

OPINION

Farewell Janet

Milton will soon say goodbye to another long-time, beloved coach.

Featured in today's sports section, seasoned Milton Springers head coach Janet Campbell will step down next month after a 30-year tenure at the helm of the local gymnastics scene.

This town is blessed with an abundance of good coaches, and more than a few exceptional ones — those who not only lead a team each season but have a major hand in building and developing their sport of choice.

Campbell is a proud member of this select group, and — as seen in today's profile — it's hard to imagine the club without her.

The outgoing Springers

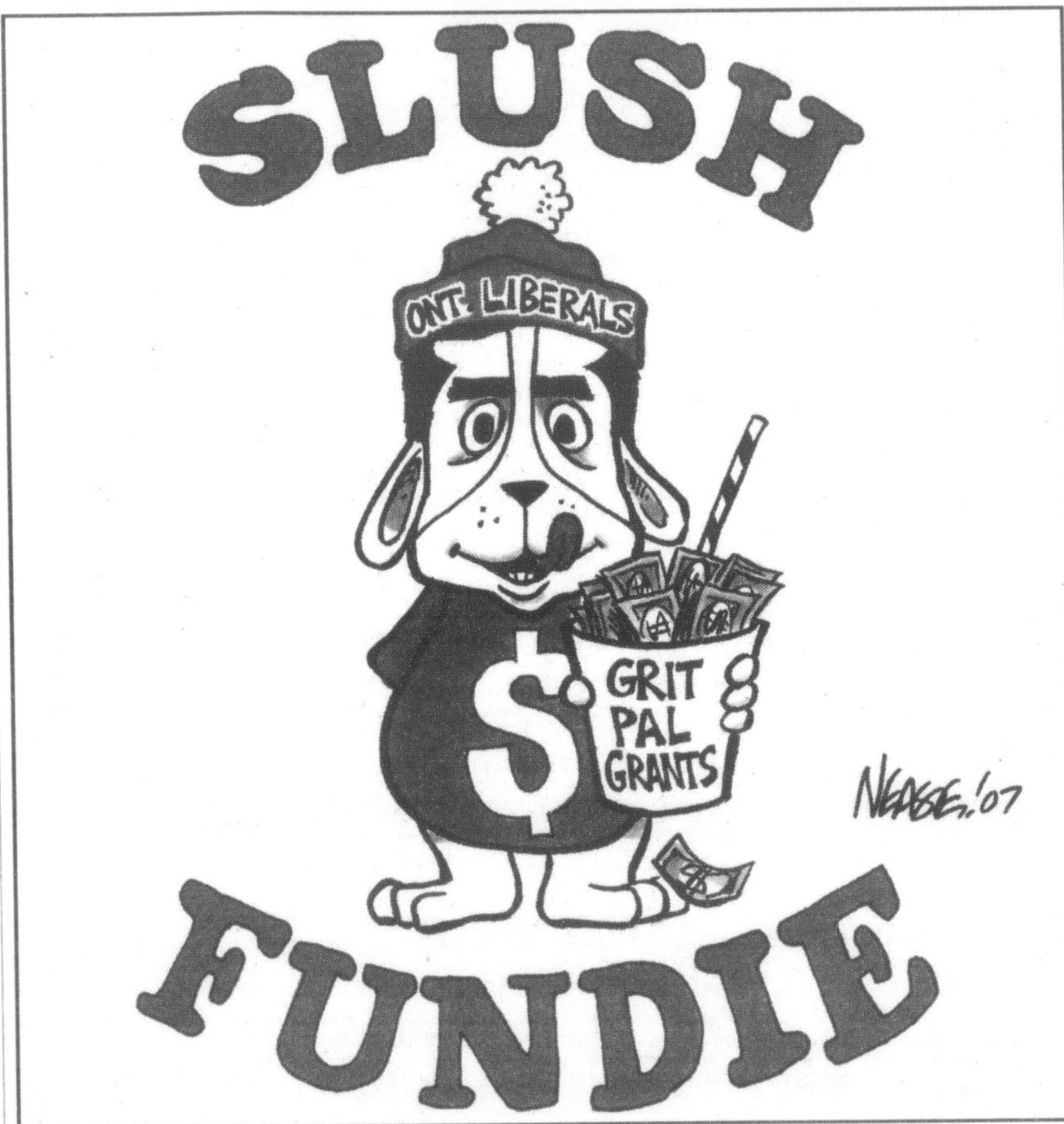
cornerstone is a prime example of a coach who teaches far more than just the technical aspects of a sport. By all accounts she's instilled valuable life lessons in many — if not most — of her students, and left a lasting mark on those under her tutelage.

There's no shortage of kind words to go around about what she means to the club, and one former student went so far as to describe the Springers without Campbell as breathing without oxygen.

Can there be any higher praise than that?

So to Campbell and all those who go out of their way to make sports something special for our children, we thank you.

So long Janet, you'll be missed.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

Concerted effort needed to stop rising pollution levels in Halton

DEAR EDITOR:

I read Melanie Hennessey's article 'Pollution levels exceed standards in south Halton' with much interest, but wasn't really shocked with the findings.

By living here, I think we all know that air quality levels in Halton are getting worse and that this report confirms our feelings.

At the Region's health and social services committee meeting where this report was aired — no pun intended — regional councillors from Oakville stated the report's findings were

darn right scary and that one would hope that the information contained in the report would have an effect on how land uses are planned. Let's hope so!

With ever-increasing population growth, housing development ballooning into depleting green spaces and the potential for new highways all being planned throughout Halton, what does this say about our future air quality? Doesn't look too good, does it?

It's not only what we can do that matters, it's what we shouldn't do that matters even

more so.

We can't keep building and allowing uncontrolled growth to dictate our future.

Yes, we really do need to conduct this type of air quality measurement throughout Halton proper but more importantly we need to say no to growth.

If we want to meet Canada-wide standards and have positive air quality reports, we have to curb what's causing the problem, not just report on the symptoms.

**BOB BEYETTE
MILTON**

Let's ensure safety a priority on the playing field

DEAR EDITOR:

With a new season of sports ready to begin, it's important that parents be reminded of a few things.

You children's coaches have a legal obligation to provide a safe environment for their participants at all times. While the law does not expect him or her to be perfect, the coach should take all steps reasonable to safeguard your children when they are with them.

Don't assume that because the coach is well-versed in the technical aspects of your child's sport that they are equally competent when it comes to safeguarding your children. Ask your child's coach questions like, "What are the risks associated with my child's participation in this

sport?", "Can I see your emergency action plan for the venues where my child plays, including practices and away games?" and "What are you doing to safeguard my child when you are with them?"

If they can't answer these fundamental questions, you should be talking to the sport club's executive and asking why these tools have not been provided to your child's coach.

Sports are a beneficial part of your child's life as he or she begins their journey towards lifelong participation and an active lifestyle. Don't take needless risks with your child's safety.

**MIKE MILLER
HAYWARD CRESCENT**

Bronte Park important to neighbourhood

DEAR EDITOR:

I have lived in Milton for 50 years, during which time I have witnessed the initially slow but now accelerated growth of the community.

A plus has been that the placing of some green areas has accompanied the growth. In a recent letter to your newspaper, Brian Galligan expressed concern about the planned phasing out of the recreational facilities at Bronte Meadows Park.

This park is surrounded by a residential area with a lot of children of all ages. The proposed plan of action conveys to me the message that these facilities will be considered superfluous once new facilities are built along Santa Maria Boulevard.

When this happens, my concern is that this park will become a target for developers to build more houses, creating a high-density residential area.

Please permit some public input if any such thoughts cross the minds of Town planners. Perhaps my fears are groundless, but I have misgivings when developers set their sights on 'green' areas.

Why not enlarge the parking lot and revitalize this area?

**D. AIKENHEAD
MILTON**

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