



COMMENT

Great all-round effort on Showcase Milton

The Milton Chamber of Commerce should be congratulated for putting on an excellent Showcase Milton 2001 over the weekend.

The event was well-organized and seemed to go off without a hitch.

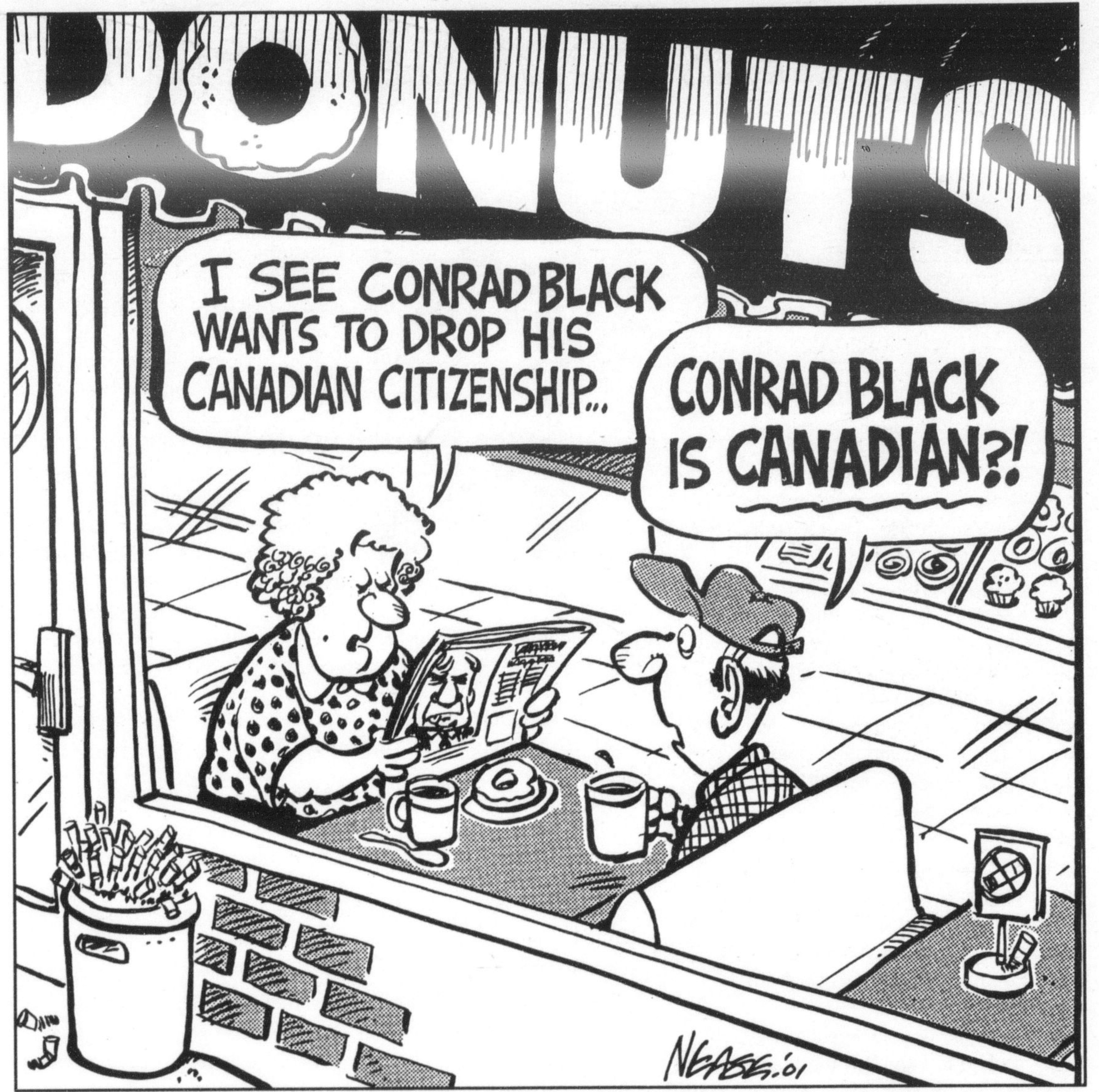
At the same time, the more than 100 exhibitors — all true professionals — deserve recognition as well. Their booths were nicely designed and decorated, effectively promoting their products and services.

It was interesting to see that the event not only attracted local citizens, but also soon-to-be Miltonians.

Several people who visited our booth proudly told us they were from out of town and had recently purchased homes in the new developments.

We hear Showcase Milton may become an annual event, and we hope it does.

Excellent products and services are already here. But business promotion, especially with growth, will be the key to developing and maintaining a thriving local economy.



OUR READERS WRITE

Students need these arts programs

Dear Editor:

I wish to write a response to the article in the Friday, May 25 paper, 'School arts programs being squeezed: Andrew'

I can't agree more with Eric Andrew's comments about the squeeze on art programs. It really struck a chord with me. My youngest son has been fortunate to have had the constant encouragement of two wonderful music teachers at Bishop Reding, Mr. Card and Mr. Alfano. I'm convinced that these gifted individuals and other teachers like them encourage kids to stay in school. When we hear the music programs, library and literacy pro-

grams are under constant threat, we're left feeling frustrated and angry. Students need these programs.

Students at O.I.S.E. have shown that one of the most important factors that keep kids from dropping out of high school is the fact that one teacher shows an interest in them and cares about them. This is what programs like music, drama and sports do for our kids. My sincere thanks also to Joe Orlando, another gifted musician and teacher that we're fortunate to have here in Milton.

Gerry Hanna
Roseheath Drive

Reader concerned about terminal's impact

(The following letter as addressed to Halton MP Julian Reed and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

Re: CN intermodal terminal.
As a resident of Milton, I'm concerned about the planned CN terminal and the impact this venture will have on our community.

This facility will impact all of your constituents' daily lives. If your constituents live near the facility they will suffer from noise, light, and air pollution. Those who live further away will have to deal with more traffic congestion from a daily tally of 1,000 trucks accessing the facility.

Our region's existing roads will be beaten to a pulp from the 40,000 tonnes a day of extra traffic. All of your constituents will pay higher taxes to support the extra cost of road maintenance and new con-

struction due to the intermodal facility.

There are serious questions about the economic feasibility of the geographic location of this intermodal facility. It's generally accepted that these facilities require a threshold of about 1,000 miles of rail travel before transferring to short haul trucking to be profitable. It's my understanding that this facility will primarily serve a less than 500-mile radius.

It would appear that CN could be building a white elephant, like Mirabel, that nobody wanted and nobody uses.

I would expect that you, as our representative, would reserve your apparent support of this project and insist that the Canadian Transportation Agency review this proposal beginning with public hearings.

If CN really needs an intermodal facility in the GTA, it should be built on land that is immediately adjacent to a 400 series highway where the trucks could have direct access and egress from the facility. The trucks accessing the proposed site will require about 30 minutes travel time from Hwy. 401 to the facility. That extra cost is about \$26 million annually. The facility just got a little less viable.

There's a significant economic, social, and health cost of this project that the people of Halton will be forced to bear. There's doubt whether CN can run this facility in the black. The location choice is seriously flawed. There's no practical reason for this project to go forward.

Please stop now.

Paul Tate
Sunnyvale Crescent



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Have your say. Fax letters to 878-4943.

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by Steve Nease

