

# COMMENT

## Something has to be done — and quickly

Uneven loads are a weighty issue for gravel truck drivers, who took to abandoning their trucks at the Hwy. 401 weigh station near James Snow Parkway starting Thursday and over the weekend.

They were protesting the big fines spent on loads that weigh in just fine overall, but put more pressure than permitted over an individual axle.

To correct the problem, some drivers claim to have spent up to four hours tossing the gravel around to even up a load that will probably shift when the big trucks rumble into gear again.

That story has been largely buried amid the international uproar over skyrocketing gas and diesel prices.

The United States has reacted by promising to free national oil reserves, which have already driven down prices there.

That would be a good idea if oil shortages were the problem. But some say the liquid gold is plentiful enough. It's a lack of the refined product that's causing the price surge.

Still others claim that a cut in gas taxes won't be reflected at the pumps. But if truckers continue to abandon their rigs en masse, it spells trouble for an economy that has been blissfully trucking along.

Something has to be done to keep the economy moving. And soon.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Anti-pesticide group urges...

### How about a natural lawn where children and pets can play safely?

Dear Editor:

This is the time of year when homeowners think about putting lawns and gardens to rest for the winter.

The Pesticide Alternatives for Milton (P.A.M.) Group urges everyone to give careful consideration to their plans for doing that.

Perhaps it's time to rethink the value of having a chemically-dependent lawn as opposed to a healthy, natural lawn where children and pets can play safely

and birds and butterflies feed without risk.

On Saturday, members of our group will be at the Farmers' Market on Main Street.

We will have information and resources available to answer questions and help you with your transition to a healthy drug-free lawn.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Copeland  
(P.A.M. member)

### An arts centre would offer so many things

Dear Editor:

Re: Letter to the editor concerning an arts centre from Richard Bramwell.

I'm pleased to add my voice to the debate concerning an arts centre. I'm sure Mr. Bramwell wrote to The Champion with energy when Milton built its first hockey arena. While hockey attracts many gifted athletes who have become wealthy professionals, they should have known better than to expect all taxpayers to fund their early development. Government-funded hockey is 'welfare hockey'.

I expect that Mr. Bramwell wrote with considerable energy as again and again the Town of Milton built baseball diamonds and soccer pitches. After all, government funded baseball is 'welfare baseball', and government funded soccer is 'welfare soccer'.

All of this is welfare history, he might protest. As he wrote, today and in the future fewer of us are going to spend on good art when

food, shelter and kids come first.

Mr. Bramwell, could you consider the possibility that an art centre could help kids? That a place to teach and learn music and choral singing and drama and dance and watercolor painting and sculpture might serve the needs of many of our kids who aren't athletic, and will never benefit from all the soccer pitches, baseball diamonds, hockey arenas that the Town of Milton could build? It's taxpayer money that has been spent for the benefit of the athletic few who thereby get their free ride.

Could you consider the possibility that an art centre might offer shelter to volunteer organizations who in their quiet ways work for the good of Milton? An arts centre offers a safe place for children to dance — on a strong wooden floor instead of concrete. An arts centre offers and accepting place for students of music and drama to test their abilities — drumming and blowing trumpets in a hall with

good acoustics, so they can hear what they really sound like.

Could you consider the possibility that for some people in our community, the creative work of painting, singing, dancing is life itself? We all are unconsciously changed by the food we consume. Like food, feasting our eyes and ears on 'art', even 'art' from Zellers has the ability to change hearts, minds, and heal wounded spirits.

I'm a property taxpayer in Milton. I'm an acrylic painter and a chorister. I consider myself a serious, tax-paying artist and supporter of Arts Milton and an arts centre. Yet, because I yearn for a place to gather with other artists to practice our music and paint our paintings, I'm called a welfare artist. If what I'm about is seeking the "welfare," the well-being of our growing community by asking for a place for the expression of shared artistic interests, so be it.

Margaret Spencer  
Rockwood

## 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**

Karen Smith **Editor**

Steve Crozier **Circulation Manager**

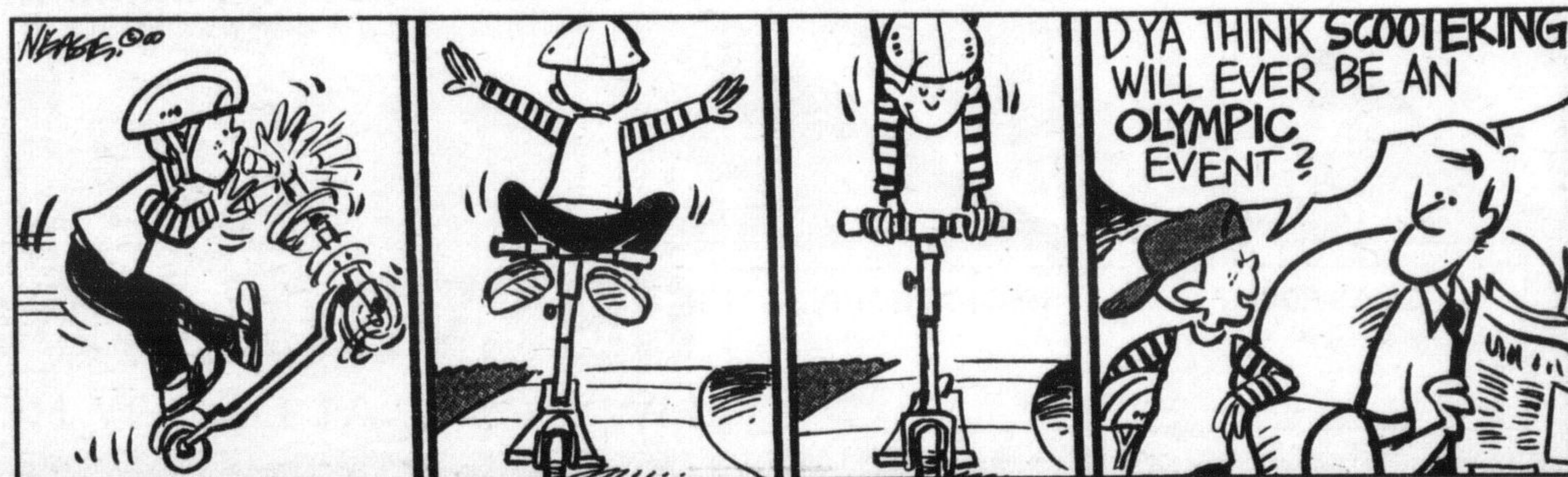
Teri Casas **Office Manager**

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



by Steve Nease