



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Lots of tension still exists

It's nice that the Halton Regional Police budget passed without much controversy at the committee level. The same thing may well happen at regional council. But there is still an underlying and substantial element of tension surrounding police operations.

The fact is, police are looking for a paradigm shift -- a change in the conditions that describe how they do business. They are counting on an ongoing operations review to indicate that they are under-staffed.

If and when the review comes through that way, police brass will be in a much stronger position to press for permanently retaining 24 officers who are being hired thanks largely to a provincial grant.

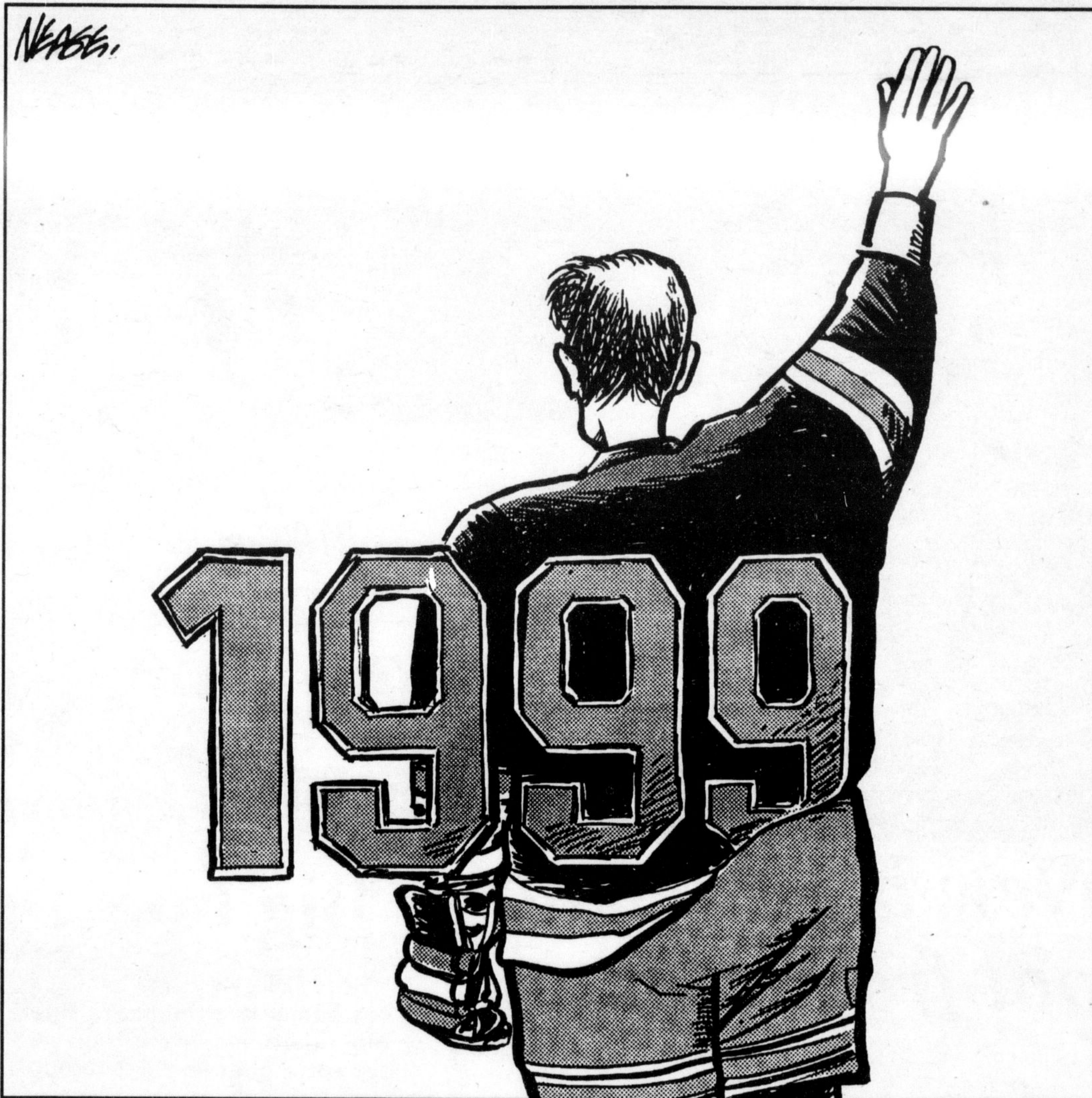
The Province will temporarily pay half the new officer's salaries.

The sparks could fly at regional council when time runs out on the provincial grant, especially if the review does not turn out exactly as many officers had hoped.

One may be forgiven for wondering just how much of a favour the provincial government is doing anyone by temporarily paying part of the salaries for new officers. Sooner or later the taxpayers will be on the hook for all the money anyway.

And local politicians may end up having to make an unpalatable decision to lay off new officers, given budget constraints, or alternatively hit up taxpayers for a fresh infusion of cash, again.

R.K.



OUR READERS WRITE

Thank you to John Day for taking a shot

Dear Editor:

Politicians are a much-reviled class of people these days. We, the voting public, often feel disappointed and betrayed by those we elect to office — so much so that we end up being suspicious and cynical of anyone who steps into politics.

This makes it all the more uninviting and difficult for genuinely concerned and committed individuals to be willing to answer this call to democratic responsibility and public service.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank John Day for deciding to stand for the provincial Liberal nomination in the Halton riding.

Everything that I know about him, both as a regional politician and as an individual citizen, indicates that he is capable, dedicated and decent person, genuinely concerned about the best interests of his community in a remarkably wide range of areas.

John's candidacy motivated me, for the first time in my life, to become a member of a political party and to work for someone I was excited to support.

While I am disappointed that John did not get the nomination, I remain grateful for his efforts and commitment.

Grant Linney
Georgetown

Cartoon unfair; ClubLink

Dear Editor:

While a recently-published cartoon by Steve Nease was funny and reflected that ClubLink is growing quickly, it also conveyed an erroneous message that ClubLink is making golf exclusionary, especially for families.

With the exception of Glen Abbey Golf Club, Canada's top-ranked public course, ClubLink's 10 other daily fee courses in the Greater Toronto Area all offer sharply reduced opportunity green fees on Monday and Tuesday mornings, and low rates at twilight and dusk and for juniors. These reduced fees are geared to families and golfers looking for affordable golf courses that deliver value and quality.

When ClubLink purchased Glen Abbey in February — the first Toronto-area acquisition in nearly a year — the corporation committed to continue operating the course as a daily fee facility.

Similarly, the ClubLink Dome and its Academy Course remain open to the public. Blue Springs was converted from a semi-private to private this year, a transition the original owners had planned to make.

Tim O'Connor, director of communications
ClubLink

of dollars in free technology to our schools?

This is exactly the deal being offered to high schools across Canada by a company called Athena Educational Partners. In exchange for free technology installed and maintained by the company, schools sign a five-year contract, promising to show the Youth News Network (YNN) programming to all students during class time. The cost of the new technology is borne by advertisers who are given immediate access to students as part of the daily news show.

However, YNN is not a news organization and is not licensed by the CRTC. It has no accountability for the quality or accuracy of its programming. Schools and teachers have no control over the content or bias of the programs, and teachers are not permitted to turn off the broadcast. As part of the daily news show, students are delivered as a captive audience to advertisers who send out their messages during instructional time every single school day for five years.

I urge every parent and educator to join the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations in opposing the introduction of YNN in our schools.

Sue Robertson
Oakville



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No accountability in deal

Dear Editor:

What could be more attractive in the current financial crunch than a deal that offers to provide thousands

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included.

Pud

by Steve Nease

