



COMMENT

More work on fighting gridlock has to be done

A yawning sinkhole on Highway 401 this week provided the first major opportunity for the Region of Halton and Halton Regional Police to put their new Road Closure Action Plan into play.

As a result, traffic flow was delayed but not demolished by the mid-week closure of two eastbound lanes between Highway 25 and Trafalgar Road.

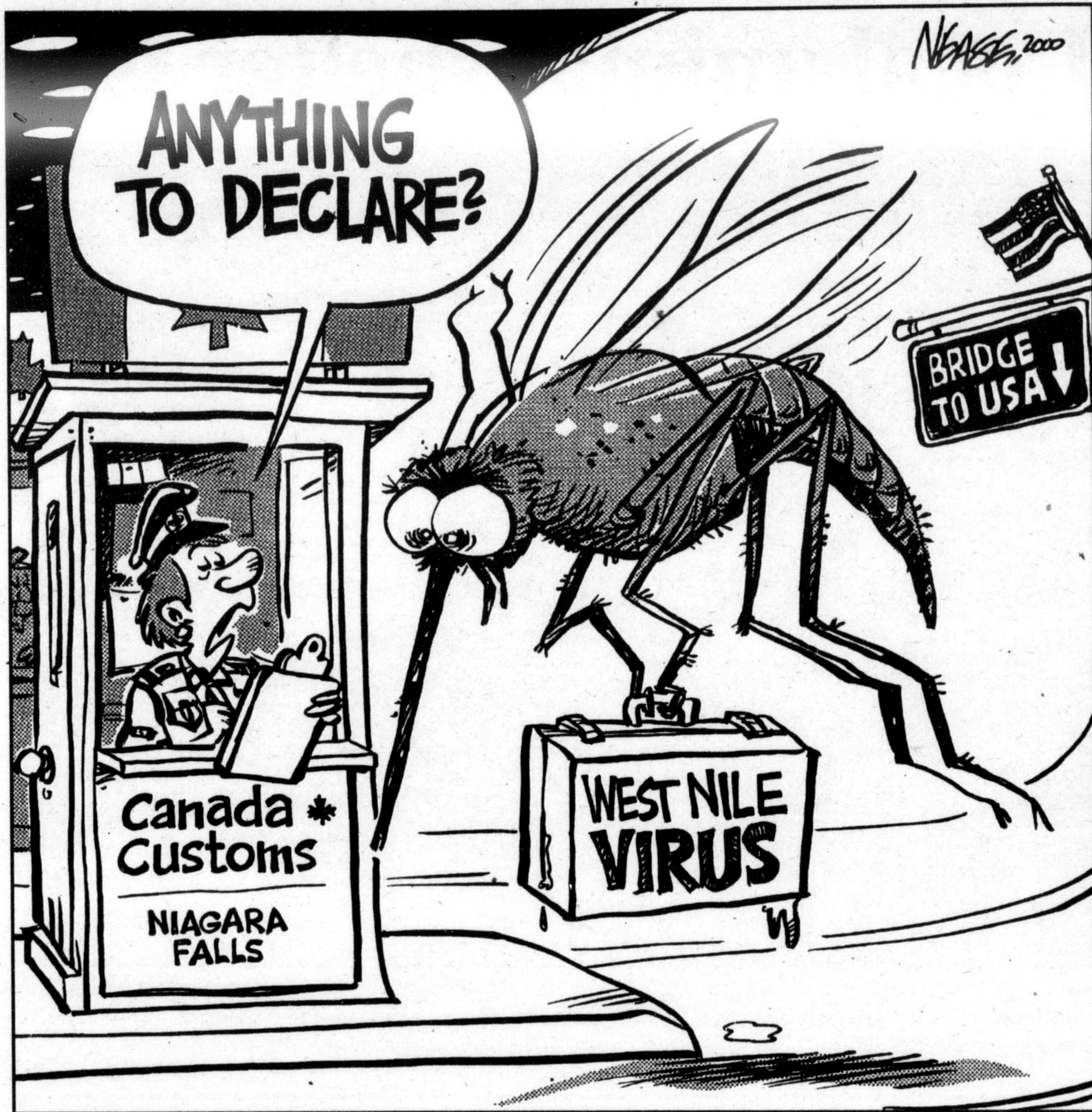
The plan is a proactive, made-in-Halton approach to stop highway incidents from stopping commuters.

At its most basic, it's a step-by-step guide for emergency services workers, regional and municipal staff to minimize the traffic crunch caused by collisions and other road mishaps.

As a result of the plan, cars were funnelled off the highway and directed along local detour routes by a bevy of police officers. To keep business losses marginal, commercial trucks were directed through the one functioning highway lane.

Halton should be commended for a forward-thinking and calm management of this crisis.

Now it's time for the feds and the Province to do their part and tackle the gridlock that makes everyday driving a disaster.



OUR READERS WRITE

Spare us your 'expert' views, says reader

Dear Editor:

Do you know which part of the recent Canadian Alliance leadership race I enjoyed the most?

I found the part where the pundits and experts on our national television networks had to scramble as each and every prediction they made never happened and every point of view they espoused was off the mark.

Things just didn't go the way the experts said they should.

In short, they had the whole thing wrong, just like The Champion's editorial cartoon of July 28.

Why would the cartoonist think that

by tucking a "polls" newspaper under the arm of our prime minister, everyone would believe that the Canadian Alliance is out of the race, and why would he want to leave the impression that Day is beaten?

Is it really the media's function to be the official opposition to everything? Maybe it's time for the media to simply report the news and spare us their 'experts' take on things. Omit your views and give us the news and let us process the latest information to arrive at our own conclusions.

Bill MacKinnon
Woodward Avenue

Province could do more about gas prices

Dear Editor:

The following is an open letter to Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

In the Canadian Champion July 14 you as a member of the Ontario Gas Prices Review Task Force gave some comments about task force recommendations.

While I agree that the federal government is responsible for much of gas price regulations, I strongly disagree about you saying that lowering the provincial tax wouldn't affect the prices at the pump.

The example you gave about the New Brunswick government's lowering of taxes didn't affect prices at the pumps just shows who pocketed the difference -- the gas companies.

And why did the Province do nothing to stop them?

I will answer that because it might be a little embarrassing for you to do so:

No contribution to the party they favour when the next election rolls

around.

And that happens in all the provinces.

Then in Alberta, which is an oil-producing province, Ralph Klein is laughing all the way to the bank. He's getting revenues from producers and taxes at the pumps as well. Let the good times roll.

As multi-nationals mostly own our natural resources, and supplies, as far as crude oil is concerned, are controlled by the world's oil cartel,

can somebody tell me what the federal government can really do in a situation like this?

As we sink deeper and deeper into globalization, our elected governments become just puppets. The real rulers to a great extent are and will be more so the multi-national corporation, but that's a subject for some other time.

John Goba
Holly Avenue

Errors changed meaning of letter

Typesetting errors unfortunately changed the meaning of an August 4 letter to the editor by Gary Ellis.

In the letter regarding slot revenue, it was incorrectly published that, "Rather than pay down debt, they will not pay cash for capital projects to avoid adding debt" and "On June 12, council turned

down a motion that would have returned \$650,000 to taxpayers, but they are not considering giving the whole \$500,000 in special interest grants."

The not in both sentences should actually have read now.

The Champion apologizes for any embarrassment or inconvenience the errors caused.



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Pud

by Steve Nease

