

# Opinion

## Welfare or work?

Many of us are familiar with people who opt for unemployment insurance instead of taking a low paying job at the minimum wage or not much above. Working stiffs don't appreciate the fact that these people don't pick up their share of the social benefit tab and free load on others.

However, it may also be a form of protest because between 1979 and 1986 minimum wage workers in most provinces of Canada lost about 30 per cent of their purchasing power.

In 1976 the average provincial minimum wage was about 52 per cent of the average wage. By 1986 it was only 43 per cent because of inflation.

People who do try to work at low paying jobs and try to support themselves and their families are treated worse than those on the poge or welfare. When they go to work most of their supports are withdrawn although they may still be well below the poverty line. And they must pay unemployment insurance and Canada Pension Plan contributions to boot. Many jobs do not pay benefits and they have to assume the full cost of drugs and glasses.

So what? you say.

Put yourself in their shoes. What would you do, especially when it involves other members of your family?

Obviously something must be done to make low paying jobs more attractive. Now the federal government is clamping down on immigration we'll no longer be able to rely on immigrants to take those jobs.

Unless there's more in it for the working poor we will soon have more on poge and welfare as costs and especially housing continually increase. We can go the other route and cut these benefits and make more people suffer through agonizing poverty. but we should be trying to lower the big gap between the poor and the rich, not raising it.

Canadians are a caring people. We are ready to help those who help themselves. However, if we continue to kill the incentive to work with low wages and poor support we'll find ourselves with more and more people to support as they leave the labor market and work the unemployment insurance racket.

## Local option returns

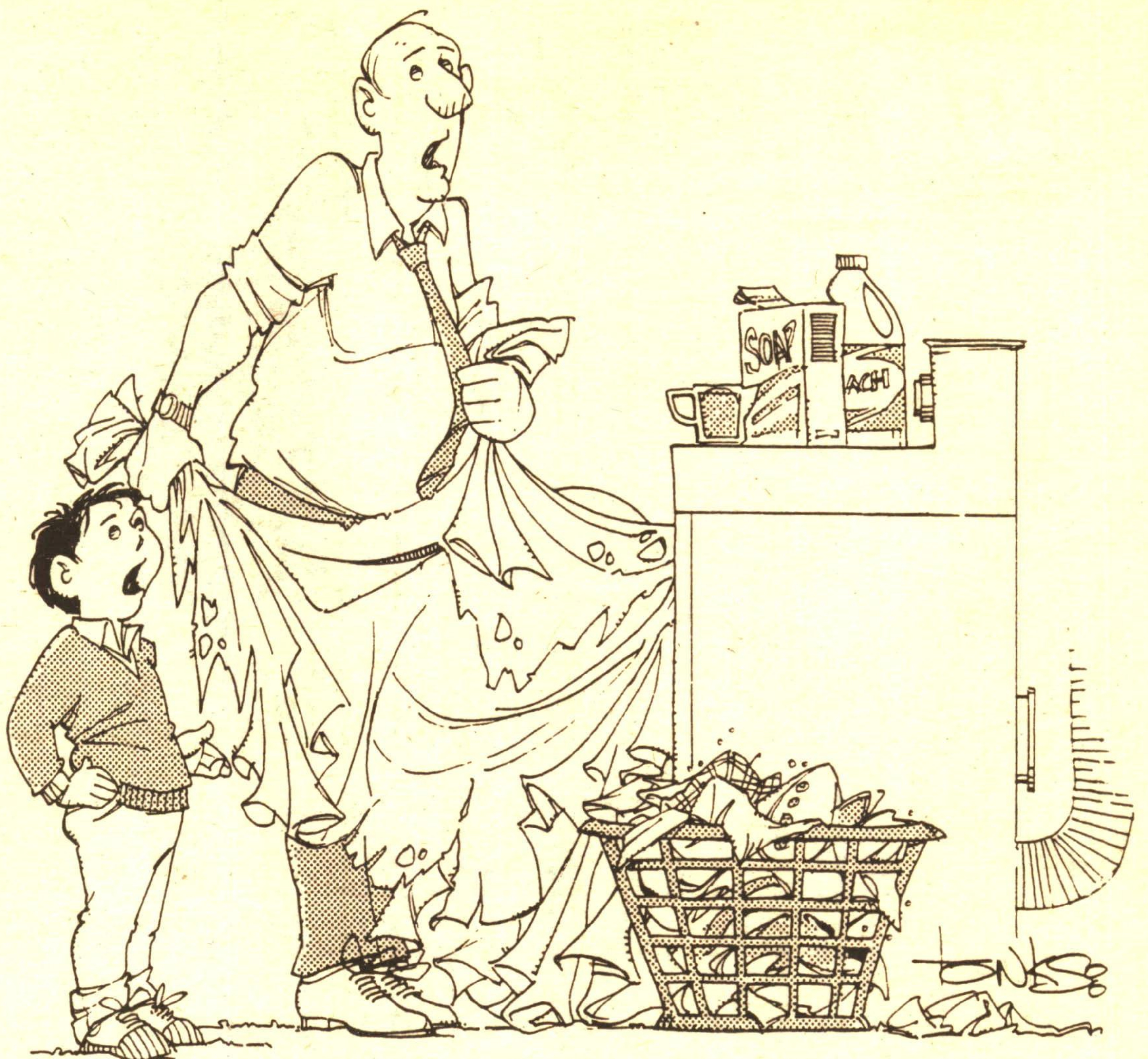
Remember local option when one place had beer parlors and another was dry. Well it has arrived again in the form of Sunday shopping.

Ontario's new Sunday shopping law, Bill 113 passed finally on Tuesday of this week after months of debate and stalling. A companion, bill 114 is designed to give retail workers the right to refuse Sunday work for religious reasons.

The Liberal government is celebrating passage of the two bills with some joy confident they can't lose. The onus on Sunday shopping is now on the municipalities.

Despite protestations from the Government we think passage of the new laws is another road block to a "pause day". It will only take one municipality in the so-called golden horseshoe to open the dike with approvals. Sundays will one day be like any other Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, etc.

We suspect most Ontarians wanted the laws left as they were despite their unfairness. The new laws will only pass the discrimination onto more and different people.—H.C.



"NICE TRY DAD, MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK WITH THE DELICATES...!"

## Noise pollution is damaging

Dear editor,

I'm writing this letter in regards to the noise pollution involved with traffic. The public should be more aware of how damaging noise pollution can be. There are many ways of cutting down noise pollution.

Traffic can damage the health of the public. The hearing can be damaged. Once the hearing is affected, the damage is permanent.

The heart rate is also affected. The faster the heart the higher the blood pressure.

People who live near heavy traffic areas, often have difficulties sleeping. The noise is too intense for people to sleep, and sleeping is important for human survival.

One way of cutting down on noise pollution concerning traffic is for car manufacturers to design a car

that makes less noise. Another way is for the municipalities to have the roads repaved.

The public should be more aware of noise pollution, and therefore demand quieter cars and better road surfaces.

Yours truly,  
T. Peters,  
Kingham Rd.

## Some valentines once illegal

Tuesday's Valentine's Day and millions of cards around the world will be exchanged.

In 1834, a practical method of making paper lace was invented in Britain. These valentines were exquisitely embossed and layered with coloured papers.

For swains who could not write their own verse, "Valentine writers" were available and cards abounded that contained such sentiments as...

*"Armed with sincerity and truth  
I send these lines to you, dear youth;  
In love's own right, I'd fain incline,  
To join my faithful heart with thine."*

These little books must have been in great demand as many were published, some costing no more than a penny.

By 1850, publishing techniques had reached such a high level of perfection that publishers started to experiment. Valentine messages were written on all sorts of paper materials, including bank notes, cheques and drafts.

Bank notes, cheques and draft!?!... These were the heart of the financial establishments... Could cupid be

invading the Halls of Government?

The bankers and governments in both Britain and America were stunned! How good had those presses become? Forgery? Counterfeiting? Surely not that cute little fellow with the wings and bow?

The Bank of England clamped down after one five-pound note hit too close to the mark. And in America, imitation dollar bill valentines caused so much embarrassment, authorities finally outlawed the cards.

Do you remember that special thrill in Grade 3 or 4 of getting a Valentine... the one that wasn't signed, except for the little pencilled "xox" in the corner? Did you wonder all week if it was from that oh-so-cute kid in the back row? the one you used to catch from the corner of your eye, looking at you all the time—or so you thought!

What if they had been banned?

Fortunately, the Valentines of 1989 have not been. They may sound and look different from the paper lace valentines of the nineteenth century, but their purpose is still the same—showing love and affection.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

# HALTON HILLS Week End

KEN BELLAMY  
Publisher

30 MAIN STREET, SOUTH  
GEORGETOWN, L7G 3G4

The Halton Hills Week End, published every Saturday at 30 Main St. S., Georgetown, Ont. is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Erin-Hillsburgh Echo, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Rockwood-Eramosa Review, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

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 reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate.

In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content of The Halton Hills Week End is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscription \$19 per year by carrier, \$52 per year by mail in Canada; \$75. per year in all other countries.

EDITORIAL - 877-5266, 853-2219  
Managing Editor: Hartley Coles  
Staff Writers: Pam Douglas, Anne Currie, Cynthia Gamble, Dan Ralph, Mark Holmes, Stuart Johnston  
Photography: Ted Brown Sylvia Jones

BUSINESS OFFICE - 877-5266, 853-2219  
Manager: Jean Shewell  
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Sherry Mitchell  
Receptionist: Barb Izzio

ADVERTISING - 877-5266, 853-2219  
Director of Advertising: Bill Cook  
Advertising Manager: Sandra Dorsey  
Display Sales: Connie Duivenvoorden  
National Representative: Dal Browne 493-1300

CLASSIFIED - 877-5266, 853-2219  
Manager: Janet Bruton  
Staff: Carol Hall, Barb Izzio, Arlene Bellamy

DISTRIBUTION  
CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS  
877-5266, 853-2219  
TORONTO LINE - 451-9024  
Manager: Nancy Geissler, Leslie Miller  
Staff: Steve Wagner, Jean Brander