

# Our Readers Write

## How can you tell the good guys from the bad guys

Dear Editor:

Why is it that the situation between KEEP (Keep the Escarpment Environment Protected), Lac Minerals and the Ministry of the Environment is beginning to sound like an old B Western that should be a rerun on an all-night TV channel and not front page news in our local papers (my compliments for the stands taken in recent articles, by the way).

It was always fairly clear in my mind who has been wearing black hats and who the heroes are, but now the plot has thickened and the lines are no longer clear.

In the movie, the railroad wants water to keep its steam engines running; the ranchers (white hats) need water for their cattle and their homes in order to maintain their livelihoods.

The black hats bring in hired experts to manipulate the ranchers; the ranchers bring in government experts to help them — but find out the government experts are wearing the wrong colour hats and the ranchers are about to lose when the hero shows up and saves the day. Cut to the sunset and everybody is happy except the bad guys.

The script for the Lac-KEEP-people-of-Milton story is equally as exciting and dramatic. One would expect John Huston to be the director and John Wayne to be the hero.

We all know the story so far, LAC wants a new quarry, KEEP and the people of Milton are of a different opinion because they are concerned about their water. Lac's experts say LAC and its quarry is not the problem; they don't supply data to prove it and they say trust us.

KEEP (white hats) calls in the technical support people from the ministry. The ministry people (white hats) say they will check into it. They talk it over with Lac and come back and say Lac (black hats) are not to blame, asked to prove it they say trust us.

Asked under the freedom of information act to supply the data they say they will check into it. Time passes... the technical support people from the ministry of the environment (white hats... or was that black hats, we're not sure any more) seem to be having trouble producing the data publicly that will prove their case.

Time passes... a new twist to the plot, Lac Minerals (black hats, we presume for the sake of the story) are found to have been pumping somewhere up to 250,000 and 300,000 gallons of water a day for Lord knows how long, and lo and behold they don't have a permit that would authorize them to do so.

Enter KEEP (white hats). KEEP requests of the technical support people of the ministry (white hats, we think, no, now we wonder) that the required permit not be issued until an environmental impact study is done to evaluate whether or not there is an impact of wasting 250,000 gallons of water per day and whether or not this is depleting a sensitive water supply to homes and farms.

The ministry technical people — who at best are now wearing grey hats — announce that the water being pumped out of the escarpment is really coming from somewhere else in the escarpment other than where all the other water comes from (whatever that means, maybe it has something to do with special effects). Then wonder of wonders they say that permits don't seem to be required in this particular situation.

Show us the data the white hats shout, trust us the grey hats answer, forget the permit the black hats insist. The excitement builds, the tension grows but at least now we know who is who. What is to happen now? The good guys look around in anticipation for John Wayne — he's gone.

It's time for the hero. Will it be Walt Elliot, who seeing the situation rides into town and encourages Jim Bradley (Minister of the Environment) to ride out to save the day.

Will it be Jim Bradley himself, who

places a white hat on his head and convinces cabinet and the cavalry to ride to the rescue with the opinion that an environmental assessment is absolutely necessary.

Will the hero be the chief black hat (unlikely) who decides to be a good corporate citizen, sees the light (maybe also feels the heat) and the will of the people.

Tension builds. Will the real hero please stand up.

Stay tuned to your local paper for the next exciting installment, who will be wearing the white hats in the next episode? Who gets the water? Who gets the girl?

The old westerns can be such a thrill to people like me who lead such quiet and uneventful lives.

Lyndon Smith  
Appleby Line, Milton

## Sale — buy a school for a buck

Dear Editor:

Re: Get your school property for a buck while it's hot!

The Halton Board of Education's slogan, "Teaching is Hot in Halton" should include that "Hot school property is available for \$1".

Is a landscaped 15.3 acres site located off Lakeshore Road in Oakville, with a modern 1200 student capacity high school building on it worth only \$1 to the Board of Education? Apparently so, as the trustees vote this Thursday, Jan. 25 instead of

waiting 60 days for the expected Ministry of Education's announcement as to what capital funding will be available to Halton's requests.

Last June, G. E. Perdue High School was closed because of declining enrollment in southeast Oakville. By October, the majority of trustees from the Towns of Burlington, Milton and Georgetown, voted over the objections of two-thirds of Oakville's trustees to build another \$25 million high school in southeast Oakville just a few kilometres east of the recently-closed Perdue High School.

Perhaps it is "old-fashioned" to consider utilizing the presently owned high school property (valued at \$20 million) instead of committing the taxpayers to provide perhaps \$20 million.

The Ministry of Education has only allocated for 1992 about \$5 million for their contribution.

In November, the board had requested an additional \$11 million from the Ministry to build the new 1,500 student capacity high school in the same declining enrollment area of southeast Oakville.

Isn't it time for Halton's trustees to "cool it" for the next 60 days, and just await the Ministry's announcement?

Then, and only then can there be valued judgments presented by each of the trustees for or against selling or leasing G. E. Perdue High School for \$1. Recalling the old adage, "A

bird in hand is worth two in the bush!"

George Pickios  
Lancaster Drive, Oakville

## Christmas Collection raises over \$4,500

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the students and staff at Milton District High School I wish to thank the good citizens of Milton for their wonderful support during our annual Christmas Collection.

Approximately 75 M.D.H.S. students knocking on local doors collected more than \$4,500 in donations plus nearly 5,000 food items.

These numbers show the fantastic support that is provided by the outstanding Milton community.

What is done with the money and items collected?

Ninety large Christmas boxes were made up and delivered to people who receive Meals on Wheels, to families suggested by local clergy and the Salvation Army. Each box contained a complete Christmas dinner plus groceries to carry over into the New Year.

In addition 340 packages containing fruit and goodies were made up and delivered to each resident at Halton Centennial Manor.

Finally, boxes and boxes of surplus items were delivered to Halton Women's Place and Halton Recovery House.

Again, thanks to the citizens of the

Milton area for their great support.

John Horner  
Christmas Drive Coordinator  
Milton District High School

## Many to thank for starting S.T.O.P.

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the article in your Jan. 17 edition on Milton District High School peer counselling group called S.T.O.P. (Students Taking On Prevention).

Although the article explained the details of this fantastic program, I feel it necessary to mention the MDHS students who took time out of their school timetable to participate in this worthy cause.

Their names are: Sara Picket, Christina Edwards, Ginna Watts, John Kronhert, Marc Rader, Naomi Kunica, Andrew Shell, Jen MacDonald, Wendy Pos, Lisa Bowler, Dana McKay, John Opsteen, Jack Huisman and Colin Forde.

I cannot forget to mention Rick Boychuk and Diane McCurdy for their assistance in this program. This activity taught all of the students involved about responsibility and the right to make their own decisions when it comes to their body. Hopefully, this experience will be the first of many to come for Milton.

Lianne Stewart,  
Grade 12,  
Milton District High School

# CAMPBELLVILLE COUNTRY MARKET

will be closing for renovations  
January 29, 30, 31  
& re-opening February 1st.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause our customers.  
Watch for our re-opening special flyer in your mail.

35 Crawford Cres., Campbellville

