



COMMENT

Paying more for better water will be worth it

Long-time Milton residents know it doesn't take a tragedy to show people are passionate about their drinking water.

In the past, residents pitched a bitter fight against adding chlorine to well water. To the chagrin of some, the tragedy in Walkerton proved the right decision had been made.

But wounds from that battle were just beginning to scab over when residents banded together again, this time to prevent a blend of lake and well water from flowing out of local taps.

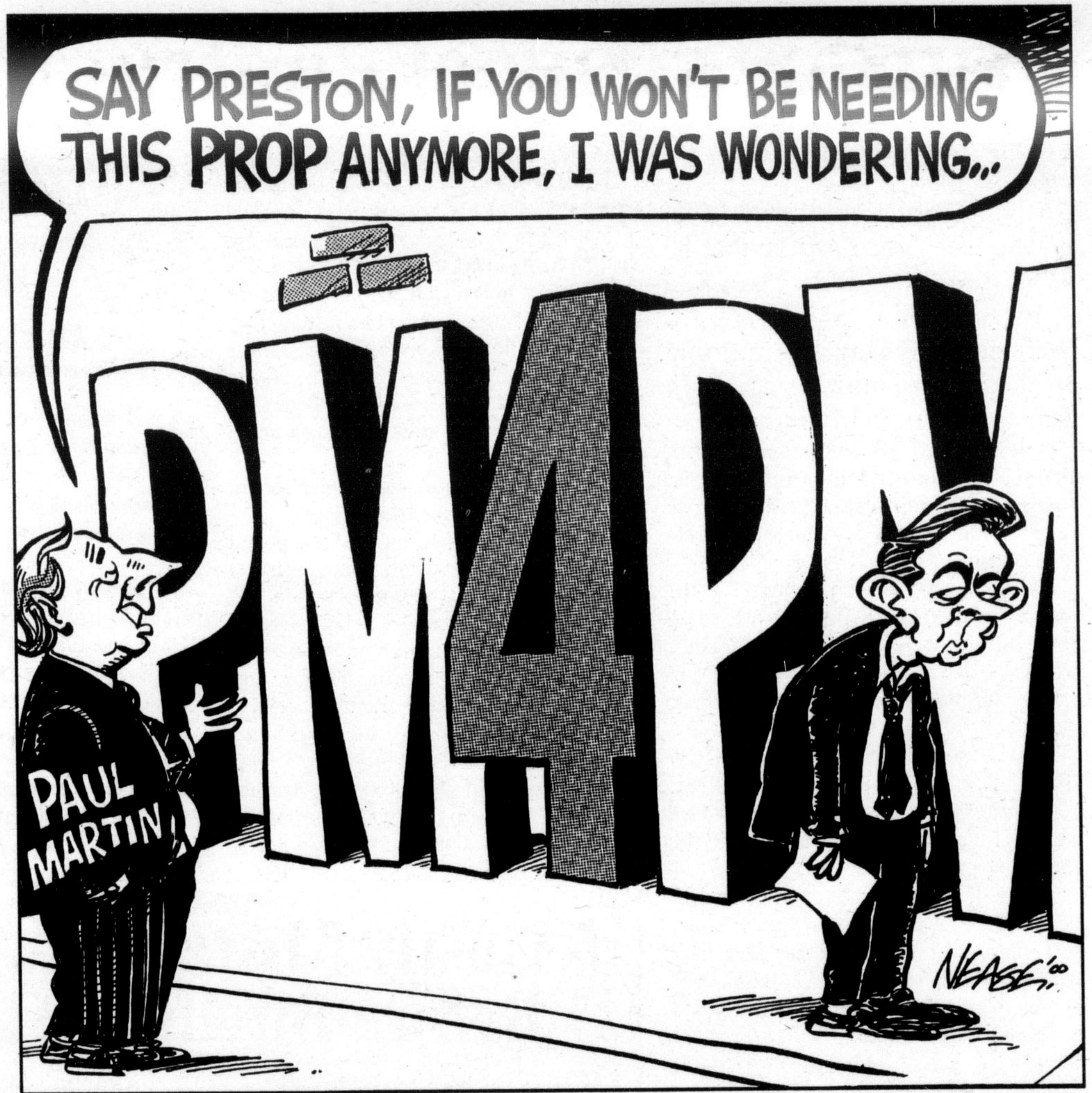
Now Halton Region has proposed improving lake-water service by adding ozone to it.

This powerful, naturally-occurring agent disinfects while reducing the bad taste and smell that can plague lake water in the summer months.

It's an expensive process, but one likely to be gladly borne by ratepayers in return for sparkling, clear water straight from the tap.

Eventually, the same treatment may be given to well water.

If not, how ironic it will be if current residents start the fight anew -- this time in hopes of bringing lake water to their homes.



OUR READERS WRITE

Milton couple gets great service locally

Dear Editor:

In response to a letter to the editor last month about the lack of assistance provided by local businesses, we feel the need to briefly detail our experience with a local business, Halton Hills Place, which provided us with exceptional service.

We were faced with a situation in which only 10 days before our wedding, we determined our caterer would be unable to honour a commitment to us. Ezio and Adrian Angelucci of Halton Hills Place stepped in and finalized a complete dinner menu, arranged for a

professional catering staff and made helpful suggestions for the set-up of our banquet facility.

Most importantly, they approached this pressure situation with a positive, caring attitude, offering to do anything they could to help us pull our wedding reception together at a more than reasonable cost. Their professionalism and outstanding cuisine was second to none.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to both Ezio and Adrian as well as the staff at Halton Hills Place.

**Scott and Debbie Prior
Milton**

When educators fail, the children lose

Dear Editor:

It's always a little sad when a player scores against his own team. However, education is not a sport, and when educators fail, the children lose. A letter from teacher Jodi Cross (June 20) exemplifies the unprincipled nature of the thinking I routinely observe among modern teachers. My intention is not to harm Ms Cross specifically, but to demonstrate how she resoundingly proves my point.

My primary argument in my June 13 letter was that the teachers' handling of Bill 74 is utterly wrong due to a widespread lack of principled thinking. To start her response to my letter, Ms Cross tells us that it "would be futile" to try "to convince readers of the lack of logic behind Bill 74." She's plainly saying that reason is useless or inappropriate for readers of The Champion's letters. To say this so publicly, Ms Cross would have to believe that our intellectual culture is a safe environment for a person

to reject reason as a "waste" of time. This is precisely the point stated in my letter -- in general, our intellectuals don't care about logic.

If well-reasoned logic is useless against bad ideas, what is reason for? Without reason, what are our children to use to make decisions? Do we want our children taught by educators who initiate a debate by abandoning reason?

In opposing my letter, Ms Cross made great use of the "ad hominem" argument, a logical error that's easy for grade 9 students to grasp. One simply avoids the actual argument made, by finding real or perceived fault with the speaker, hoping the fault is sufficient to destroy his argument. Ms. Cross avoided my argument, preferring to accuse me of being "asinine", of using "flowery language", of presenting "a display of shallow, linear thinking", and numerous, similar attacks. Anyone holding a high school diploma ought to recognize and meticulously avoid the

ad hominem argument, yet our educational professionals use it freely.

Ms Cross resents the fact that I reserve "the right to comment on what (she does) for a living and...why." Well, I do have a right to make general comment on such issues, and I certainly did not hint as to why individual teachers teach. She ignored the general nature of my point, twisted it into a personal attack on her motivation for teaching, and then argued against the latter. This method is another elementary error of logic known as the Straw Man fallacy. One creates a parallel issue and then argues against it, to create the semblance of having beaten the original argument.

Worse, the unstated function of Ms Cross's Straw argument was to reject my right to comment on the moral positions she supports, while retraining for herself a right to insult me publicly for my moral

• see TRUE on page 7



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
Bill Begin General Manager
Karen Smith Editor
Steve Crozier Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager
Tim Coles Production Manager

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Pud

