



# COMMENT



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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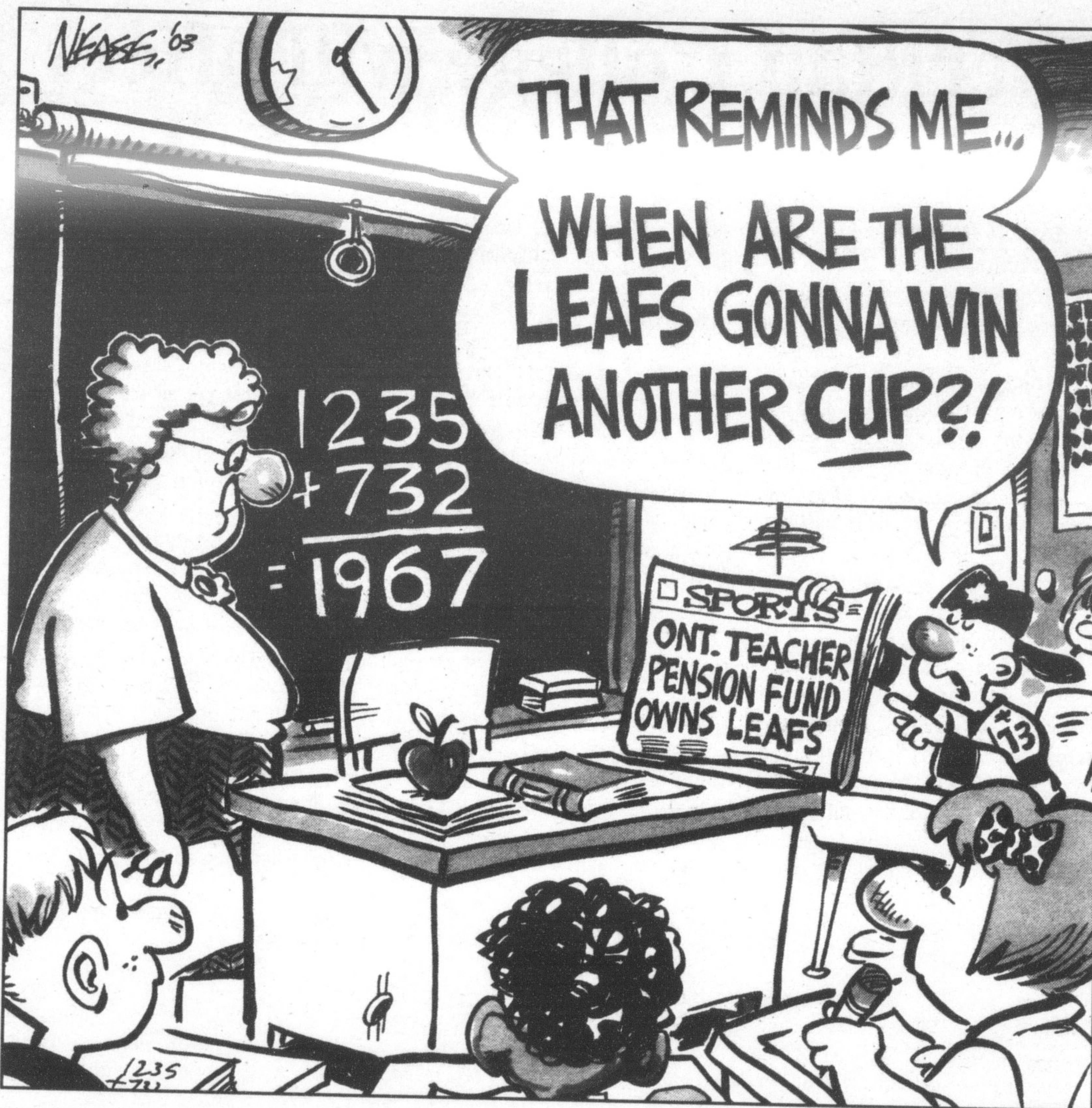
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## Time to act is now

There's an unspeakable evil in our society that doesn't always get enough attention for all the damage it wreaks on young people's lives. It's child pornography.

In recent weeks it has been rearing its grotesque head in the form of court cases and police busts involving men charged with being collectors and purveyors of this sickest of sexual infatuations.

For every person arrested for a suspected case of child pornography comes the inevitable description by police investigators of hundreds, sometimes thousands, of seized files containing horrific images of child pornography.

What's lost in the all-too brief mention of these cases on the nightly news is that each of these images represents a young person destroyed by an underground trade in human life.

It's not enough that most of society would be physically sickened if forced to view any of what police investigators see.

Surely, tougher laws must be created if we ever hope to curtail this activity.

Sadly, we live in an age when someone would try to sell a chunk of the space shuttle on eBay within hours of getting the disastrous news on CNN.

Perhaps what we need to ask ourselves is whether or not this is the future we envision for our children — and theirs. If the answer is a resounding no, then we need to ask ourselves what we can do to change it.

## There's nothing worse than an uninformed public

Kudos to Halton Region.

Communicating with the public can't be overstated. Case in point, the controversy surrounding the mid-Halton sewage treatment plant.

Controversy is probably a strong word because all of the opponents of the plans are from Oakville, many of them living within earshot of the plant.

I bring this up because the issue seems to have served as a typical rallying cry for some who make it a habit to fight development. Period. And they make it sound like the entire region has banded together and picked them to fight the cause.

Hardly.

However, they made a good point about the need for public input, and that requires communication.

The communications program the Region has

established to address the mid-Halton plant is elaborate and something to take note.

The Region has instituted a number of proactive measures to get the public involved and informed.

It has set up a hotline for people to call to lodge their opinions, complaints or to leave messages for staff to call back to provide answers to questions. That's not done for every issue.

It has also established plant tours and an assortment of advertising and public information notices to keep people updated on the expansion.

Is this the way to go on every issue? Not necessarily.

Keep in mind, there are public meetings and information sessions the Region holds to allow people a chance to speak their minds on topics of all sorts.

What the enhanced communications plan



### The big picture

with JASON MISNER

seems to do is recognize public concern for a major issue.

Ultimately, residents must take it upon themselves to find answers. If the Region can't get you what you need, then call your local politician.

What needs to be realized is the Region is growing by leaps and bounds. From Halton Hills through Milton, to Oakville and Burlington,

industry and homes are being built at a dizzying pace. No news flash there.

These developments raise issues, like sewage and waste disposal. Some people are genuinely fearful of what sewage and waste disposal means to the environment and the impact on their families' quality of life.

Call it fear of the unknown.

These are the kinds of issues the public takes seriously. You're allowed to ask questions and to demand answers. The last time I checked that's what democracy was all about.

All this said, I don't want to sound like a cheerleader for the Region.

The key is it's up to the residents — you — to find answers. And the Region must do everything it can to help.

Because there's nothing worse than an uninformed public.

## OUR READERS WRITE

### New Champion reporter won't be sorry she came to Milton, says Campbellville couple

Dear Editor:

Re: Stephanie Thiessen's column of February 7 'Around town'.

We express our thanks to Stephanie Thiessen for her straight from the heart article on Milton and its people. We enjoyed reading it.

Though only living here a few years ourselves, we share Stephânie's quickly garnered impression of Milton, the outlying rural areas and most certainly, the super people.

Echoing the article, it's the pride and caring of the residents that make the difference.

I believe the people of Milton desire to live their lives in a responsible and compassionate fashion not unlike those of smaller towns in years gone by.

Regardless of the changing size of Milton, the residents will through their actions make Milton always feel livable and friendly.

New residents are only allowed to

be "new" for half a day, and then they become full-fledged Miltonians with the same cares and responsibilities of their neighbours.

Wait until you taste the goodies at the Farmers' Market this summer. You'll soon be defining Saturdays as the mid-point of the week.

Welcome to Milton, Stephanie. You now have a town that you, too, can be proud of.

Kathy and Bob Beyette  
Campbellville

Want to have your say on a local issue? Write a letter to the editor. E-mail to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com).