



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Aggregate companies given bad rap; just think about it: reader

Dear Editor:

Those darn aggregate companies just aren't good enough for John O'Drowsky (October 17, Aggregates not the fine corporate citizens they appear to be).

I wonder if Mr. O'Drowsky commutes to work, or drives to visit friends. Was a road used to bring his newspaper to him? Are roads used to transport the materials of which his newspaper is made, and the equipment that were used to make it? Were not roads essential in bringing all these things within his reach, and the reach of every reader? What about ambulances and fire trucks? The list seems endless.

Surely readers know that the stability of those roads depends on a gravel and sand base, and that the tarmac surface requires gravel too. The resulting network of roads brings us nearly every convenience that makes human life better. No one is exempt from the transportation benefits that the aggregate companies help to make possible. It's ironic and ridiculous that Mr. O'Drowsky even wants to protect our roads from the trucks used by the very industry that's essential to their existence.

Mr. O'Drowsky argues that the aggregate industries aren't good corporate citizens. I encourage the reader of this paper to consider the building he's in, as he reads. Were sand, gravel and concrete used to build it, or at least to build its foundation? Does it protect a business, or your children, pets, and valuables? The aggregate industry is essential to its construction. Given the importance of the industry to the building of the homes in which we live and the buildings in which we work, it strikes me that we should be shouting their praises to the skies. Their service is wonderful and remarkably cheap. Every second of every day their products are involved in helping us live. I consider that wonderful corporate citizenship.

Corporate citizenship should be measured by what a company produces, not by what it gives away, or has extorted from it by politicians. Our politicians should give back the \$307,000 levy that the aggregate industries were coerced into paying. What the industry does day-to-day is already more than sufficient citizenship.

Just as our children depend upon the aggregate industry now, their children will depend on it in the future. The reader who understands the extent to which his life depends on the aggregate industry should have no doubt as to what to do with the escarpment. It's the limestone of the escarpment, not its fall colours, that will enhance the lives of our future children. However, this will only happen if our society leaves the aggregate industry free to turn the escarpment into valuable life-giving products. It's better that the entire escarpment be leveled to make roads and homes for children, than that it be preserved so some people can gaze lovingly at its inert rocks. It's better that our children tour a large quarry operation than view a few rare, escarpment plants. At the quarry, they can learn that blind faith doesn't move mountains. Instead, they will learn that man's fantastic mind, when using reason, will find ways to move mountains to improve his life.

Richard Bramwell
RR 3, Milton

To those who sacrificed on our behalf, we will always remember

Dear Editor:

This year my wife and I planned to go with our 16-month-old daughter to the Remembrance Day services, and we missed the article in The Champion announcing that they would be held at Evergreen Cemetery.

Instead, we arrived at what seemed the obvious place — the cenotaph in Victoria Park — at 10:30 a.m. My first reaction on finding the park

deserted was disappointment. As the minutes ticked toward 11 a.m., however, people began arriving, in ones and twos, young families like ours, older couples and seniors.

From every side street, people came, pulled by an invisible magnet, to stand on the grass surrounding the cenotaph. More than 100 people stood, each reflecting or remembering a family member or praying a prayer of thanksgiving.

As we slowly drifted away in the minutes that followed, I overheard someone say it was a shame nothing had been organized for the cenotaph. I disagree. Our shared moment of spontaneous thankfulness and respect was as genuine as any memorial ceremony. To those who sacrificed on our behalf, we remember.

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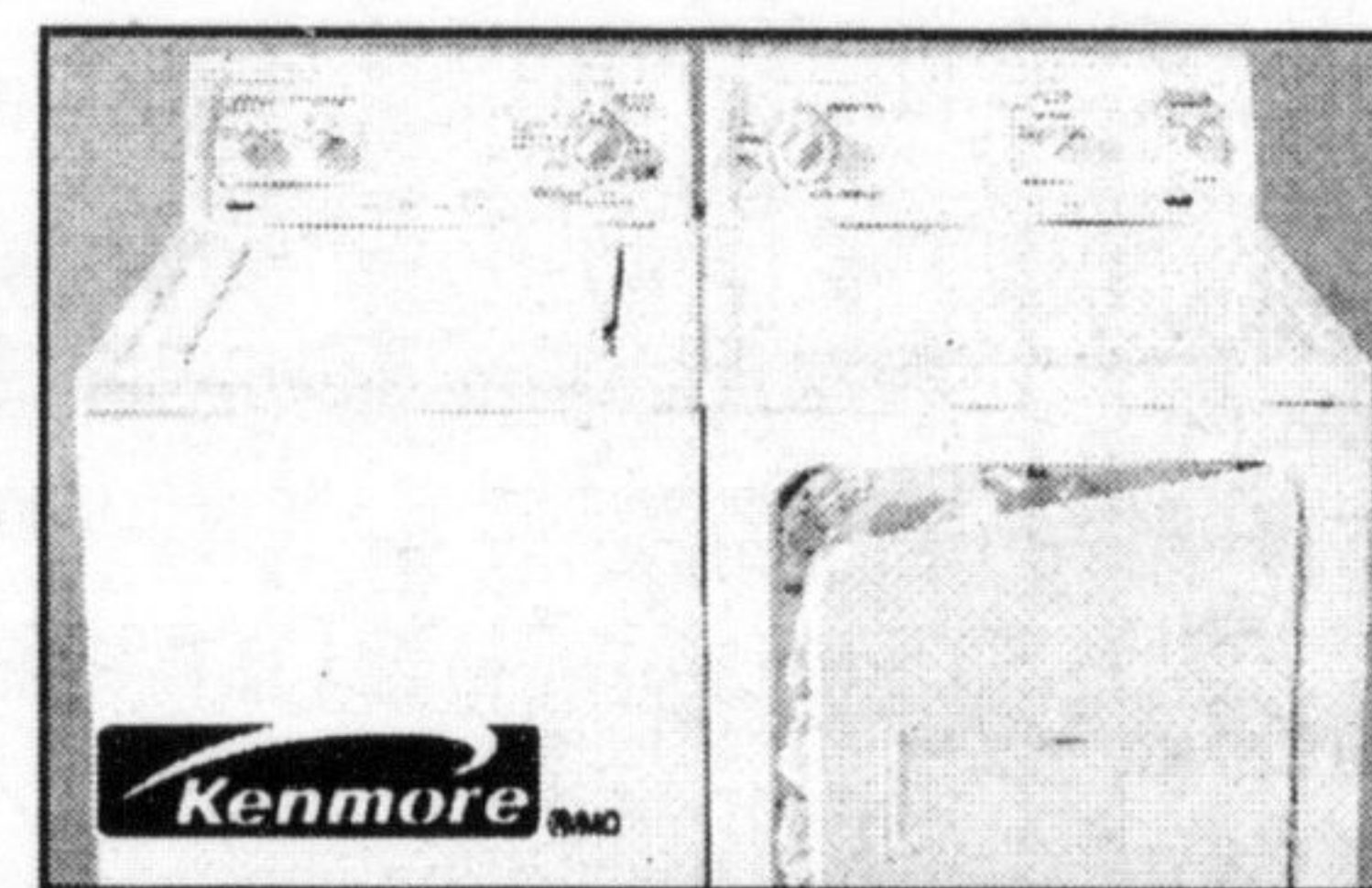
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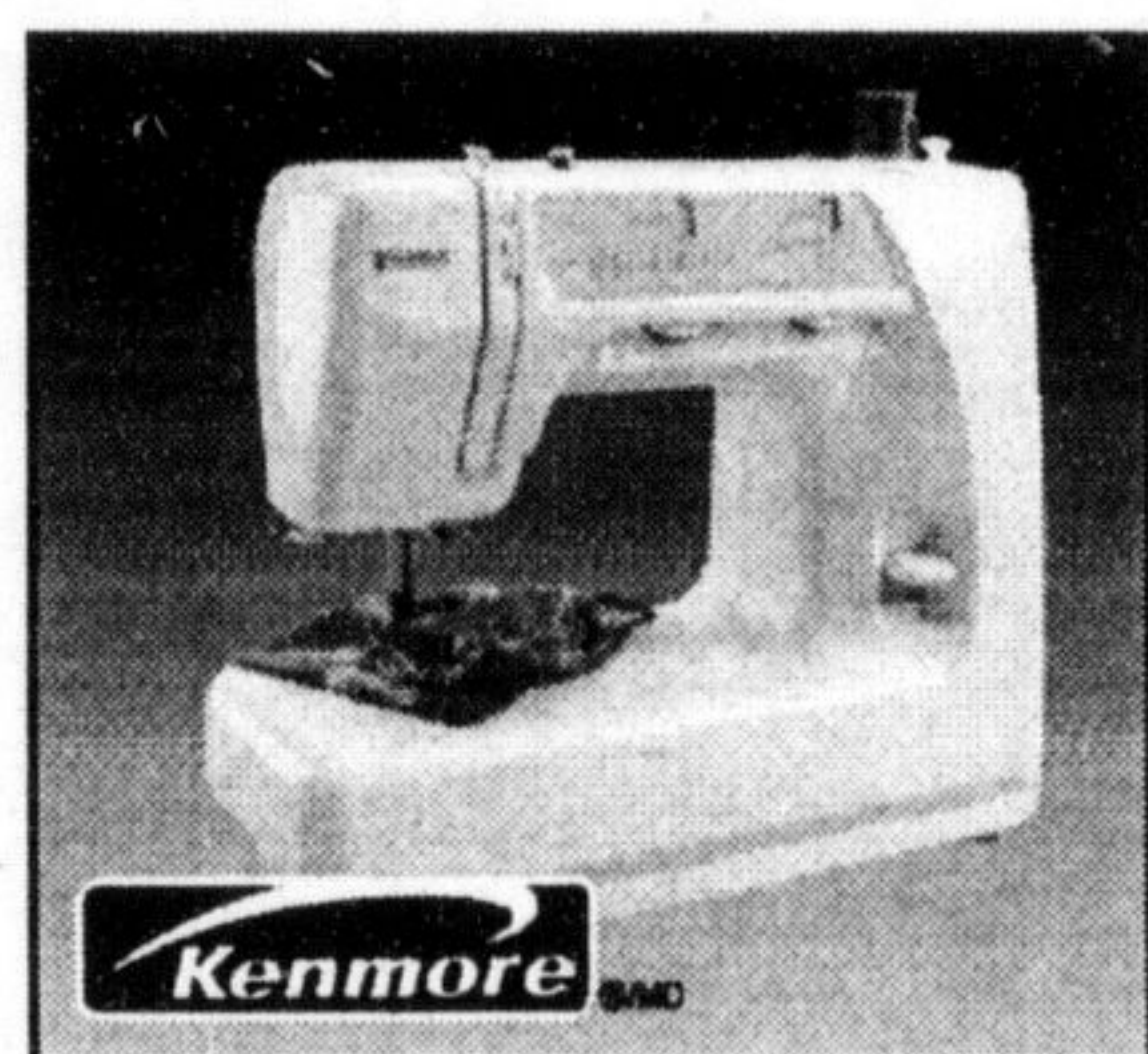


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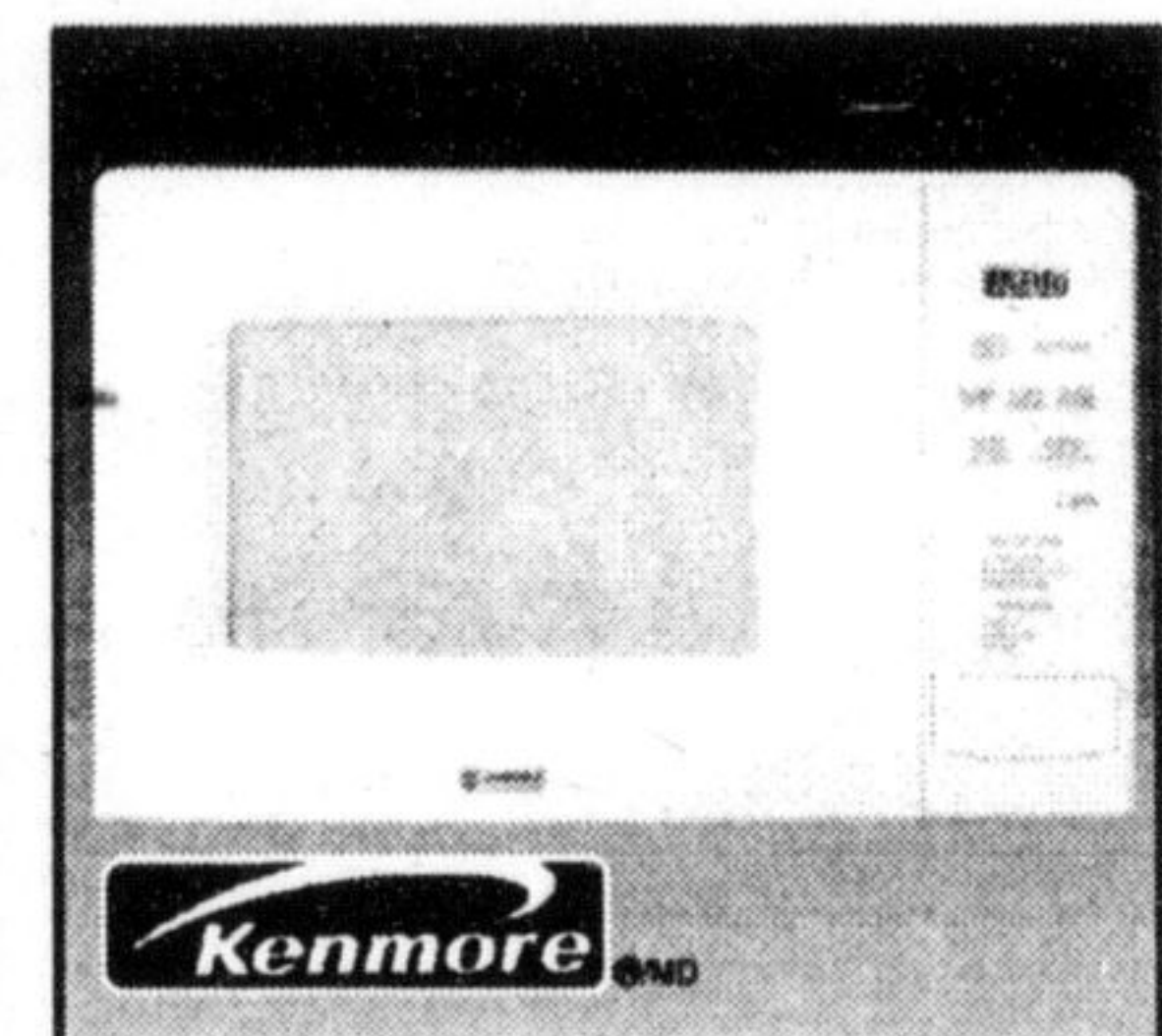


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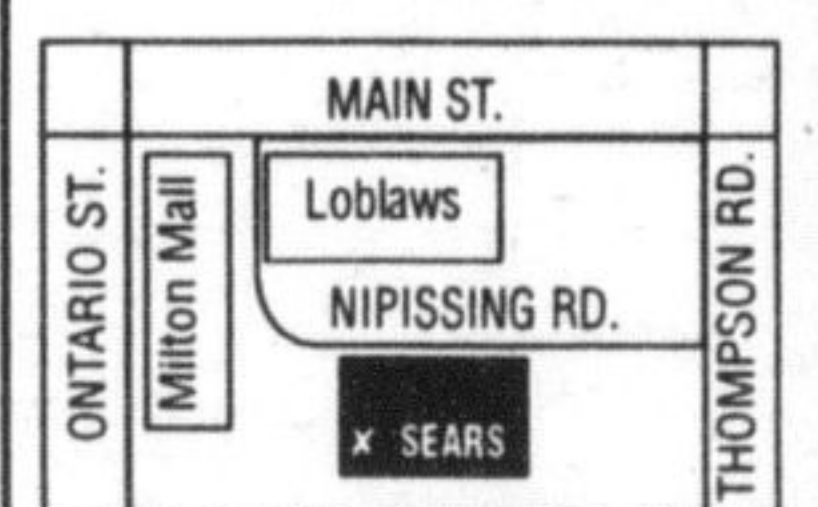
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