



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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What a sorry excuse

The reason why some people can do any stupid, tasteless and insensitive thing they want is because this is a democracy.

It is undoubtedly a democracy due to the efforts of Allied Second World War veterans, who beat back dictatorships that threatened to swallow western Europe and Asia, perhaps even the world.

Ironically then, through the heroic efforts of these now aged warriors, the world and our nation have remained safe, in large part, for any repugnant, callous and stupendously worthless philosophy or sentiment espoused by whichever fool cares to utter it.

In this great scheme of drivel, the Halton Board of Education's stance with regards to war veterans, as detailed in this newspaper last Friday, barely rates a mention. But it is drivel, and hurtful at that, nonetheless.

Bob Parry, the board's superintendent of education services, was the appointed messenger delivering the board's explanatory note on the matter. One can only hope that the position outlined within a letter appearing under his hand evolved elsewhere, since it is a matter of policy, and policy is generally created at the school board level. It is not usually made by bureaucrats, no matter how fancy their titles sound.

The board must be held accountable in this matter anyway, since a profound insult has been delivered. It is up to the board to revise the policy, and to apologize.

Here is the essence of the message Mr. Parry relayed to Milton members of the Royal Canadian Legion, who had asked that public board students take part in the Legion Remembrance Day poster contest:

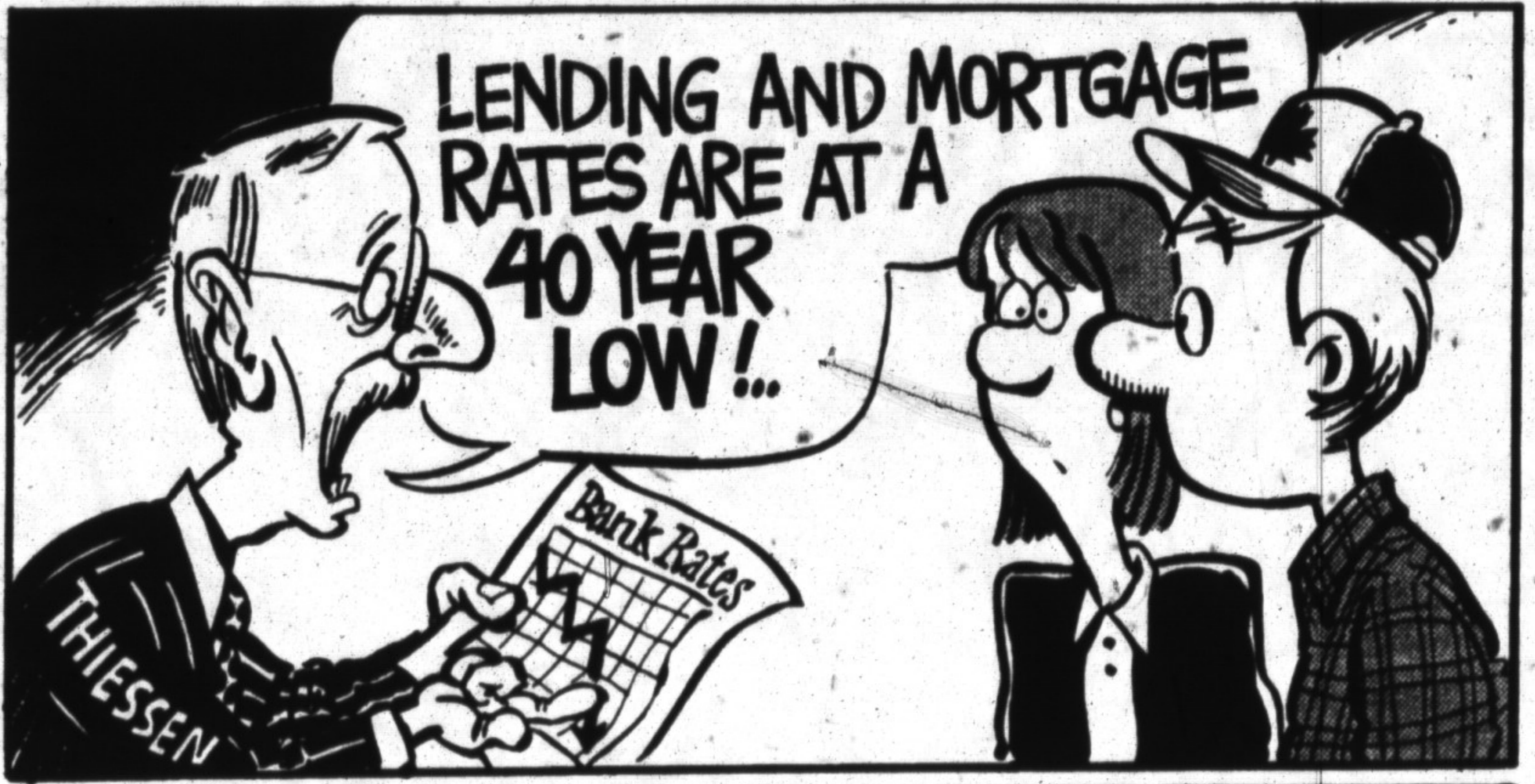
- School time could be better spent doing something else
- The same goes for art supplies
- A poster contest is a wrong-headed idea because it promotes competition
- If the board permitted entry into one such contest it would have to allow entry to them all, out of a sense of fair play

In a perhaps trivial but hopefully humorous aside, just to lighten the mood a moment, imagine what would have happened if the vets had offered similar responses when called to military service by their country. They would have said they couldn't go, because:

- If they entered one such war, they'd have to go to them all
- Wars are wrong-headed because they promote competition
- The volunteers' and conscripts' time could be better spent doing something else, and that would save on military supplies, too

The fact is, the cause the Legion works for is different, and transcends arguments such as Mr. Parry advanced. Those who fought for Canada, and the free world, and those who gave their lives for this just cause, are members of a select group that is exceedingly difficult to join. Celebrating their memory, and appreciating it, deserve a special place in all our hearts. It is so readily apparent to most of us. Why is it not to this school board?

— Rob Kelly



Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the November 15, 1995 issue

• Milton raised astronaut Major Chris Hadfield was flying high aboard the space shuttle Atlantis as part of a NASA mission to the space station Mir. The mission plan included manoeuvring a docking module onto the Russian space station. NASA hoped that such an addition would eventually lead to a permanent space base. A number of Milton residents, including Mayor Gord Krantz, Major Hadfield's parents, and a number of high school students, made the trip to Cape Canaveral to see the take-off.

• Town council approved a plan for a new Loblaws grocery store to be built next to the Milton Mall. According to the proposal, Loblaws would occupy the new 55,000 square foot store and new tenants would be sought for the original 33,000 square foot facility in the mall. Construction at the six-acre, Nipissing Road site was expected to begin in the spring.

20 Years Ago

From the November 17, 1976 issue

• Miltonians were expecting a lively race as the official nominations for the municipal election were posted. Thirty two hopefuls were contesting 15 municipal seats. Mayor Anne MacArthur, seeking a second term, would have to face Donald Gordon. Other notables seeking victory in

various wards included Gordon Krantz, Brian Penman, and Brad Clements.

• Jack McGeachie, Milton's town clerk for the previous eight years, announced his retirement after 30 years of municipal work. Originally from Acton, Mr. McGeachie served as clerk there before moving to Milton in 1968. Campbell Thompson, former deputy clerk under Mr. McGeachie, was appointed to the role of town clerk.

• An interim design for Milton's second high school raised several questions when set before town councillors. The academic, business and technical school, designed to be built at the corner of Thompson Rd. and Main St., would accommodate about 850 students. The overcrowding of Milton District High School, with about 1,300 students, made such planning necessary. Councillors questioned the delay in receiving Ministry of Education approval. The project opening date of fall, 1978 was likely to be pushed back a year. Councillors also questioned the necessity of the proposed indoor swimming pool.

50 Years Ago

From the November 14, 1946 issue

• Veterans of both world wars, behind the lead of the Lorne Scots Pipe Band, paraded to Victoria Park for an impressive Remembrance Day service. Inclement weather didn't keep the crowd of almost 200 from attending the service, designed to honour those who lost their lives during the wars.

Pud

by Steve Nease

