



# COMMENT

## Hospital's hands tied in new parking fees

People have a right to be upset over Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) move to start charging parking fees at Milton District Hospital.

Free parking has been a luxury enjoyed for years at the community hospital.

But people's anger shouldn't be directed at HHS.

The move is an unfortunate reflection of an under-funded health care system, and we think hospital officials' hands were tied in making the decision.

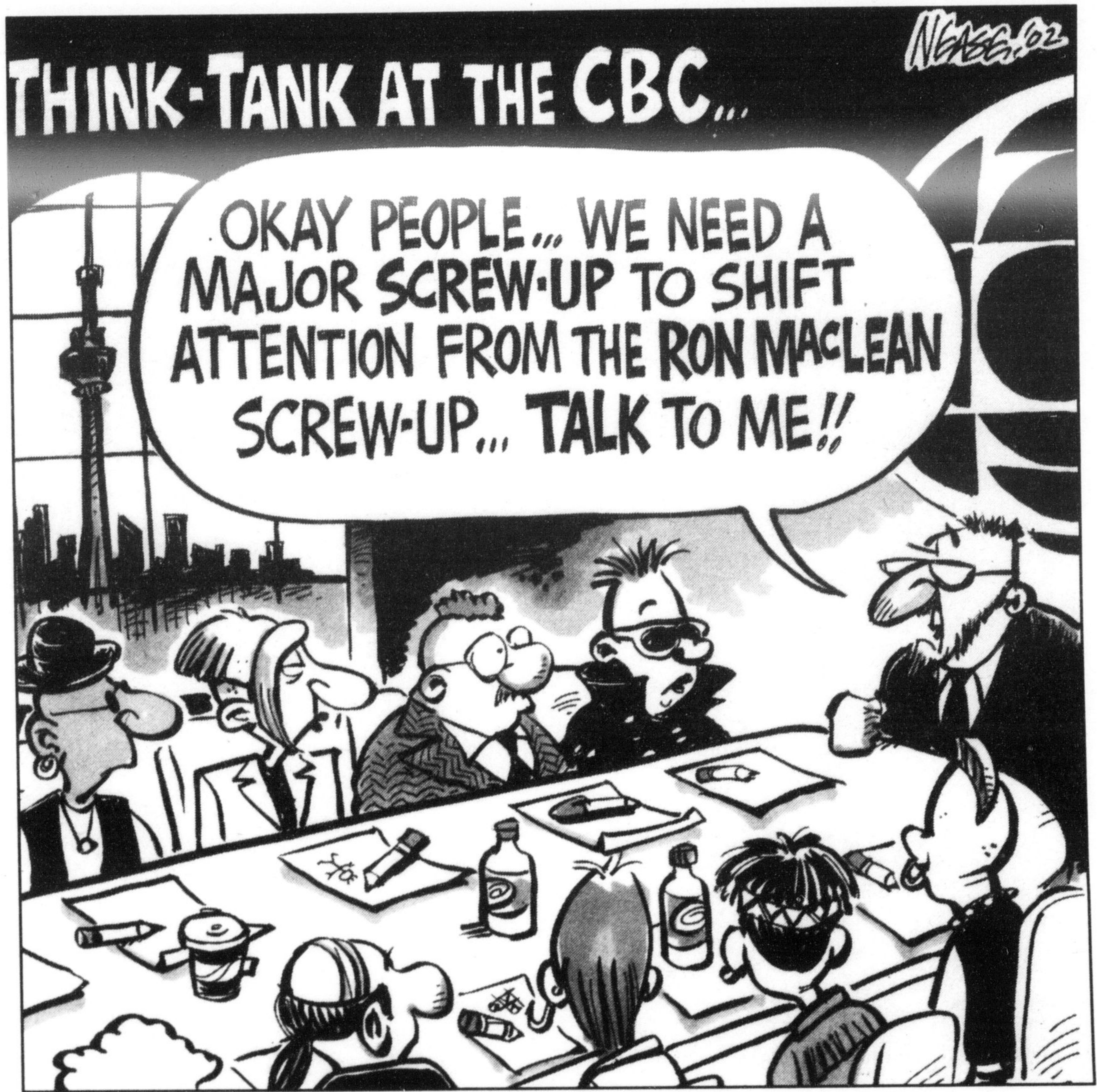
Frankly, with the way health care has been under-funded for so long, we're surprised this didn't happen sooner.

We don't like the new parking fees any more than anyone else does, but we understand why it has to be this way.

If it comes down to either charging for parking or having to cut back on more staff or health care services, the decision is simple.

And HHS has considered the many good citizens who volunteer at the hospital by ensuring parking remains free of charge for them.

Now if we can only keep downtown parking free.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Martin Street School chairman urges parents to attend meetings on possible school closure

Dear Editor:

Thanks in part to The Champion's Friday article on the possible closure of Martin Street School, this topic is now becoming well known in town.

A growing number of parents have worked to make this issue public through petitions and public meetings.

The next two meetings have a number of parent delegations speaking to the Halton District School Board's closure committee.

These meetings should be attended by parents of all the existing schools in town

to learn what will be happening in future based on the board's current application of the Ministry of Education's funding formula.

Is one new school enough to handle the current overcrowding, the explosive growth along with the closing of a school with 250 students?

All concerned parents are invited to attend meetings at Martin Street School tonight and October 15, both at 7 p.m.

**Mark Wallis, school council chairman  
Martin Street School**

### Reader says residential parking issue is a problem that has to be addressed

Dear Editor:

The issue of 'tagging' cars that are parked on residential streets for a period exceeding three hours is a problem that a responsible municipal leadership must address.

There are areas within Milton where the population density precludes parking on the streets. There are seasonal conditions that necessitate the prohibition of parking on thoroughfares.

There are areas within Milton that pose no vehicular congestion problem if parking on one side of the street is permitted.

I refer to Roseheath Drive where there are just two dwellings on the south side of that street between Sunnysvale Crescent and Farmstead

Drive and none on the north side. Parking enforcement activities on this street specifically and in similar locations generally aren't consistent with the spirit and intent of this section of the by-law.

I think the application of the regulation in areas where parking does in fact pose no obstruction to emergency service vehicles is either unreasonable or merely designed to generate revenue.

Residents are required to clear municipal property (sidewalks) of snow and ice. Residents are required to maintain municipal property during the growing season (grassy areas between the sidewalks and the curb).

These same residents are routine-

ly fined further to Section 5(3)(a) of the by-law should they park adjacent to the public property that they are required to maintain at their own expenses, whilst posing no obstruction to traffic.

The solution? Designate areas that would pose no congestion problem as 'one side parking only' between April 16 and November 14 annually.

An amendment of the bylaw in areas where vehicular congestion is not in conflict with the spirit and intent of the statute would be reasonable.

**Doug Richardson  
Milton**



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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### Pud

by Steve Nease

