

Bad move, council — Scooter's did an amazing job

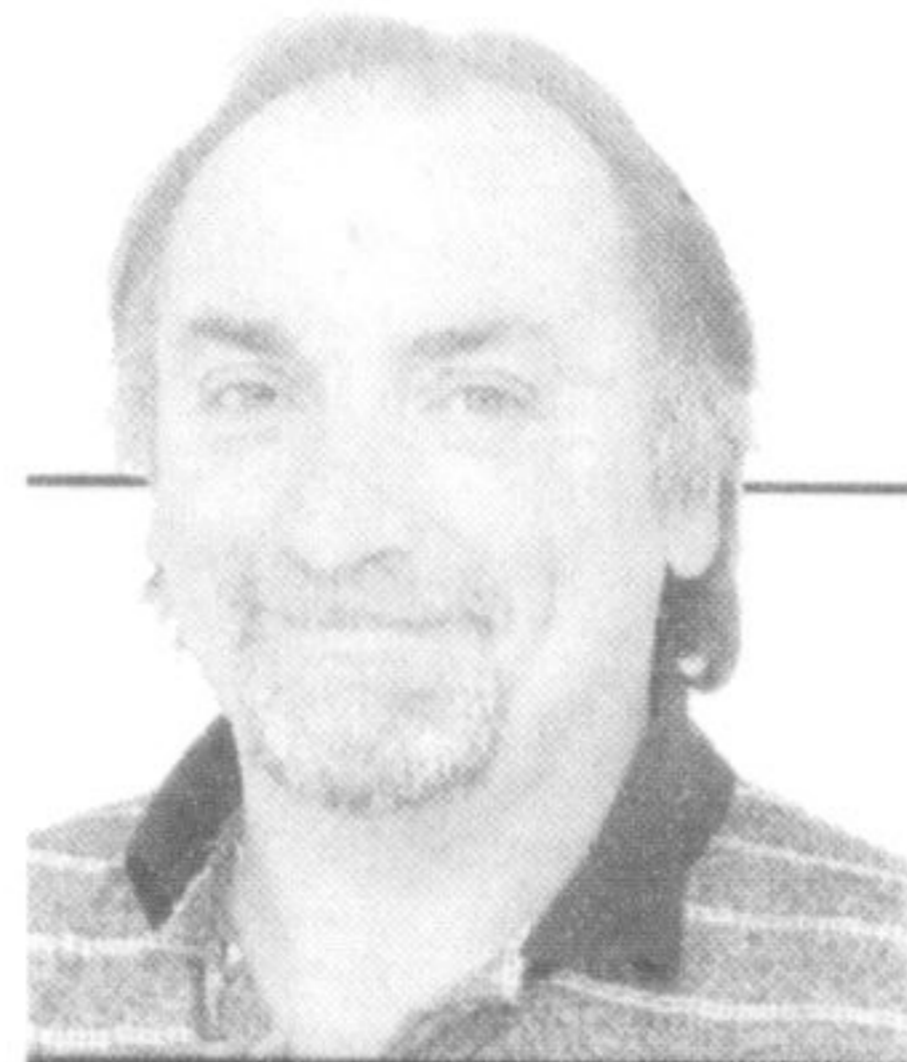
This column was supposed to be about Scooter's Snack Shack, but Steve LeBlanc already took care of that last Friday, more than adequately extolling its virtues and lamenting its loss.

Good enough, except that I don't think we should let Milton council off so easy. They picked a North York company to handle arena concessions over a Milton-based company that not only did an outstanding job, but perhaps a better job than anyone anywhere.

For about the last decade or so I've used this space from time to time to remind people how important it was to shop in Milton. I'd point out how in a small town you can expect better service because their business depends on it, how successful Milton businesses benefit us all and how they provide jobs for Milton residents and our kids.

Turns out I was wrong, and I have no better source than Milton's own council to thank for the enlightenment.

This decision to give the contract to a North York company was based on a recommendation by Town staff, whoever they are, and then voted on by council. Anybody who has been in a hockey arena in Milton, such as Councillor Ron Furik, would have had an



On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

issue with it. And he of course did, to his credit and ours.

What were those who voted against it thinking? Okay, I've no doubt they thought they were doing the right thing, but I can tell you if I was on council that would have been the easiest vote I ever made.

Maybe we should look towards North York when hiring Town staff, and how would the councillors like it if we voted for North York candidates over them at election time?

And actually, I was at North York Centennial Arena (it may be named after a politician now, but that's how I know it) as recently as last year. They have a great arena, one of the best, and they built it, unlike our new one, so that if you sit in the seats you can actually see the whole game. And their sign isn't backwards. They seem to do things right in North York.

The last thing about that is there has been a disturbing trend in hockey arenas in recent years to provide microwave popcorn instead of the real deal. That's just wrong. Very wrong. You think I'm mad now? Just wait if I go to Memorial Arena and they want to give me microwave popcorn.

Okay, that's enough about what this column isn't about, so let's move on.

Next up is Wal-Mart. When it first opened they had plenty of cashiers, but the last five or six times I've been spending a lot of time waiting in line. On the Sunday before school started (surprise, you have customers) I waited in line for about 15 minutes, got to my car and discovered there was an item in the cart I hadn't paid for. Back I went for another 15-minute wait.

If they're having problems hiring cashiers, maybe they can import some from North York. Or maybe instead of shopping in Milton, from now on I can go to North York. For the time being, I'm starting at Zellers in Milton, and then going from there if I don't find what I need.

Next.

I was in a poker tournament last week in Niagara Falls, New York, and I won it. Thank you. My prize included a seat in the \$150,000 On the Border Challenge this Sunday, with first-place prize money expected to be about \$30,000.

While this tournament was going on they had a live feed from a Buffalo radio station. I was thinking while I was playing that I had better come up with a poker nickname in case they asked me. I figured Milton Murray would do in a pinch, but I think I have a better one now. Tell me what you think: North York Murray.

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Literacy North Halton is in dire need of volunteer tutors for its upcoming training program.

Established in 1985, the organization offers one-on-one tutoring for adults experiencing difficulty with reading, writing or spelling. No previous teaching or tutoring experience is needed.

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