



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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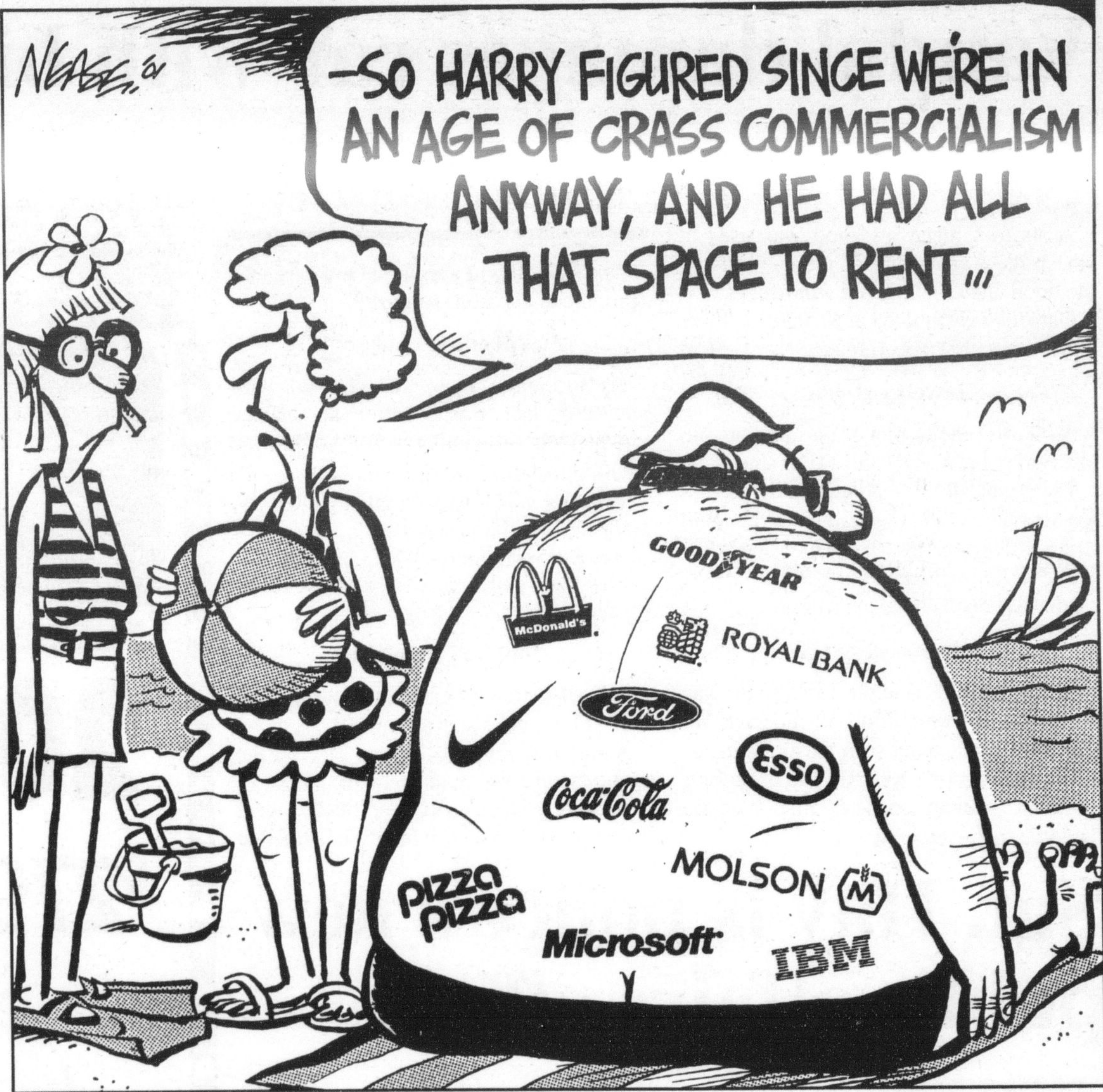
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Youth drop-in centre needs new home now

The Xcape Youth Drop-In Centre is an important facility for Milton youth — especially for many teens struggling to find their way in life.

The centre offers free recreational activities and educational opportunities, giving at-risk teens, quite simply, “a place to go.”

That’s why it’s so important for the facility to find a new location, and quickly.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, the centre located on Mill Street for the last five years must move by the end of August because the building is being sold.

There’s a possibility the non-profit centre could relocate to the Milton Bible Church on Main Street when it opens in December. But that won’t be an ideal site since operators feel the centre needs to be in a more neutral location.

So if any readers think they might have a solution or can at least offer suggestions, please contact the centre. We’re thinking hard here. Please keep in mind that the facility benefits everyone, since the children of today represent the country’s future.

If you’re not the outdoorsy type, head out of town

Expansion of the town has been the topic of countless conversations between residents, business owners and Town Hall staff.

So, like with most things, I feel the need to throw in my two cents.

When I began working in Milton five months ago I was amazed, as some of you might recall, with the friendliness and cleanliness of the town, the cute stores that line Main Street and the pride Miltonians feel toward their home.

But although Milton is a quiet, somewhat peaceful town it’s lacking in major areas.

We’ve heard time and time again how Milton desperately needs a bowling alley or a movie theatre. While I agree with these suggestions, other ones must also be mentioned.

What about a better variety of clothing stores? True, the mall does have a Suzy Shier and a Zellers, but what about a Bluenotes or Old Navy store? Both stores are unisex and most people I know (myself included) swear by at least one of them.

And what about a Bay or a Wal-Mart? These stores are hugely successful and would keep people in town rather than sending them to Mississauga or Oakville to shop.

But besides looking for stores to help dress yourself, it would be great for the town to boast a Chapter’s book store, as suggested by Sports Editor Steve LeBlanc or a record store like HMV as suggested by reporter Richard Vivian.

I’m sure the Farmer’s Market is a great place to check out once a week (if you rise at the crack of dawn) and Kelso and Mountsberg are awesome places if you’re the outdoorsy type, but what about the rest of us who like to sleep in on weekends and would rather pass on hiking, biking, or blading?

I’m past the age where hanging out in the mall’s food court is considered a legitimate way to pass time.

So we’re back to the same old problem.

I agree with one elderly woman’s remarks during a presentation at the seniors’ centre last month

OUR READERS WRITE

Goodbye oaks

It’s sad to see beautiful old trees being destroyed by developers, says resident

Dear Editor:

On Monday, July 9, a development crew began cutting the trees on Derry Road, just east of Thompson Road.

Dozens of trees, mostly oaks, were slated to be cut that day.

It should be noted that many of the oak trees are huge with some having trunks more than three feet thick.

There’s a small bee yard situated on the edge of the oaks on the south side of the lot.

The commotion of the chain saws and the cutting of some of the trees around the colonies agitated the bees to a point that cutting had to be stopped.

At that point, more than a dozen oaks had been cut but most of the larger oaks were still standing.

The beehives will be moved shortly allowing the cutting to be completed.

Joni Mitchell’s song lyrics come to mind, “Paved paradise and put up a parking lot.”

It happened recently on Bronte Street, where a large lot of blue spruce trees were cut to create a parking lot.

The bees in protecting their habitat have given us time to possibly reconsider what’s planned for the oak lot.

If it goes, there will be a big hole in the skyline where these mighty trees once stood.

Grant MacKinnon
Milton



Random thoughts

with FANNIE SUNSHINE

by Jennifer Reynolds, the Town’s director of community services.

The lady commented how the new people residing in Milton will be in for a shock when they come to town and find out there’s nothing to do.

If you think about it, just what is there to occupy yourself with?

Movies? Oakville. Bigger department stores? Mississauga. Larger selection of restaurants? Locations previously mentioned.

If you’re getting together with someone and you don’t really have an idea where to go, what’s the first thing that comes to mind? You got it — coffee (or hot chocolate, as some of us would prefer).

But sitting in Baker’s Dozen or Tim Horton’s sometimes doesn’t cut it.

Build a Starbucks or a Just Desserts and I guarantee they’ll have more customers than they know what to do with.

We hear the same suggestions over and over — coffee house, movie theatre, bowling alley. Things that would occupy us during the evening, the time when most people would be looking for something relaxing to do after a hard day’s work.

There’s nothing to do in this town during the evening, unless you want to sit in a bar. But that gets boring. And expensive.

Earlier this month it was announced that we’re getting a Sport Chek. Now maybe we’ll get something we can all enjoy.