

Our Readers Write

GOOD FOR ERAMOSAY
Dear Sir,
I read with great interest in your paper of October 21, that the Township of Eramosay has been so forthright and mind-out of the interests of its taxpayers that they have renovated No. 10 School for their Township Officers. It was also interesting to see that the estimated cost is only going to be \$10,000 of which they will receive a good proportion from the Government's Centennial Grants.

What a pity it is that our own Council of Nassagaweya could not also be in accord with our people, and so trusted by them to do the best for our Township. If perhaps over the years we had been told more of what they were doing each year and not forced to accept their "like-for-dump-it attitude" after election was over, this distrust of them would never have grown to the proportions it has now reached.

Good luck and congratulations to Eramosay Council, and thank you for drawing it to our attention.

Yours sincerely,
John E. Simpson,
R.R. 1,
Campbellville.

NEW TRUCK
Acton, Ontario,
November 12, 1964

To the Editor:
It has recently come to the attention of the undersigned that the Town of Acton has seen fit to purchase a new truck to be used for snow plowing and other purposes.

The cost of this truck is the sum of \$23,300, and it will be paid for by the taxpayers of the Town of Acton, to an out-of-town dealer. How does our council go about spending this large amount of money, where did they spend it, and what qualifications does our council have in selecting specifications for such a truck?

It is customary when spending public funds, to call open tenders, but the excuse in this case, is that the undersigned Ford and General Motors Dealers could not provide a suitable 6 cylinder truck. The council then decided to invite bids from out-of-town dealers.

If council had gone about their job thoroughly, as we would have expected people entrusted with public funds to do, they would have found that General Motors had available a suitable model in both 1964 and 1965 models and that Ford had available a suitable 1965 model.

The question of the 6 cylinder engine was discussed with the Ford Dealer some months ago, but the undersigned General Motors Dealer was never contacted about 6 cylinder availability or about purchasing a truck. However, literature concerning a GMC truck now being used by the D.H.O. and other counties and townships, in Ontario, was sent to the Road Department during the summer.

A phone call to the Road Chairman disclosed that his bias is for settling upon specifications was a discussion with local truck operators, who may, or may not, know anything about snow plow operations. We submit that the proper way to develop specifications for the purchase of a snow plow truck is to refer to the Department of Highways, which recommends one truck from each manufacturer which will suit the purpose intended. Further detailed discussions with other municipalities or counties is helpful in determining the specifications. Mere knowledge that a

neighboring township has purchased a certain truck is not enough knowledge upon which to act.

The procedure must be to develop complete and written specifications, then call open tenders. This was obviously not done here in Acton.

We have also been told, by certain members of council, that the truck was actually ordered seven to ten days before the council met to pass a formal motion. The decision to place the order being based on an informal polling of some or all members of council.

Does this procedure of doing business, not writing specifications, (the only information we received was the listing of the truck that has been ordered, not specifications upon which to base a decision), not calling open tenders, and ordering the truck before council passed the motion, conform to the regulations of the Ontario Municipal Act? How do the taxpayers feel about it?

The undersigned pay substantial taxes to the Town and try their best to be good corporate citizens. Many employees of the undersigned live in town and also contribute to municipal upkeep by way of Taxes. Wherever possible, we purchase goods and services in town.

Each of the factories which we represent purchase goods and services in town and although the amounts spent are small in relation to the total economy of the Town, the amounts are growing and do indirectly contribute to the welfare of the Town.

At this point, we would stress that this is no "Sour Grapes" complaint.

Even if one of us did receive the order by winning an open tender, the bidding is so competitive that it is unlikely the profit would cover the time involved in working out the specifications in order to submit a bid. Our factories expect us to bid on all local tenders, at an extremely small profit, and we do so, but how competitive is a price chosen from two invited bidders, who may have been aware that we were not invited to bid?

We heard rumors in the late spring that a new truck was under consideration. Could not council have taken positive steps in six months to find out if the local dealers would be qualified to bid? We kept expecting to see a tender call in this paper, but it never appeared.

It should be noted that one member of council objected to this method of spending \$23,300, but as for the remainder of council, the undersigned respectfully submits the wisdom of their decision, in this case, is wide open to question. It could be that more public funds have been spent in this manner by council — we do not know, but perhaps all of us, as taxpayers, should pay much closer attention to their proceedings.

If in future, more taxpayers will be aware of what our elected officials are doing with our money, then our purpose of writing this letter will be served.

Yours very truly,
Ray Thompson,
Peter C. Masson.

LOSS OF DEMOCRACY
Dear Sir:
Friday the 13th of November was indeed a black, black day for Nassagaweya, and I hope the infamy of that day will be remembered at the next and all future Municipal Elections.

It seems ironical and hypocritical to me that on November 11, Councillors, who stood at the Cenotaph, heads bared and bowed in reverence in memory of those who fought and died so that we may enjoy democracy, should, two days later, deny us, the people of Nassagaweya, the most important democratic right of all, the right to vote. The fact that the O.M.B. upheld this dictatorial attitude appalls me. News media, both National and local, urges us, the people, to exercise our democratic right and get out and vote — lest one day you lose the right to vote — well that day has come in Nassagaweya. In world affairs Canada preaches democracy, but at home we are not allowed to practice it.

If we in Nassagaweya are still allowed to vote in the Municipal elections on Dec. 7 I hope every one will get out and vote. Dictators may have forced upon us a new Municipal Building, but let's make sure a new Council sits in it and administers through democracy. To me the preference of the O.M.B. should be the construction of a new Township hall, was pure, is a matter of economics. The fact that No. 3 School would qualify for a Centennial project made it all the more attractive, but the out-of-hand denial by the O.M.B. (servants of the Government of the day) to vote on the issue, has convinced me that Nassagaweya has been caught in the power play of the two major political parties.

We have become the Cinderella of Halton County, wooed on the one hand by Prince Harry Harley, who descended from his liberal castle with his glass slipper — in the shape of a new Regional Post Office for Campbellville, and Prince George Kerr, who descended from his Conservative castle with his glass slipper — in the shape of a new Municipal Building. At first the Conservative motives confused me until I realized that William Coulter, also of the Conservative Clan is a potential Federal Conservative candidate, and the hollow victory given him by the O.M.B. will stand him in good stead should he become a Federal Candidate. His praises would be sung all over Halton County. What he has done for Nassagaweya he can do for you! (We might lose the right to vote entirely.)

The point is — Where do we, the peasants fit in? Do we keep our mouths shut and just keep on paying out? Paying out for what? Our future? Our children's future? Or some two politician's political future? We the people of Nassagaweya can decide once and for all.

On December 7th, get up, get out, and cast your vote — for a return to democracy.

William A. Johnson
R.R. 2, Rockwood

—One of the college students directing the Y program intends to write a column of Y news for the paper.



CANADIAN PLAYERS presented "Passion and Destiny" Friday afternoon for the high school students and a repeat performance in the evening for parents. Seen chatting with two of the cast are two of the high school drama club. Cast member Mary Benning signs an autograph for Janice Iyland while cast member Paul Harding signs for Anne Bennett. The afternoon performance drew a sellout crowd while the evening show attracted only about 100 adults.

Halton County Junior Farmers Visit Ottawa, Carleton County

Thirty Halton Junior Farmers left Milton Friday, October 23 for Ottawa and Carleton County by bus, arriving in Ottawa at 1:00 a.m. Saturday after a tiring but enjoyable journey. Heric Delmar Cavanagh, the County Director, introduced them to the Carleton juniors and welcomed them to the County. Two Halton juniors, at least, were billeted at the homes of the respective Junior Farmers' Farms in the county for an exciting weekend.

Carleton county is four times larger than Halton so the members were well distributed across the county. A program of varied events set the scene of Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday morning the hosts took Halton members on individual tours of famous landmarks in Ottawa: Chateau Laurier, City Hall, the Canadian Mint, Ottawa River and Confederation Square, commonly known as confusion square.

All the members met at the Parliament Buildings for a guided tour through the Canadian House of government. Then there was a quick drive through the governmental experimental farm on the outskirts of Ottawa.

Halton members left Ottawa for a tour of the western section of Carleton. The first stop was at the dairy farm of Garnett Ralph near Richmond. Mr. Ralph specializes in growing corn for cub storage and feeding it to his commercial Holstein herd of 100 cows and heifers. He raises his Holstein heifers until they are three year olds and then sells them at his annual sale.

Mr. Ralph is also in partnership with a commercial fertilizer plant which supplies the surrounding farms. The plant is strictly on the automatic basis. This ended the Saturday afternoon program.

To top off the weekend, Carleton held a dance in Vernon

William Gillies President Halton New Democrat Party

William D. Gillies of Oakville, a former Provincial candidate for the Halton New Democratic Party, was named president of the Halton association at the group's annual meeting and election of officers in Milton.

Bill Ramachan of Georgetown was named vice-president, Murray Kernighan of Milton secretary and Mrs. G. Barlow of Burlington treasurer.

Members at large are D. Niemi, J. and S. McKay, Oakville; A. Tichel, Georgetown; and Cliff Hayes, Milton. W. Brown of Georgetown was elected party organizer and M. Kernighan and John Hart of Acton were chosen delegate and alternate to the provincial Council. Bert Haddock of Georgetown and R. Drankalder of Acton were named auditors.

Canada's Problems
The speaker for the evening was Lynn Williams, an Area Supervisor for the United Steelworkers in the Niagara District. Mr. Williams, a graduate of McMaster University, spoke to the Halton members in terms of the problems we face in Canada in the immediate future. He said that the Democratic Socialists had been responsible for the fact that Canadians now accepted the need for measures like medicare and economic planning in today's society. Mr. Williams pointed out that every political party in the last election had included some



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