

OPINION

Change inevitable

Electoral reform may be a cure to what ails Ontario voters. But what's the right medicine?

With a municipal election just under our belt — boasting the usual dismal turnout of around 30 per cent — and a provincial election looming, there are recurring complaints among voters that indicate the need for change.

Poor voter turnout is one. Many eligible voters just don't bother to cast their ballots — why do so if it isn't really going to matter, they feel.

Others see no point since our current electoral system, sometimes called First Past the Post, is usually a horse race between the two major parties, the Liberals and Conservatives.

Some say the answer is proportional representation

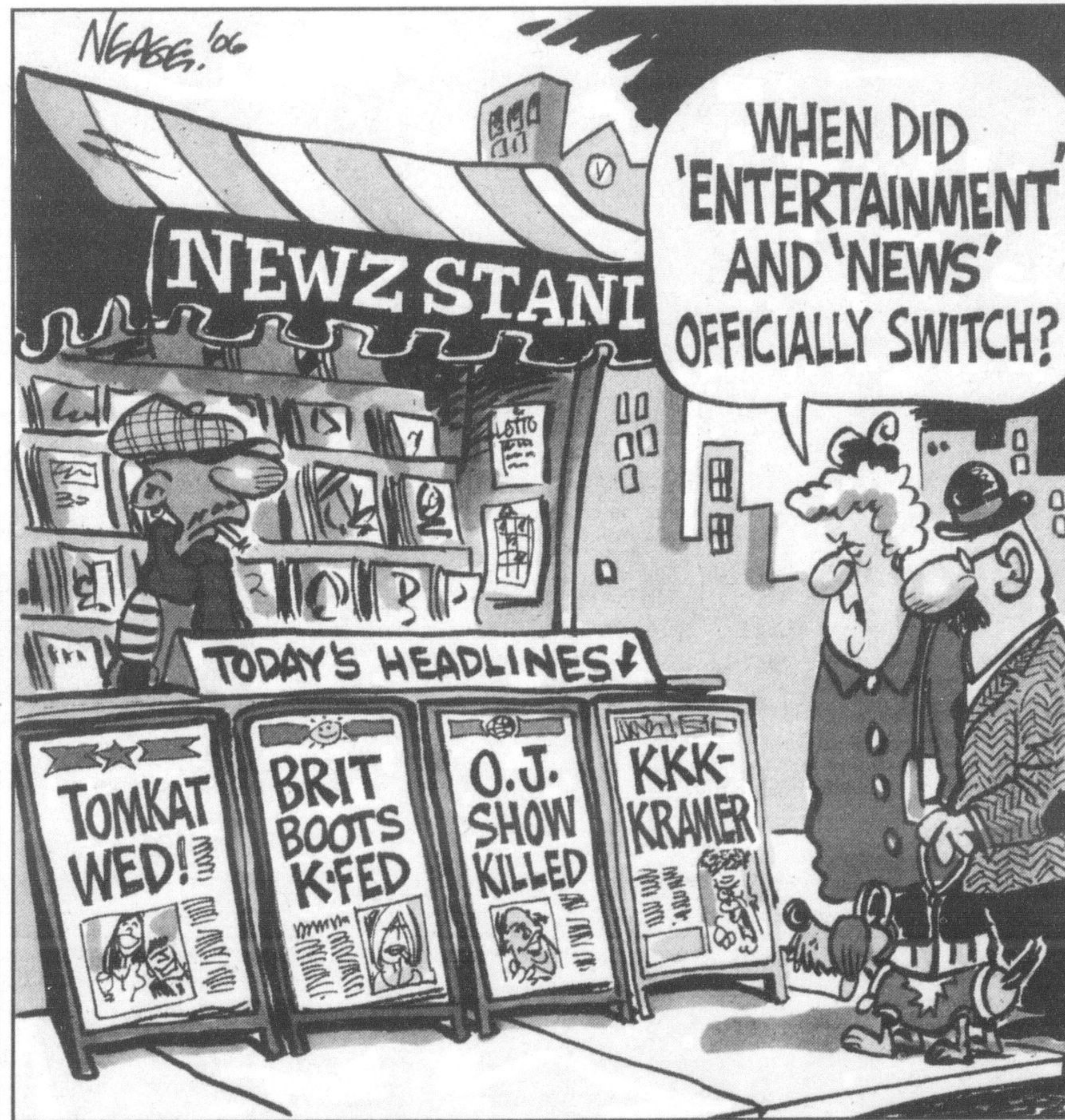
where votes cast are equal to representation.

It would eliminate our current system that allows a party with say, 40 per cent of the vote, to form a majority government.

The caution is that with candidates drawn from a party list, local representation may be lost. Some say local reps tow the party line anyway, but still there are local elected representatives whom voters can call for help or to complain.

As the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform in Ontario gathers public input and all eyes look to systems elsewhere as alternatives, it's very possible for the assembly not to opt for an existing system, but to create its own.

Someone created the current system and times do change.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltonec@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Town's parking survey was a waste of time and money

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Murray Townsend's October 20 column regarding three-hour parking.

I've lived in a newer subdivision of Milton for four years. During these years, I've paid numerous parking tickets for parking in front of my home in excess of three hours. I've also paid parking tickets for out-of-town family members who've parked over three hours while visiting.

When we first moved to the area, we were sent a survey asking whether we preferred three-hour parking on both sides of the road or 24-hour parking on one side. We, of course, requested the 24-hour parking. We drive fairly large vehicles that don't easily fit in the driveway let alone the tiny garage.

After review of the survey, the Town informed us it would be the three-hour parking bylaw that would be enforced. We were also informed of how the decision was made.

As per Townsend's column, approval for the extension must be 51 per cent. However, they take into consideration everyone on the street, including those who don't care or don't need the exemption and fail to reply. Those who

don't reply are assumed to have chosen the three-hour parking. This could be the reason an exemption has never been granted to those who request it. If it was 51 per cent of those who responded, I bet there would be more exemptions granted. For most people, if it doesn't affect them, why would they respond?

Since our three-hour parking bylaw has been introduced, there have been 'No Parking' signs put up on the other side of the road. So, yes, we had the survey, but the Town proceeded to do what it wanted anyway and as far as I'm concerned, the survey was a waste of time and money.

Finally, regarding the limit of 18 times for overnight parking consideration within a year. Essentially, the Town is now dictating how many times a year you can have visitors. I had four different family members on four different nights in a two-week period. My average out-of-town visits are more than 18 a year. Sorry Mom, you can't visit until next year, since my 18 parking considerations are up. I would have to agree that it's a money grab.

T. STEWART MILTON

We do need a fair-priced grocery store here

DEAR EDITOR:

Thank you Eryn McCartney. I thought I was the only one who travelled out of town to save on groceries.

I would like to support economic

development within Milton, but certainly not for basic grocery items that are outrageously priced.

SHARON LOBB MOFFAT

Criticism regarding EFW site highly questionable

DEAR EDITOR:

This is written in response to a letter to the editor from Barbara Halsall, published November 10.

While I don't disagree that it's better to use less and/or recycle what products we do use, it's also quite obvious that Halsall isn't thinking the whole idea through.

The Region of Halton Web site states that the recycling goal is 60 per cent diversion. That's very commendable as it's one of the highest rates in the GTA.

But stop and think what this means. Forty per cent of all garbage is still going to the landfill. That to me isn't a good number. Halsall's idea of recycling is grand, but it isn't very realistic. She seems to want to pile further amounts of trash in the landfill, as opposed to using a technology she claims is unproven. Halsall doesn't mention that Peel has had an Energy-From-Waste (EFW) facility for at least 10 years that's consistently below provincial regulations for emissions.

Instead, she cites three examples in other countries. Granted, this province has closed other incinerators, but they used antiquated technology and couldn't meet today's more stringent guidelines. If a plant can meet/exceed regulations and produce power that's dearly needed, why does Halsall not approve?

As far as bringing in waste from outside the region, if the State of Michigan closes its border to garbage from out-of-state, Halton Region won't be able to ship its own waste from industrial, commercial and institutional clients there. Would Halsall rather it pile up and reduce the life of the current landfill, or 'burn it' with minimal emissions and power made?

Finally, considering that a truck driving to the landfill/EFW site on Regional Road 25 produces far less emissions than one driving to Michigan, maybe that should be taken into consideration as well.

Just something to think about.

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