



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Halton has right idea

Halton Region's health and social services committee members are to be congratulated for their innovative stance with regard to combining treatment for youths afflicted by mental health and drug abuse problems.

In truth, any line drawn between the two problems is arbitrary since all substance abuse is rooted in some sort of psychological malaise.

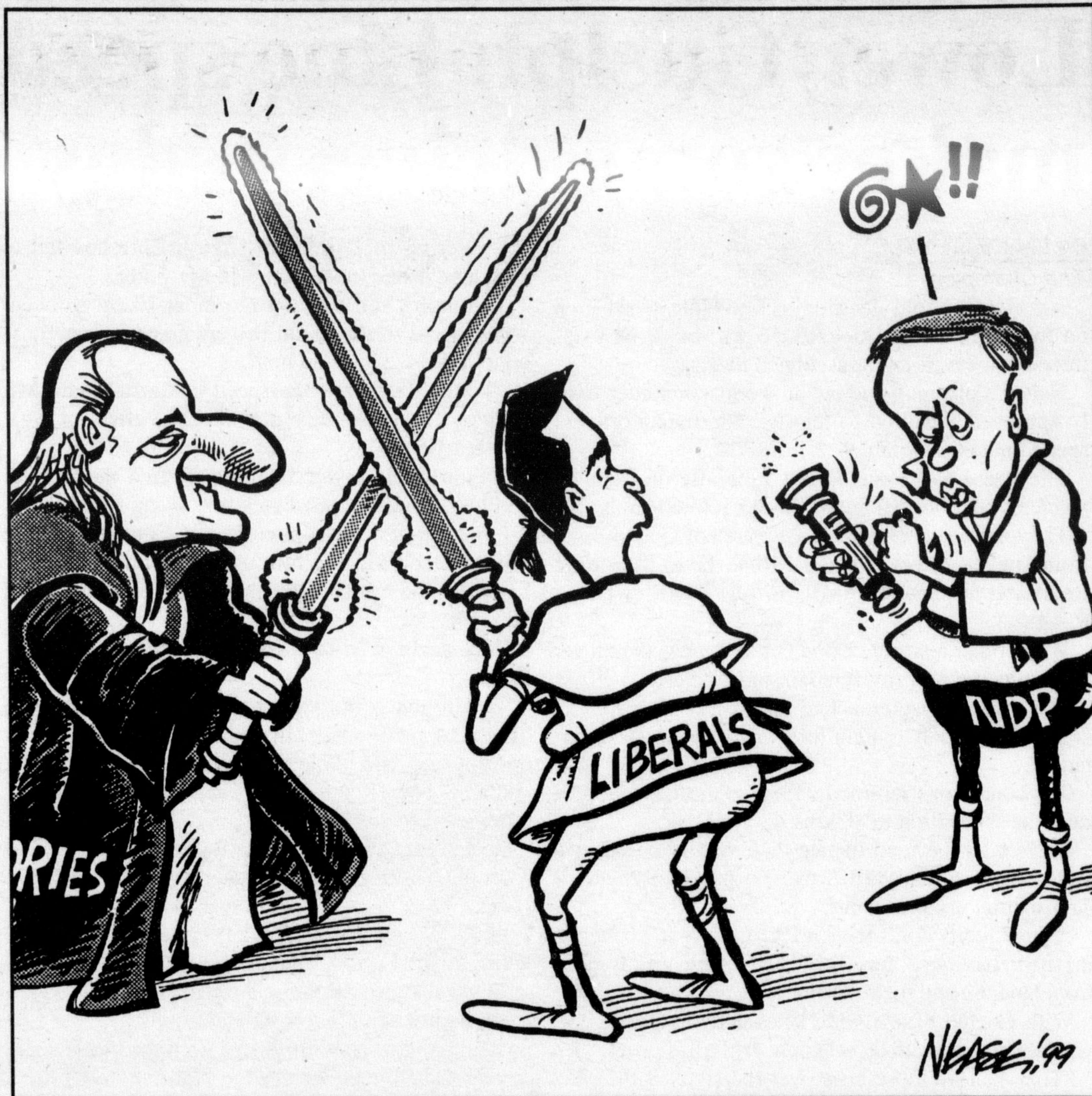
It's hard to believe that the provincial government, or perhaps more accurately the bureaucracies that have grown up within the government, have evolved two distinct arms to cope with these illnesses, one to address mental health and the other substance abuse.

It is harder to believe that the two ministries "don't talk," as noted by Ian Stewart, a spokesperson for Halton's substance abuse organization.

The potential financial fallout of youth substance abuse and mental health difficulties is far greater than the \$463,000 being solicited.

The expense of having a significant portion of these unfortunates end up in the criminal justice system, as Burlington Councillor Lynn Schreiber points out, is far greater than any preventative measures being proposed. This program proposal is correct, morally and practically.

Rob Kelly



OUR READERS WRITE

It was an award-winning event all 'round from Champion articles to gala evening

Dear Editor:

On behalf of all 1998 Chamber of Commerce Community Award nominees, I would like to extend a big thank you to The Champion for all the excellent articles that were published during March and April.

The articles about our community-minded volunteers, organizations and service clubs were published before the gala evening April 10 at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

This night was indeed an evening of fun and celebration with Rev. Mark

Curtis being our master of ceremonies. He also treated us to his wonderful gift of song.

A special award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, was presented to Jim Dills. Everyone really enjoyed his speech.

The Chamber should be proud of its 25th anniversary awards night.

All who attended enjoyed this special evening.

Donna Coulter
Milton

Parkway the key to coming blight

Dear Editor:

This letter is regarding the James Snow Parkway extension.

On April 28 I met with five members of the James Snow Parkway Environmental Assessment Study (EAS) Team. Several weeks ago, I had written to the Ministry of the Environment requesting a bump up on the study for this project. A bump up involves a change in the status of the project from requiring a Class Environmental Assessment to requiring an Individual Environmental Assessment. An Individual Assessment is a more detailed in-depth study of the environmental impact of the project.

The notification of the proposal to extend the James Snow Parkway to Oakville was in The Canadian Champion on March 8, 1999. Public comments on the Environmental Study Report were due by April 8.

The proposed route for this parkway is between Fourth and Fifth

lines. Initially the roadway will be two lanes, later widened to four lanes.

The concerns I have with the James Snow Parkway EAS are:

I am not convinced that the proposed location of this north/south route is optimum.

A number of woodlots in this area will be negatively affected. One woodlot will be cut in two and another will be separated from a nearby pond, leaving the amphibians that inhabit the woodlot without a breeding site. Also, the parkway will cut through a large wooded area where it crosses Sixteen Mile Creek. No significant alternative routes were investigated for the crossing.

I am also concerned about the natural environment surveying to determine the type and number of species that would be displaced or eliminated through the development process, which was conducted during the months of September and November of 1998. Last year

was one of the driest on record and hence I expect the number and variety of species to be recorded to be uncharacteristically low.

Conducting a survey over five visits in the fall is simply inadequate to document the presence of flora and fauna.

Since construction of this parkway is key to starting the development process that will bring an additional 50,000 people to Milton, I think the impact of both of these projects should be considered in this assessment. That is, the environmental impact of the construction of the parkway should not be considered in isolation from the impending development.

The entire perimeter of Lake Ontario is becoming a sea of development. Our communities are growing at the expense of where we grow our food, at the expense of our clean air, our wildlife, our natural areas, our clean water, and our cleansing forests.

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Pud

by Steve Nease

