

# Comment

## Our generosity rarely extends to giving blood

No doubt most of us have heard the Canadian Blood Services refrain, "It's in you to give."

While we may listen to those words, too few of us respond. In fact, we should all be embarrassed. We may be quick to donate to charity, organize a fundraising event or help some other worthwhile cause, but we're pretty darn slow in rolling up our collective sleeves to donate blood.

According to a new Ipsos-Reid survey, 52 per cent of Canadians say they or a family member have needed blood or blood products for surgery or for medical treatment. However, and this is the embarrassing part, less than four per cent of the eligible population donated blood last year.

The survey, conducted on behalf of Canadian Blood Services, found that 75 per cent of Canadians have either personally needed or know of a family member, friend or neighbour who has required blood or blood products.

"On average, every minute of every day

a blood product is needed by someone in Canada," said Judy Compton, regional director, Canadian Blood Services, southern Ontario.

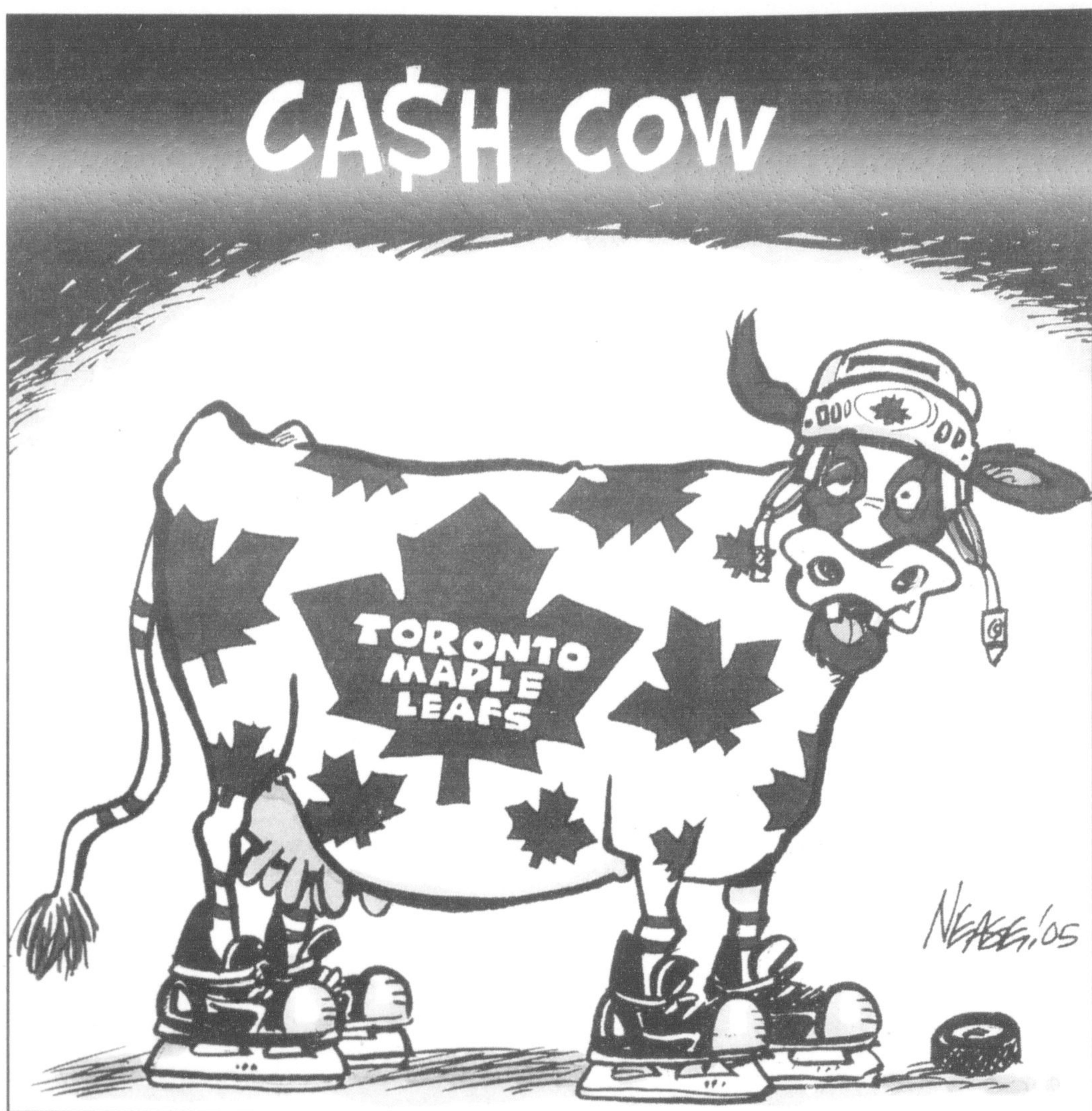
Even though we're all aware of the importance of donating blood, we obviously don't do it enough.

We're not sure what more Canadian Blood Services can do to get people to give. It's not like we don't understand the need or wonder how our donation will be used. It's such an integral part of our existence. But we seem to go about our day-to-day activities without giving much thought to patients in desperate need of blood.

We need to change our way of thinking. We need to be proactive and build that solid donor base that Canadian Blood Services needs to meet the ever-present demand.

If you would like to improve the donor statistics, call 1-888-2DONATE (1-888-236-6283) and make an appointment.

Remember, donors are the lifeblood of this organization.



## Our Readers Write

### Recent editorial cartoon was offensive

Dear Editor:

I found The Champion's September 2 editorial cartoon of a drowning Uncle Sam reaching out to an arms-folded world that sits on the safety of U.S. foreign aid sandbags asking "What have you done for me lately?" to be offensive and misguided.

More than 70 countries have offered aid to the United States — without question the wealthiest country in the world — and offers of help from Russia, Cuba

and Venezuela have reportedly been forthcoming.

It was irresponsible for The Champion to print this. Think back to the gun violence cartoon and how many readers, in my opinion, you offended with that.

What's sad about the offers of aid is that no one has offered what America really needs in this crisis — leadership, management and organization.

Anne Marie S. KuarSingh  
Milton

### Not enough infrastructure in town's east end to support high-density development

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau's September 13 letter regarding the rejected condo proposal in Milton's east end.

I was opposed to the condo development and other proposals of this kind for several reasons, the most significant of which is the lack of capacity in area schools. Reports obtained from the Ministry of Education reveal that there's a combined total 3.6 per cent remaining capacity in Halton's classrooms.

Our children deserve to be educated in the neighbourhood in which they live and not bussed

across town or housed in portables. Services must catch up with growth or there will also be delays in our grocery stores, at our hospitals and at our intersections.

The double-edged sword that I swing is that I live in a new subdivision that helped create some of these ongoing pressures. However, I would have expected our elected officials — including Ms Schau — to work in the checks and balances to ensure mixed housing is provided early in the development of an area and that local stores develop as the population and subdivisions grow.

Do we need high-density and

affordable housing? Yes. However, elected officials need to ensure we have sufficient services to support the current and future residential growth.

Ms Schau should have sold her east-end vision of Milton to council before mass residential development took hold.

We can't afford the big-picture imagery to play out without the vision to provide support services. If you think ongoing development and education is expensive, try ignorance.

John Daly  
Turner Drive

### Council made bad move regarding concession contract

Dear Editor:

It appears that town council has managed to make another totally inept decision in regard to the removal of Scooter's Snacks Service from the local arenas.

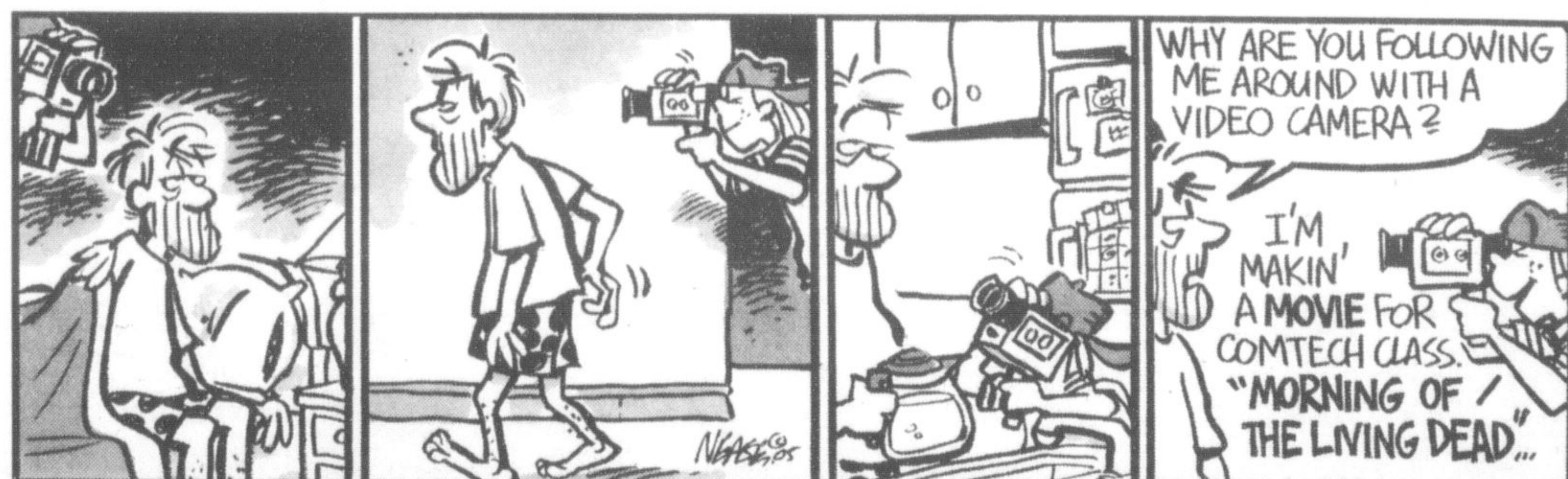
Now why should this surprise me when it's my recollection and belief that council hasn't made a reason-

able decision since we started to grow some three-and-a-half years ago. However, my hat goes off to those councillors who recognized the benefits of the excellent local service Scooter's provided.

Paul Anthony  
Milton

### Pud

by Steve Nease



## The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 875 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 3Z3

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943  
Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364  
Classified: 905-875-3300  
Circulation: 905-878-5947

Ian Oliver **Publisher**

Neil Oliver *Associate Publisher*

Wendy McNab *Advertising Director*

Karen Smith *Managing Editor*

Tim Coles *Production Manager*

Charlene Hall *Circulation Manager*

Teri Casas *Office Manager*

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