

OPINION

Under the gun

The proliferation of gun-related crime is no longer the exclusive problem of Halton's largest neighbouring community.

While Toronto braces for what may be its bloodiest year on record for gun-related deaths, there are indicators that firearms are becoming the weapon of choice among more criminals in Halton.

In July alone, guns were used in a terrifying July 16 early-morning Oakville home invasion in which a sawed-off shotgun was brandished, a July 9 convenience store robbery in Georgetown that saw two clerks forced into a freezer at gunpoint, the July 22 armed robbery of an Oakville man making a night deposit, and three Burlington incidents within

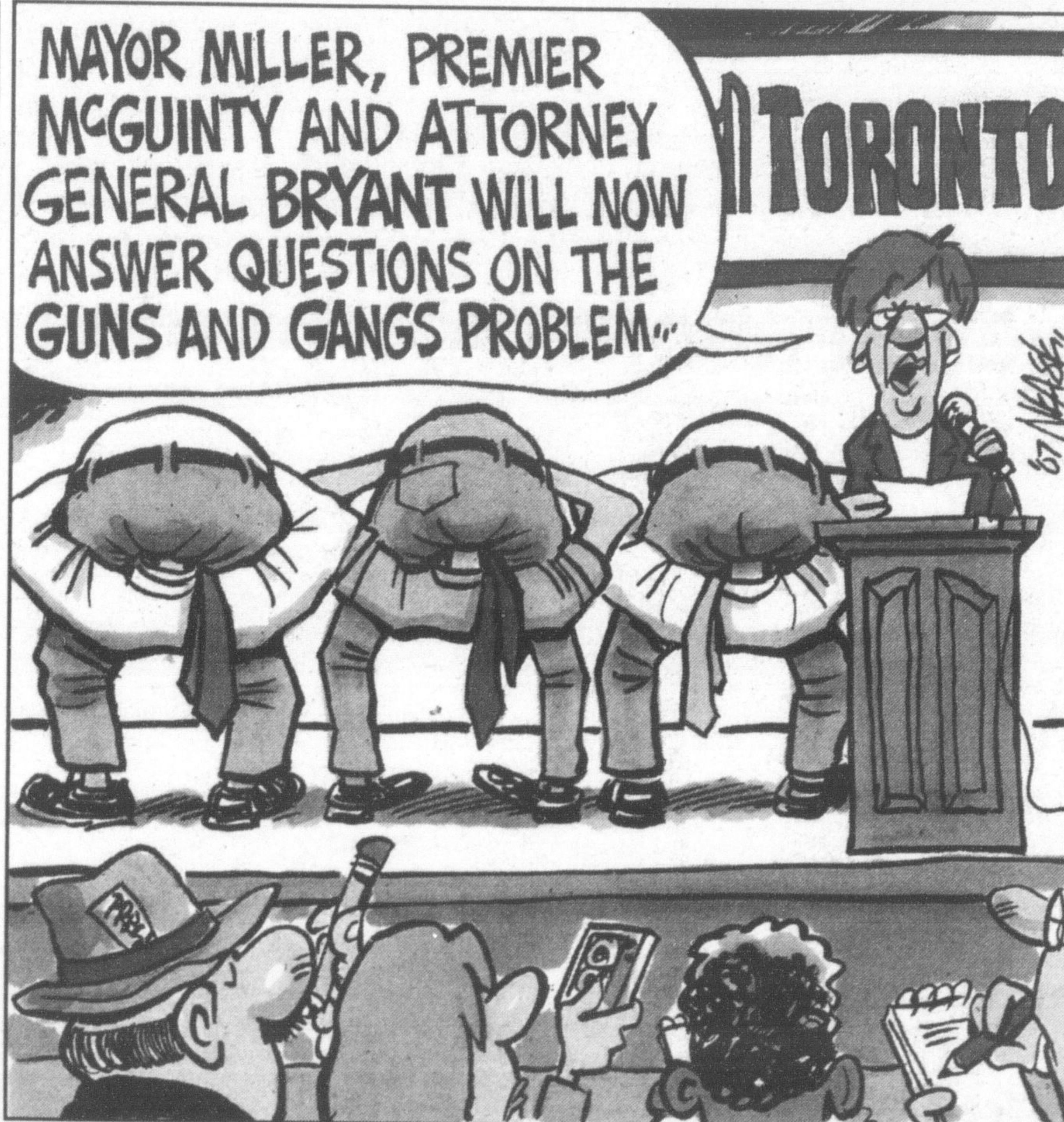
48 hours last weekend (July 20 to 22), including one where a male victim was pistol whipped.

Is the apparent flood of gun crimes in recent weeks merely coincidence, or is Halton's growth and its proximity to Toronto, Hamilton and Peel making it a convenient alternative for criminals armed with guns?

Are the same factors that are pushing Toronto toward a record-high year of gun-related fatalities influencing a flood of gun crimes in our region?

Halton police have yet to put forward a theory about this phenomenon.

We only hope that the recent incidents represent an aberration and not a sign of things to come.



ReadersWrite

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

Planning of Milton's roadways has left awful lot to be desired

DEAR EDITOR:
I understand Halton Region recently received an award for planning. If that had anything to do with the population boom in Milton, I for one am curious what the award criteria was — possibly driver annoyance and frustration level?

It's a major challenge to get from southeast Milton to the Steeles Avenue and Martin Street area nowadays. In the morning, traffic is backed up past my house on Trudeau Drive south to get onto Derry, which is effectively two lanes due to perpetual construction.

Thompson Road is now one lane for many hours a day due to construction, Fourth Line was closed 28 months ago, James Snow Parkway is just a short cut for Hawthorne Village north and while so far unhampered, Fifth Line leads to a one-lane construction area on

Steeles. The corner of Main and James Snow was also ripped up, but is now thankfully completed.

I couldn't help but notice upon leaving Milton to the south on Regional Road 25 that it jumps to four lanes at Dundas Street to the east. Entering Mississauga, the roads jump from two lanes to four, on Derry at the 407, and south on Trafalgar. No wonder Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion keeps getting re-elected — and Miltonians shop outside of Milton.

To compound the situation, we have a proliferation of misguided advanced left turn stoplights. Large groups of east-bound Steeles and Ontario Street drivers have to wait for one or two — or none — west-bound cars turning south. Ditto at Steeles and Thompson, Steeles and Esquesing Line and

several other intersections.

But the biggest slap in the face is at Derry and Armstrong Boulevard. There's very light traffic so far on Armstrong, as only a few homes are occupied. The lights go red for Derry on a timer — why? — then 85 per cent of the time there's no vehicles turning onto Armstrong. Yet long lines of traffic — in two lanes, including trucks and transit buses — must endure an additional 15 seconds of left advance green.

Why not let the higher volume traffic go instantly, then if there's still vehicles waiting to make a left they will be detected by the road sensors. Give them a few seconds each of delayed green, to a maximum.

I serviced stop light controllers several years ago. It worked very well then.

**HANK ORSEL
MILTON**

What's being done to protect town's environment?

DEAR EDITOR:
I agree with M. Peter's letter entitled 'Somebody needs to stand up against greedy administrators'.

It seems that politicians are more interested in money than the environment.

And, by the way, what if anything are the conservation committees doing to protect the roads along the escarpment? So much land has been sold to builders that animals and birds have no respite from the noise.

Now the Region wants to inject another 401 exit right along the escarpment. Why isn't James Snow Parkway being continued down to the QEW as a truck road?

**H. SHAVER
MILTON**

Champion's coverage of crash insensitive

DEAR EDITOR:
While I always enjoy reading the *Champion*, I have to say that reporter Stephanie Hounsell missed the mark on her report last Tuesday of the accident on Trafalgar Road July 19.

Of course the accident was horrific. However, it was insensitive and uncalled for to report it in this manner.

What do we gain from reading such graphic details? I'm certain Miltonians are mourning the deceased and recognize how tragic this accident was.

Think of the deceased's friends and family. Do they really need to learn about the details?

Perhaps as a reporter Hounsell feels it is 'her job' to report accurately. However, she could have done so more tastefully.

I'm afraid in this regard Hounsell has joined the throngs of reporters that sensationalize at the expense of others.

This is the *Champion*, not the National Inquirer. I had expected more from a small-town newspaper.

**JOHN PANNOZZO
MILTON**

The Canadian Champion
Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

555 Industrial Dr.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

905-878-2341

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

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

Publisher
Neil Oliver

Advertising Director
Wendy McNab

Managing Editor
Karen Miceli

Production Manager
Tim Coles

Circulation Manager
Charlene Hall

Office Manager
Teri Casas

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday, is a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd. — Group Publisher Ian Oliver

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

CCAB Audited

Recognized for excellence by

ocna Ontario Community Newspapers Association

CNA Canadian Community Newspapers Association

SN Suburban Newspapers of America

The Canadian Champion is a proud media sponsor for:

Halton Healthcare **Child Find** ONTARIO

WELCOME WAGON LTD. SINCE 1930 **Jingle Bell Fund** **MILTON CANADA DAY**

UNITED WAY OF MILTON **Holiday For Life** **TV AUCTION** **MILTON SANTA CLAUS PARADE**

YMCA OF GRANTVILLE

ATHENA Awards **The Oakville, Milton**

Showcase Milton **GALA Awards** **FAO** POLICE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product