



# COMMENT

## Let's not quibble over costs in this scenario

When it comes to health care, it often doesn't pay to quibble over costs -- especially when there seems to be a clear benefit attached to the extra expense.

That's the case with local ambulance service, which will be officially downloaded to the Region August 16.

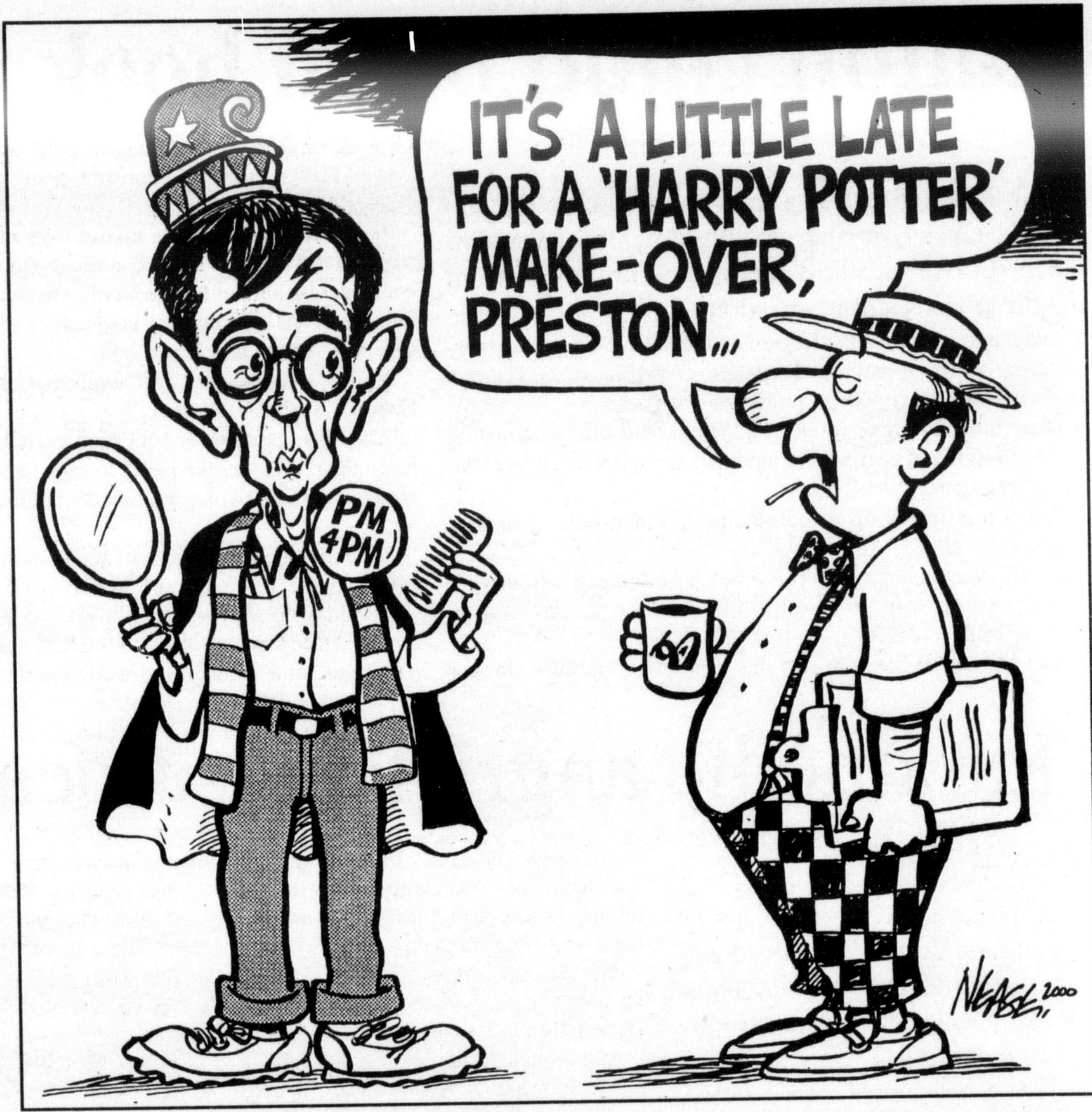
Halton has set a mandate to improve care by beefing up everything from equipment to staff numbers and training levels.

That means Milton will finally have the benefit of highly-trained advanced life support paramedics in its crews.

All that promises to help speed up average response times, which were practically glacial here last year -- 15 minutes, when about eight is ideal.

Regional council is poised to move ahead with additional hiring at an annual cost of about \$712,000 even though a 50/50 funding promise from the Province has yet to materialize. The Region should move ahead. We're all getting older, and with age comes the likelihood that our lives will one day depend on these front-line workers.

Bumped-up paramedic numbers and training just increase the odds of surviving the experience.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Why wasn't street closed for fireworks?

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to express my concern for the safety of the citizens of Milton who attended the fireworks display Saturday evening.

In previous years, the police always closed off Martin Street to cars. It was very hard to enjoy the display when I was constantly looking at the pedestrians, rollerbladers, people with children in buggies and bicyclists criss-crossing the street with cars trying to weave around them while trying to get a glimpse of the fireworks at the same time.

Two police cruisers and an ambulance drove by minutes before or just at the start of the display. Obviously, they must have had more important things to do since they were so oblivious to the potential danger to the public.

In future, I hope the police and the organizers of the display will be better prepared. It takes nothing to close the street off for an hour to prevent any possible mishap. That way we can all enjoy watching the fireworks, which conclude Canada Day celebrations, in safety.

H. Raduka  
Milton

### Litterbugs have no respect for anything

Dear Editor:

Milton indeed is a beautiful town. That's why I chose to live here some 18 years ago. In response to Katie Patrick's letter, the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) and businesses try hard to maintain a clean and healthy historic downtown core. It sometimes seems like a losing battle, but we keep on trying.

Our sincerest apology is extended to the Milton Farmers' Market for the state of the street and sidewalks on the morning after the Moonlight Magic event June 16. We tried to go that extra mile by hiring staff to pick up the garbage that was left after about 4,000 people enjoyed a fun and successful evening.

A huge thank you to all the artists and participants who made the event a night of fun. We would also like to thank all the people and their families who attended this year's festival and helped make it

the huge success it has become. It's a small way for the DBIA to thank those who have supported the downtown over the years. After all, this is where it all started some hundred years ago. Settlers had a vision and out of that vision grew a thriving town filled with family-owned businesses and churches. It was the heart of the area and the gathering place for friends to meet and enjoy each other's company. It's nice to know it can still all happen as it once did back then.

I didn't invent the silly string nor the shaving lotion that our youth seem to take such great enjoyment out of. But even with the litter and mess, I love to see the smiling faces of our youth having good fun.

As DBIA general manager, I assure you that we will try our best to add to our clean-up crew to ensure a better state is in place next year for the popular farmers' market the following day.

So, as well as personally trying

to pick up 200 empty cans of silly string at 1 a.m. along with an exhausted crew of teens, plus pay for and have all the receptacles cleared of garbage by a private company, we'll hire extra staff next year to try even harder to have the core spotless for Saturday morning.

All the events are as important to us. If anyone has any ideas of how we might address this problem, please give me a call. I'd love to hear any suggestions. It seems to be an ongoing problem, not just after special events but throughout the entire town.

Litterbugs aren't a nice entity but every year they seem to get more and more plentiful. Every town has to deal with it. Litterbugs have no respect, no conscience and no pride of anything.

If everyone does their little part by cleaning up their own mess, the litterbug suddenly disappears. It's a win-win situation.

Darlene A. Wasilkowsky  
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### Pud



by Steve Nease