on the bottom of the ponds surface.

Remember that this is a temporary situation. Let's be patient and tolerant of the inconvenience. Plant operations manager Eito Nijholt says the project is expected to wrap up by the end of October. It won't be much longer.

Eventually the man-made developments will become natural wetlands -- a new, safe and healthy haven for water creatures and other wildlife.

Karen Smith

Women are the most mysterious things since silence

Nothing surpasses the mystery of silence, someone once said, but women come pretty close.

A while ago I told some male acquaintances -- golfing partners and such -- about a major argument I had with a woman I was dating in August. She's beautiful, intelligent, talented, headstrong, insecure and at times mean-spirited.

In the interests of equal time, she would probably have some fairly pithy comments to make about me, too, not all of which would be flattering, and the less glowing notations would no doubt be accurate.

What struck me, though, was that to a man all my golfing-slash-beer-drinking buddies indicated in no uncertain terms that it really wasn't worth it to argue with women.

On top of that, they added, genuinely and seriously arguing with beautiful women you are dating was, well, little short of foolhardy.

All these guys are married and they made it clear that when push comes to shove in animated discussions with their significant others, they are happy to capitulate if things get too testy.

Looked at from a broader perspective, this makes a lot of sense, since the relationship is not jarred by the incident, life goes on, and so does sex.

**Rob Kelly**

They also said that, for the most part, it is impossible to understand or predict the behaviour of women anyway, so it's best just to concentrate on keeping things running smoothly. Not only is there to be no war between the sexes, there is not to be a cold war either.

A while ago one of our fine sales reps was proofreading an ad in a large darkened room as I walked in. "Kathy, would you like me to turn the light on?" I inquired. "No," she replied. "It's nice and quiet in here."

I filed away the useful nugget of womanspeak. Dark means quiet.

This is not in any way an attempt to reduce women to a stereotype of volatile enigma. Generally speaking, females are more sensitive, less judgemental, and at least as intelligent as

men, despite the fact women are genetically programmed to never have their money ready when they get to the front of the cashier line.

Someone said not long ago that because women tend to be more nurturing, and strive to build consensus rather than compete, they are in fact better suited for high political office in many ways than men. The point was, I believe, that it would likely be better to have a woman president of the United States.

The guy who wrote that book about men being from Mars and women from Venus has turned the mystery between the sexes into a burgeoning cottage industry. It has undoubtedly made him wealthy. I probably should have read it earlier this summer.

Several years ago employees at Halton Region had a well-meaning idea. It was to put recycling igloos at various spots so people could throw recyclables away conveniently. They even suggested having them on busy downtown street

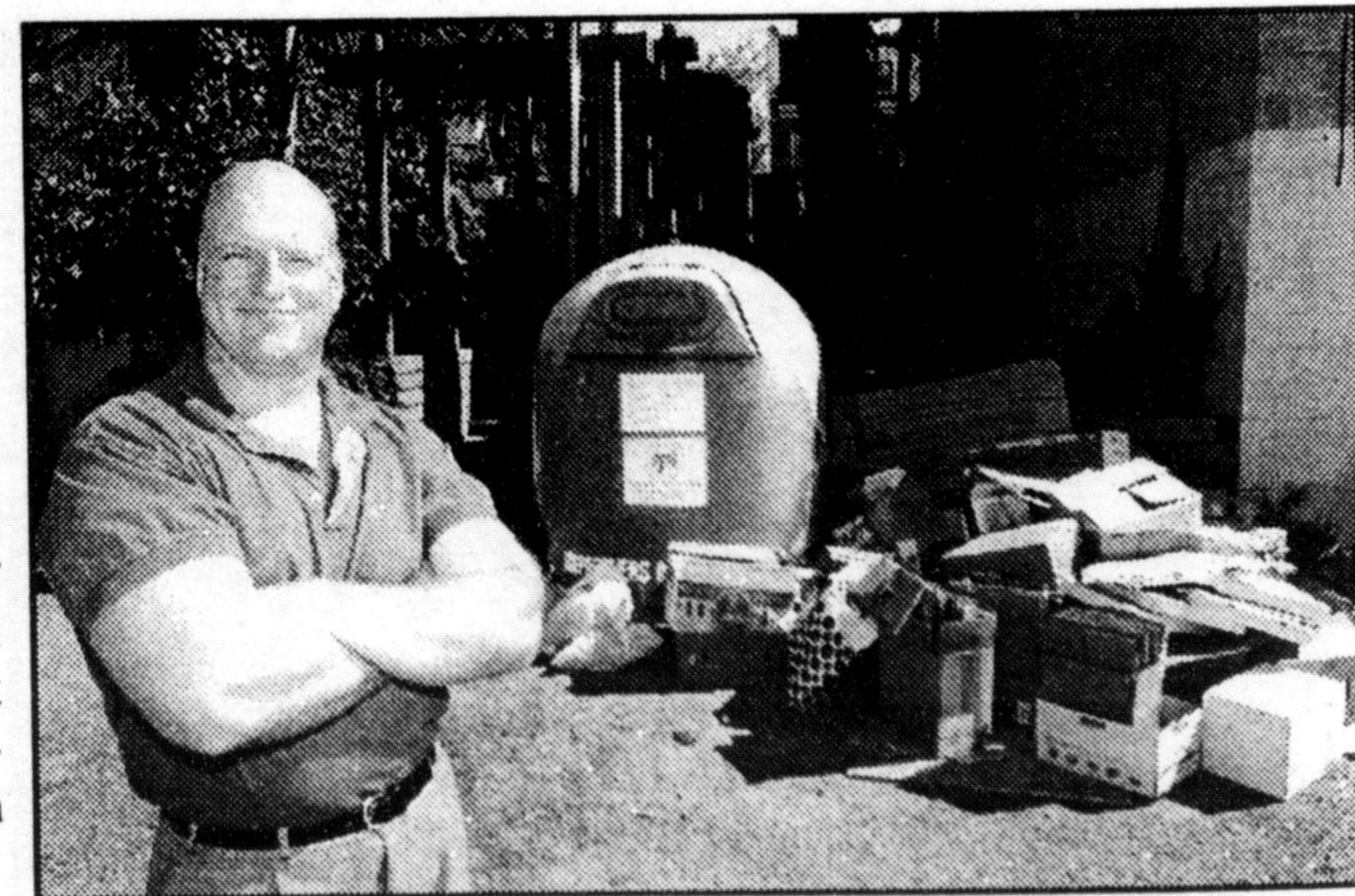


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Here's the mess at the recycling bin near the Champion office, with some local idiot horning in on the picture.

corners at the time. Picture the mess illustrated above at the corner of Main and Martin streets, if you will, or for that matter near your office.

It is right behind mine. It's an eyesore, and it's like this more often than not lately. Some people have ruined it for everyone. It was a nice concept but it's not working out and the people from Halton Region aren't taking care of it properly. They should just get rid of it.



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Teachers protesting for wrong reasons

Dear Editor:

Classroom teachers are striking, or threatening to, for the wrong reasons.

The inability to teach because of the presence of those not wishing to learn -- not numbers of students or periods -- is the underlying cause of stress and distress.

Regulations state the responsibilities of students. Those not meeting them, however, are given rope enough to hang their teachers and classmates, not just themselves.

Neither unions nor school boards are addressing this problem.

Those wanting classrooms to be sites where knowledge is passed on, rather than arenas of continuing confrontation, are urged to contact their local MPP.

Obtain a copy of the Safety in the Schools Bill, (a private member's Bill now before a legislative committee).

Read it and demand that the classrooms be taken back for their purpose, learning for the many, rather than what they too often are now -- places of diversion for the disruptive.

Joe Hueglin
Niagara Falls