



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Working at prison like being in a war

Dear Editor:

Working at Maplehurst these last couple of weeks is as close to a feeling of being in the Vietnam War as I ever wish to be.

Soon after entering the war against the enemy Harris government, you quickly learn who your friends and allies are. Contrary to media reports of inmates losing throughout this work dispute, they have actually benefited (as they usually do).

Visits continue, canteen is freely given out by administrators trying to buy off inmates' favours and they are given late night television to 1:30 a.m. to shut them up.

What do the correctional officers get in return? Inmates blatantly disobey rules, fires are set and staff are sent to hospital with smoke inhalation, much to the entertainment of the inmates.

Managers are easily led "yes" people, who are being paid enormous amounts of taxpayer money to stay in Maplehurst during this dispute, fully knowing that a significant group of them are to be permanently released, soon after this is over.

Please do not have any animosity towards the correctional officers, as they are your friends, relatives and neighbours doing a very difficult job in these trying times. We were forced into this job action by many outside interest groups.

Thank you Milton, for the many donations you have unselfishly given our picket line, they are much appreciated.

Kevin Welsh
Milton

She wants Harris to preserve jobs

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter to Premier Mike Harris from a 16 year old.

I am writing you because of the education cuts. I live in a small town called Milton, and go to Milton District High School. Yesterday our principal told us of the cutbacks.

Within the few hours we had known what had happened, our school body joined the fight for our teachers. We have cards that show support for the teachers from the students and we also have posters. We care deeply for our teachers and our future.

The government and adults say we don't care about anything, but that's not true! On behalf of the students everywhere we are asking you to please reconsider the after effects of what the government has done to our future. We don't feel it's fair that the government can take away any little hope of a future that we may have. Jobs are hard enough to find, but with the lack of

Thoughtful teens pleasant surprise for birthday lady

Dear Editor:

We are always hearing about how bad the youth of today is. With this in mind, I would like to tell you about what happened recently.

Recently it was my 50th birthday. My family surprised me by putting pink flamingos in the snow banks, a banner on the garage door and a mobile sign at the end of the driveway.

At noon, there was a knock on the door, and two teenagers were there.

They had seen the sign and decided to sing "Happy Birthday" to me. I didn't know these young adults and they didn't know me. I thought it was one of the sweetest gestures ever extended toward me.

It is nice to realize that most of the youth of today are decent, upstanding citizens and this proves it.

Carol French
Milton

teachers it will be much harder, if not impossible.

Classes are full with 30 students, but if the government's plan goes through then there will be 40-50 students per class. The only teachers that are left will have to teach those classes. They won't be able to give extra help anymore, because of the limited time.

I want to make a difference for once, and I'm not going to stand by and let you destroy our futures.

All I'm asking for is your support. Please try and make a difference.

Liz Skelton
Milton

Double take on columns

Dear Editor:

It has been my impression that The Champion has represented a singularly narrow point of view. This, however, reached an absolute pinnacle on the column page of a recent Friday edition.

It would appear that agreement could not be closer between the two columns regarding the GTA meeting.

To provide some width to your coverage, one of these gentleman will have to change position on the political spectrum. The direction is obvious. When you are on the right "pole", any change is to the left.

D.W. McLean
Milton

Editor's note: Due to a composition error which went unnoticed, Brad Reaume's column of Friday, Feb. 23, was reprinted under Pat Kelly's name as well. As our astute reader cleverly points out, we thus had two right-wing columnists saying exactly the same thing.

It would have been more amusing if we had slipped some left-wing sentiments under one of their names by mistake, but, as many hockey teams will tell you, good left wingers seem to be in short supply these days.

Legion cheering for local fire department

Dear Editor:

The Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 136) would like to use this forum to publicly thank the Milton Fire Department for responding so quickly and competently to our call in the wee hours of the morning, on Sunday, Feb. 18.

Without their prompt response, the Legion would surely have been destroyed. We often take our fire department for granted and it isn't until a fire is actually experienced that one realizes just how important and effective our local fire department is.

Once again to the firefighters of Milton, we thank you for your prompt response to our alarm and for the safekeeping of the Royal Canadian Legion in the years to come.

Robert Randall
President, Branch 136, Milton

LARGER

Calling Area

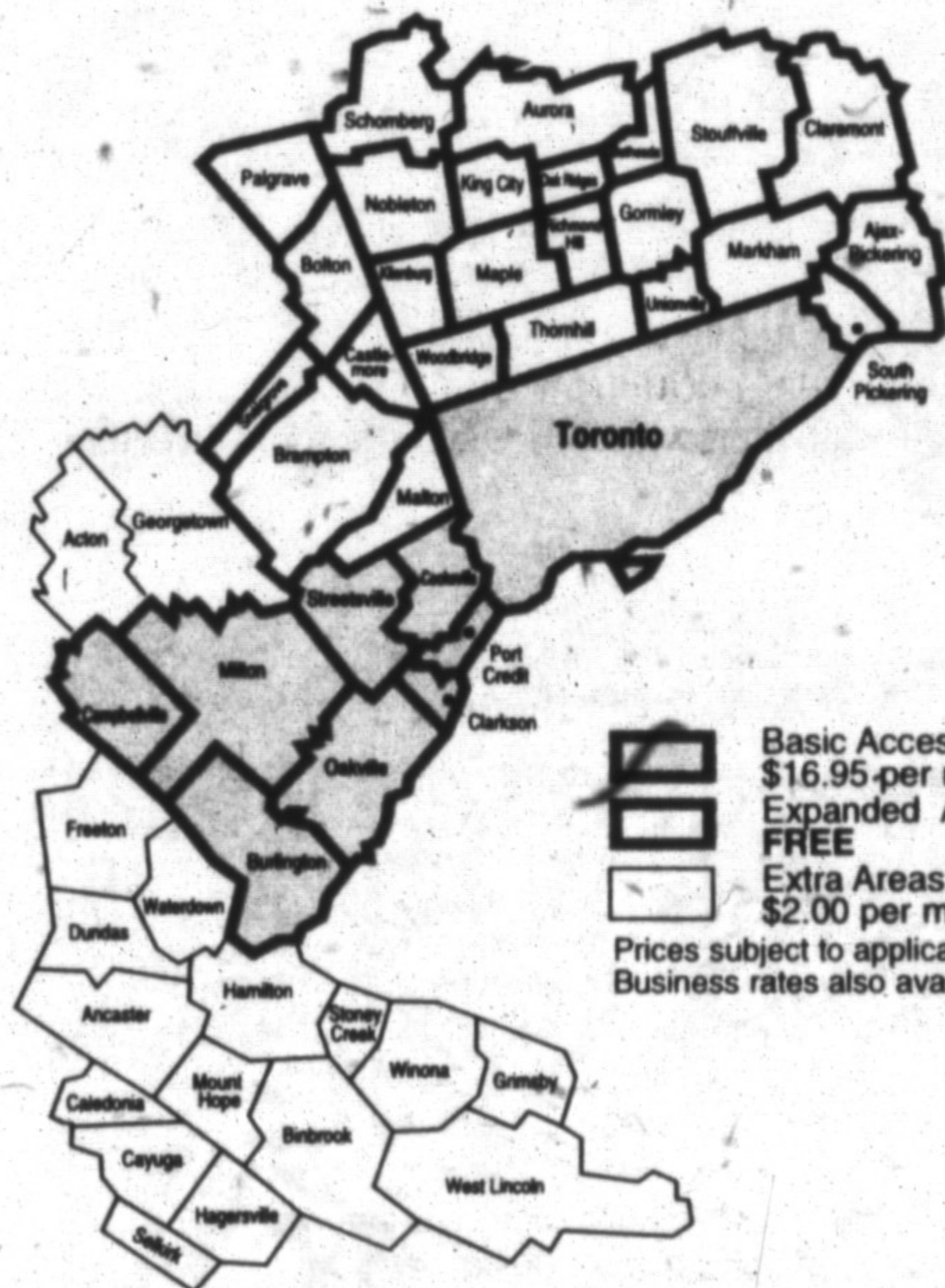
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