



# COMMENT

## Tories didn't consider all the consequences

The provincial Tories handed out a new set of rules without considering the consequences.

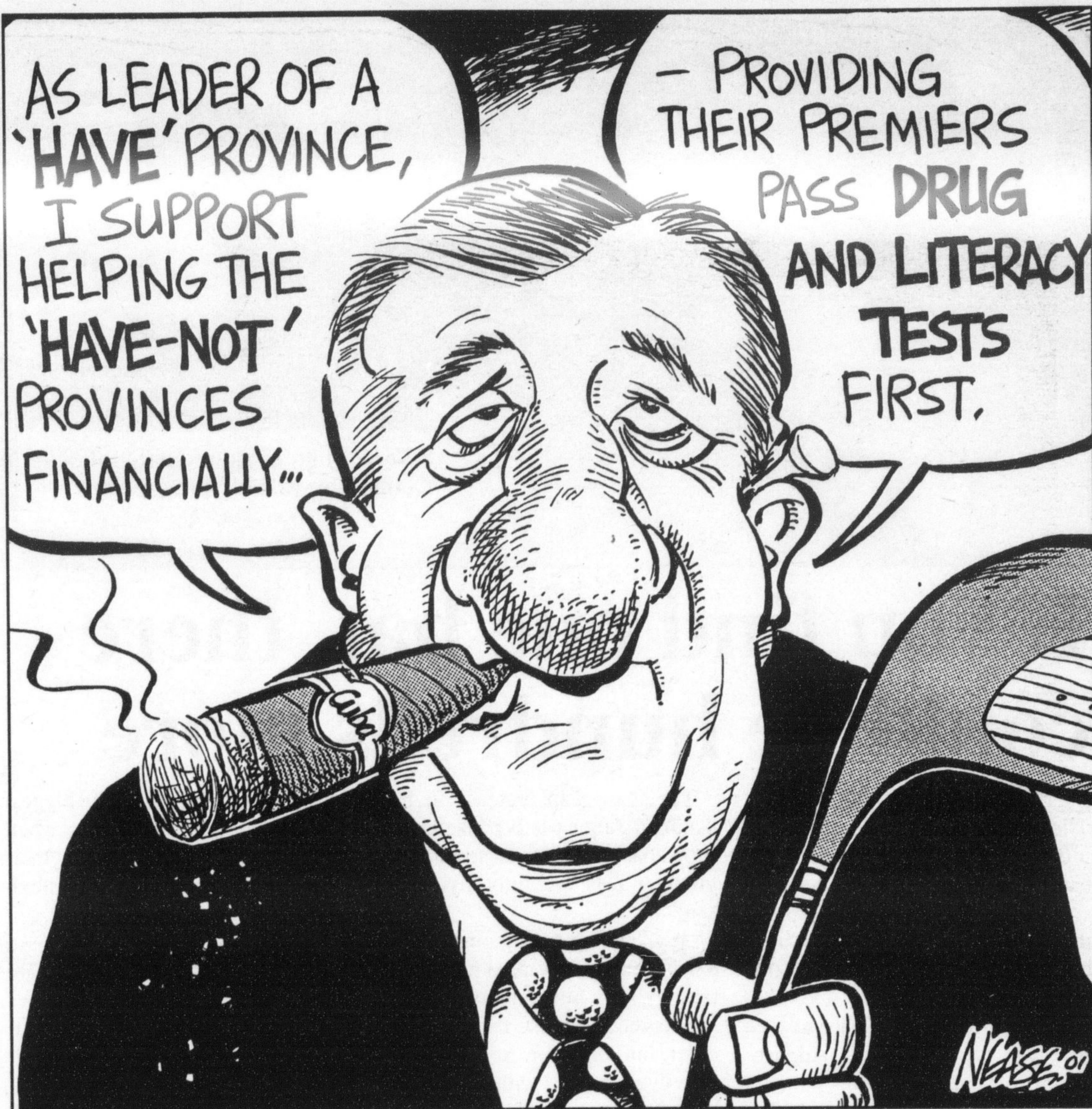
This tax season the Mike Harris government not only changed some of the rules for municipal property taxes, it delayed initiating the changes until after the 11th hour.

As a result, municipalities across the province were left waiting for non-residential property tax increase limitation and mandatory formulaic billing legislation.

The wait — which meant collection due dates were pushed back a month — left the Town of Milton holding additional expenses and lost interest revenues amounting to nearly \$80,000.

Not only did the delay cost local taxpayers, but the provincial government refused to postpone collecting its portion of the taxes even though it was the cause of the delay. That meant the Town had to take the uncollected portion of funds from other areas in the meantime.

Since the delayed provincial legislation caused the extended due dates the Province should have allowed municipalities time for payment.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Thanks to all those who made donations

Dear Editor:

Canadian Blood Services would like to thank everyone who attended the recent Milton community blood donor clinic.

The clinic was held July 18 at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre and the goal was to collect 130 units of blood.

Unfortunately, we only managed to collect 98 units of blood. Those 98 units will help save or improve the lives of 392 people.

The next clinic is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 16 from 1:30 to 8 p.m. at the seniors' centre, 500 Childs Dr.

Please come out and help us reach our

quota in order to sufficiently supply our local hospitals.

You can make your appointment for the clinic by calling 1-888-871-7201. Please note that the clinic is by appointment only, and that we will try to accommodate all those who attend.

We extend many thanks to the Salvation Army for providing volunteers and also thank all the regular volunteers for their generosity and hard work.

**Deborah Edwards,**  
recruitment coordinator  
Hamilton Blood Services Centre

### Milton has many hidden treasures: reader

Dear Editor:

Some might say that Milton's hidden treasures are the Mill Pond or La Rose bakery. Others may say it's the hockey arena or the parks. But I think Milton's hidden treasures are the ones that everyone just walks right on by.

People don't seem to notice the things that I do. It might be because I still think of myself as a visitor to Milton even though I have been living here for more than six years. Whenever one is a visitor, they always look closely at things like a building or a park. It makes their trip special when they're telling their friends over coffee of what they have seen and done.

For many seasons I have been walking on the trails that wind and weave through Milton. I have found many treasures that make me feel special and I can't believe that I'm the only one who has found them. These treasures were once someone else's garbage, organic garbage, although I have found lots of non-

organic garbage amongst these treasures of lawn clippings and dead plants. Treasures they are. Now some may disagree with the dumping of organic material along the trail. But I feel that Miltonians too easily put good things on the curb destined for the dump. At least the organic material is being put to use.

The clippings from a tree or bush become a home for a little critter and the plant material becomes food for insects and other plants. But the best parts about the organic dump are the treasures that appear the following spring.

The first spring that I walked along the trail I discovered a clump of purple crocuses several feet away. I saw my first native plant, Trout lilies, and among them was Spring Beauty.

It was a few years later that I found out the names but just the same, they're beautiful.

That summer I found wild black berries and strawberries, a huge

patch of yellow irises growing along the creek. Over the seasons there has been an addition of two types of day lilies, extra lawn clippings and branches.

Unfortunately the purple crocuses disappeared. No doubt the local squirrels made a snack out of them. This summer I made a new discovery. Growing mixed in with the Queen Anne's Lace and the Purple Thistle, tall grasses and Milkweed is the bulb heads of garlic.

Yep, garlic, someone has dumped a large amount of garlic along the trail. When you step back and look at the whole scene it's so out of place but now it's one of Milton's little treasures.

So if you're walking the dog or going on your daily run along one of Milton's trails, stop for a moment and take a look around because you'll never know what you'll find. As for me, I'll be looking for some more of Milton's little treasures.

**L. Elend**  
Beaver Court



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### Pud

by Steve Nease

