



# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## These 'Luddites' really resent human growth

Dear Editor:

I recently (May 7) opposed unfair reductions of speed limits along our busy roads and defended the right of commuting taxpayers to speedy, effective travel routes.

Unexpected support came in the form of a front page article in the Champion (May 11) reporting a study that predicts traffic "gridlock" in Halton Region. The article quoted Halton Hills Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson: "Halton's growth may already be hurting from the constant traffic logjam." Clearly, I am not alone in seeing the need for speedy, effective travel routes."

However, today's 'Luddites' are struggling to prevent such progress, as indicated by recent letters to The Champion. A Luddite was any 19th century craftsman whose job was threatened by mechanization, and who sought government intervention against such progress. When the government failed to side with the Luddites, some sabotaged modern equipment rather than take advantage of the new prosperity.

First, Diane McCurdy publicly (Champion May 11) asked for an individual environmental assessment on the proposed extension of James Snow Parkway. She fears a wood lot will be "cut in two" while another might become isolated from some amphibians that may wish to breed there. Those are her reasons for being against plans for a road designed to help accommodate the travels of an expected 50,000 human beings.

She's against businesses that will prosper as they make more goods and services available within our community, saving us a trip to Mississauga, Brampton or Toronto. She's against the concomitant economic gain possible to citizens of a growing Halton and ris-

ing property values. She's against all the jobs that such growth will create. She's against the children such productive people may hope to afford to raise. To oppose the enhancement of human life on so flimsy an argument suggests her dislike of progress is greater than her love of nature.

Dave Toderick (May 21) caps defend a similar position with a nested pair of logical fallacies. Like Ms McCurdy, he wants to prevent "significant environmental effects" — which means promote wood lots and amphibians while undermining human progress.

The first fallacy lies in citing David Suzuki as support for his argument. Apparently, Dr. Suzuki believes it is "absurd that humans could be so arrogant as to believe that they could even begin to understand the environmental impacts of their actions." By merely reiterating Dr. Suzuki's claim, Mr. Toderick has committed the logical fallacy known as the 'argument from reverence', with Dr. Suzuki as the 'revered authority'. He is hoping his argument will stand, because it agrees with someone whom he believes is unimpeachable. This is the lamest trick in the advertising world. It does not matter whether Mr. Toderick's authority is Wayne Gretzky or Meryl Streep. If no rational argument is actually given then there is no reason to believe him.

Why is the error a nested pair? The statement Mr. Toderick chose to repeat is itself a logical error. It commits the 'fallacy of self-exclusion' in which the speaker believes that his proposition does not apply to him. Mr. Toderick and the pseudo-scientist Dr. Suzuki seek to convince us that the impact of human activity on the environment is catastrophic, yet they simultaneously argue that mankind cannot truly know the nature and scope of that impact. A rational response to such nonsense would be: "If mankind cannot know, then Dr. Suzuki and Mr. Toderick also cannot know." That these people attack human progress, when they could pool their resources to purchase and defend their pre-

ferred natural habitats, puts them in the same class as the Luddites.

At root, love of nature is not their motivation, instead they resent human growth that is not their own, and they should be ignored.

Richard Bramwell  
Milton

Express  
your  
opinion  
by faxing  
a letter to  
878-4943.

## TREAT DAD TO A SHOW This Fathers Day




Put him up close to the action - whether it's a sporting event or his favourite movie - with a DSS or Expressvu satellite.

**DSS** **EXPRESSVU**

**We Also Carry**  
Premium Quality Rotors • Antennas • Pre-Amps

**Authorized Dealer:**  
PANASONIC • TECHNICS • TOSHIBA

Repairs to Most  
TV's & VCR's

Shop Where Quality Costs Less

## MERV'S ELECTRONICS

878-7776  
(The Derry Centre)  
Northeast Corner of  
Derry & Hwy 25  
Beside Country Markets



**NISSAN'S  
BRIGHTEST IDEAS**

# NEW Y2000 NOW SHOWING



**Y2000  
NISSAN  
MAXIMA GXE**  
Priced from  
**\$28,590<sup>00</sup>**

**Y2000 NISSAN  
FRONTIER CREW CAB**  
Priced from  
**\$24,998<sup>00</sup>**



**DRIVEN.**



**NORTH END NISSAN** **878-4137**  
610 MARTIN ST. MILTON

**Southern Ontario's largest Indoor  
Flea Markets - over 800 Vendors**

## Dad's day deals

**WIN**  
Dr Flea's Watches  
Tickets to the  
Blue Jays  
Dr Flea's  
Gift Certificates

Enter your Dad's name in a draw.  
No purchase necessary

## GREAT GIFTS

for Dads and Grads

**TORONTO**  
Hwy 27 & Albion Rd Flea Market  
8 Westmore Drive  
416-745-FLEA (3532)

**OAKVILLE**  
QEW & Trafalgar Rd Flea Market  
125 Cross Ave  
905-849-FLEA (3532)



**Dr Flea's  
FLEA MARKETS**

**Every Saturday & Sunday 9-5**

\*FRT., PDI, LIC. EXTRA. Financing available OAC. special lease packages on request. See dealer for details.