



OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Don't forget pets need a cleaning

Seems like years (actually, it's only about two years) since I've mentioned grooming. Geez, get a haircut, will you? And take that suit to the cleaner's.

Oh, and while you're at it, take a look at your dog as well. No, I mean a real look. One that reveals tangles, mats and furballs. Hands-on work will be required for a complete examination, and don't forget to use your nose. Not as a comb, as an aroma detector. If that little couch ornament of yours smells "less than fresh", how do you think your couch will smell? Yeah.

Logic dictates that a matted unbrushed dog will be a shade shy of fragrant. Of course, it's kind of like vacuuming your car (or my car, anyway); you tend to put it off in the wild and totally unfounded hope that someone else will do it. When you face the facts honestly, you realize it's a dirty job and you have to do it.

Many dogs make regular trips to the groomer. Anywhere between 6 weeks to 3 months, owners drop off a hairy "hippie" of a dog. A few hours later, they pick up a sparkling "executive" of the dog world. It's like magic.

Breeds that generally make these regular forays include Poodles, Cocker Spaniels, Schnauzers, Bouviers, assorted Terriers, and crossbreeds thereof.

All dogs, of all shapes and sizes, need to be groomed. Sad fact of life but there you go. Combing and brushing are always required, and occasional to regular bathing must be expected (for the dog, I mean, you'll have to make your own hygiene decisions).

Over-bathing is terribly drying to a dog's



PETS AND YOU

with ANNE NORMAN

skin. Even those breeds needing shaving or trimming shouldn't be immersed in the wet stuff more than once every six weeks.

Just about every dog in the world needs to be "hosed down" once or twice a year. Many breeds tend to shed something terrible (the German Shepherd leaps instantly to mind) in the springtime, and a good bath helps loosen five to 10 pounds of dead hair.

Getting a medium or large sized dog into the tub is often an interesting adventure, leaving numerous wet towels, wet articles of clothing, wet floors and decorative water patterns (from the dog shaking itself) on the wallpaper.

If your dog is small and/or easy to bathe, go for it. Be careful not to get shampoo into eyes and ears, and try to keep the whole experience a cheery one for everyone.

If, on the other hand, the procedure fills you with dread (which will be readily transferred to your canine pal), find a kindly groomer, deliver your pooch, and return to pick up a transformed creature. Good groomers are an endangered species; look after them. Otherwise, that hairy, odiferous hound you see before you may mutate into another life form right in front of you. Gruesome. Quick, get the shampoo!

Handle pressure-treated wood with care

Because we want our fences, decks, play structures and flower beds to last longer than the Titanic, we often consider buying pressure-treated wood. Although we think we are building "Play-land" for our children we may be building "Arsenic-land" instead.

Wood is commonly treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA) to extend its life against fungi, insects and micro-organisms. The result is the greenish wood with slits on the surface available at lumber yards and building supply stores.

A 1991 study for Health and Welfare Canada found that the soil under CCA treated playground equipment had arsenic concentrations up to 24 times higher than areas 10 meters away. They also used cloth to wipe these structures and got measurable amounts of arsenic on the cloth every time.

Arsenic is widespread in the environment and we are all exposed to a low level. However, the U.S. EPA's fact sheet on CCA warns: "Arsenicals are acutely toxic to humans by ingestion... Both arsenic and chromium have been classified as human carcinogens based on sufficient human epidemiological evidence. Environmental fate data to support the registration of wood preservatives containing arsenic and chromium are lacking."

Health and Welfare Canada agrees. They state, "In spite of the huge volume of pressure-treated lumber being used, the published literature contains very little information about the extent to which wood preservative chemicals migrate out of the treated wood or about the nature and extent of the... residues which



EARTH TO MILTON

with STEVEN MOORE

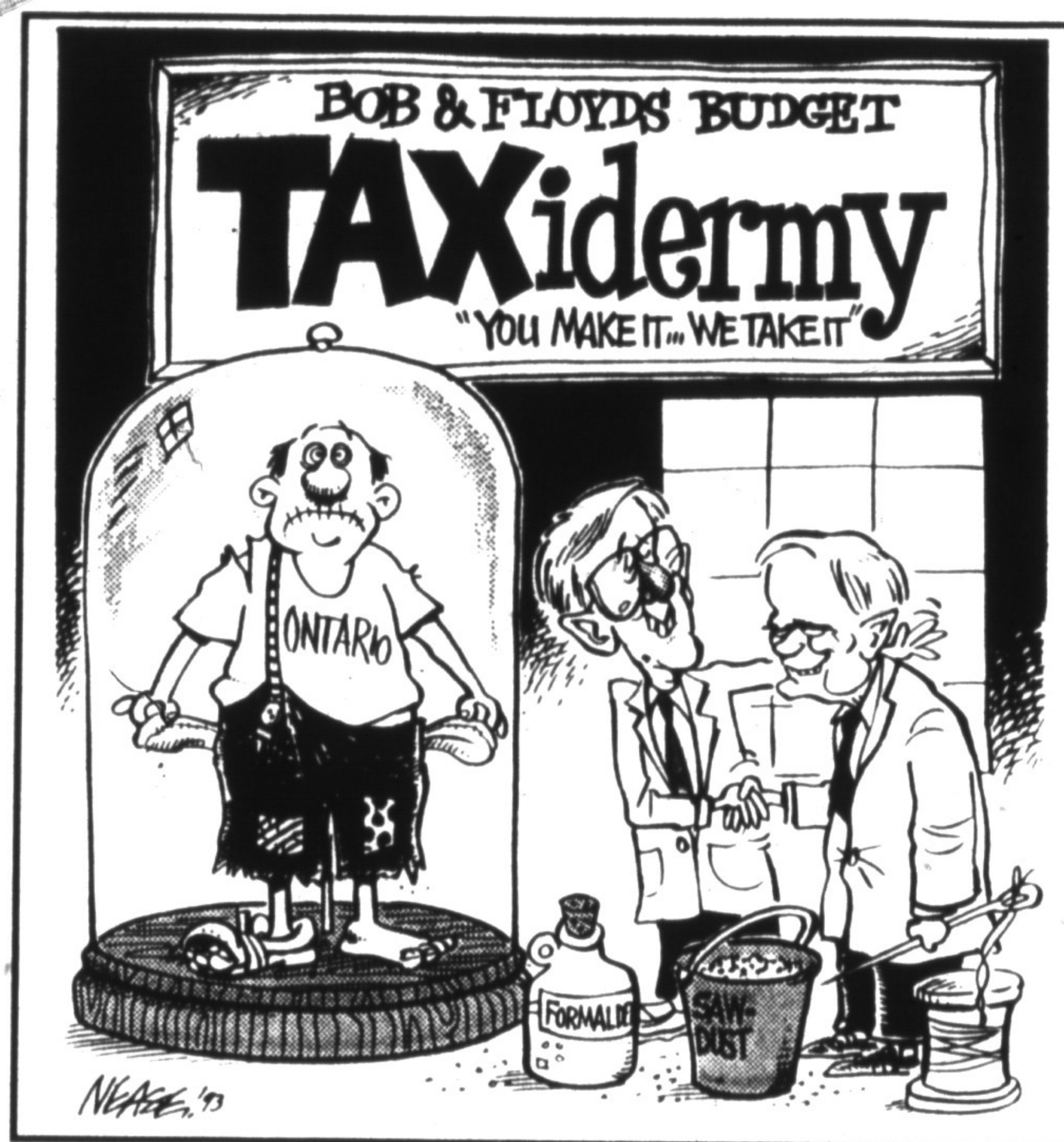
might be present on the surface of structures built of treated wood."

Is there an effect on plants? A British study of contaminated soil where treated wood was made found carrots grown in the soil, "produced crops containing nearly twice the current recommended level of arsenic in food."

CCA is registered for use in Canada, as the Canadian Institute of Treated Wood (CITW) points out.

CITW maintains that "seasoning after pressure treating leaves the wood clean", ignoring the results of the wipe tests. CITW also states in their literature, "If the chemicals used for the pressure treatment of wood weren't toxic, the process wouldn't be effective. But treated wood is not toxic to humans and animals under its intended conditions of use."

It is recommended to wear gloves, goggles and a breathing mask when handling treated wood, and to wash hands and all exposed areas when done. All work clothes should be washed separately from other household clothing. Pressure-treated wood should not be burned, as even more toxic chemicals are produced. It is best disposed of at approved



Milton 2001, a tax odyssey

In a testy debate, Regional Council refused to remove the performance tax on points scored in T-ball and minor hockey. Our children must learn at an early age that it is their duty to support the less fortunate in this world, the system's defenders say.

The current tax of \$5 for a home run or goal, and \$2.50 for RBIs or assists has resulted in a significant number of children dropping out of sports. This tax was first introduced in 1993 on a suggestion from the public service unions for all adult leagues. Those children having parents on welfare, UIC, mothers allowance or compensation have their taxes paid by regional grants.

Consideration is being given to making the playing of these sports mandatory in order to ensure no loss of revenue to the regional coffers, the Milton leisure services director has been forced to stop the moratorium on building new ball diamonds and the lights at Thompson Arena Park are to be installed next month.

"The performance tax is only an extension



VIEW POINT

with PATRICK KELLY

of those charged by the school boards for marks achieved by students," explained Regional Chairman Floyd Faunteroy.

The Region is fighting with the provincial government, saying the collection of the 20 per cent GST and 25 per cent PST on the performance taxes places an unnecessary burden on regional staff.

A joint mortgage burning was held today at Greystone Country Club (owned by CUPE), marking the final payments of SkyDome and Maple Leaf Gardens by the federation of Teachers Union Corporation and OMERS (Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement Savings), who together purchased these facilities as part of the social contract clause negotiated by Bob Rae in 1993. Mr. Rae and sidekick Floyd Laughren are directors for life in each organization.

"We are planning to pension off Floyd," said chief school custodian and OMERS Director Kuldip Singh, in a phone interview from his yacht in Aruba. "His latest idea of selling cocktail weiners as jumbo hot dogs at both facilities and the fact only public service union members can afford tickets has resulted in some discontent from the private sector."

The enforced hiring quotas or minorities, handicapped and women mandated by provincial law on the last place Blue Jays and Maple Leafs, have also caused revenues to decline.

On the crime scene, Milton resident Ben Hadd was charged with unnecessary assault on sex tax inspector first class Peeping Tom.

Mr. Hadd explained that it was too hot in his bedroom and when he pushed open the window he inadvertently knocked inspector Tom off his ladder. The inspector suffered a broken leg and a ladder broke. Mr. Hadd was also charged with destroying government property.

The head of the voyeur union for sex inspection has asked for danger pay for all union members since this is the one-millionth case of assault on an officer since the NDP introduced the tax in May 1993.

The decline in Canada's birth rate has also been attributed to the sex tax, requiring significant increases in immigration to keep Canada above zero population growth. Immigrants are not required to pay the sex tax for the first five years.

The Champion attempted to get a telephone interview with the Benevolent Dictator from his isolated tropical island retreat, but could make no sense of what he was saying through his tears and laughter.