

Morty, John Root debate liquor laws

Morton Shulman, highly publicized MPP for High Park, Toronto, and MPP John Root of Wellington-Dufferin were involved in a debate in the Ontario Legislature about the province's liquor laws.

The Free Press prints parts of the debate here to outline some of the problems and solutions proposed at the provincial level, and because liquor votes have been successful in both Acton and Eramosa township during the municipal elections:

Mr. Shulman: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present my views on this problem. First of all, on the general situation of alcohol, speaking as a physician, I don't think it's realized by many of the people in this chamber just how serious a problem this is becoming. Not just in people becoming alcoholics, in the loss of time, in the loss of family life or in the ructions incurred there, but in the fields of crime and car deaths.

We now know that more than 50 per cent of the deaths occurring in automobile accidents are as a result of alcohol. We now know that a much higher percentage of violent crimes are as a result of alcohol. And for a suggestion to come from Saul Ste. Marie or anywhere else that we do more to promote the sale of it or that we do less to control it, to my mind is just leading to further and greater disasters in our society.

I think we have to control this drug, because it is a far more serious danger to our society than all of the pot, all of the LSD and all of the heroin in the world. We hear a great deal about the dangers of drugs and of kids smoking pot, but it doesn't amount to a hill of beans compared with the human loss that's taking place as a result of alcohol—

and I think we have to take steps to control this.

I think the first obvious step—and the member for Brant was quite right—is to stop this advertising. There's very little we can do about the people we see in front of us: whatever habits they have, they've been formed. But the advertising is directed to people who are just beginning to drink, the 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds and younger. I'm sorry to say—they're the ones we can still help to protect.

It used to be, not too many years ago, that we used to have advertising in the schools warning of the dangers of drinking and the dangers of alcohol, and what could come of it. Well, that's all disappeared. Now we have, "Have a Red Lager or you're not one of the boys", and according to these ads, unless you have a glass in your hand, filled with beer or liquor, you're just not with it.

I don't think they should be allowed. I am very well aware of the minister's problem. I know how much money the liquor companies give the government. I'm aware that it is very very difficult for him to move against them, but somewhere along the line the needs of society are going to have to take precedence over the needs of the Conservative Party—especially their immediate needs.

Incidentally, I must give a word of credit to the minister. I don't think he can be responsible because he's now here. It used to be you had to pay \$10,000 for a listing. The price has come down considerably. In fact, the day before yesterday I heard of a chap who got a listing without having to pay a penny. I don't know whether it is inefficiency on the part of Mr. Kelly or whether the minister is changing his policies but in any case, for that I give him credit.

Hon. Mr. Clement: Tell us a little more about it. I'd like to make some notes on that.

An hon. member: He could even fly the minister. They could do it together.

Mr. E. M. Havrot (Timiskaming): Tell us a little more about it. You know it all.

Mr. Shulman: Anyway, a word about local option. The member for Brant suggested this should be abolished because of certain farcical situations that have developed in the past year. The one for Formosa Brewery of course was absolutely ridiculous. But I must point out to him and to you that there are areas of the province where local option is of extreme importance to the people who live there.

My own is one such area. We are dry at the present time. We are having a vote in a week and a half as to whether we should remain dry and this isn't a farcical situation. There the people are deeply concerned about the problem of liquor outlets.

I believe that a very high majority of the people in High Park drink in moderation. I also believe that a very large majority of the people in High Park wish to retain their area of homes as an area without liquor outlets because of the abuses that come in areas where there are liquor outlets—the drunks on the street, the increase in crime which invariably follows them, the numerous social problems that occur when there are local outlets. We don't have to go that far out of High Park to get a drink if we want one. There are certainly outlets surrounding us at all the edges as it's only a very small area, and I would urge the government to maintain local option.

Surely if the majority of people in an area do not wish to have liquor outlets in their area they should be given that privilege? I certainly—

Mr. Shulman: There is one more thing I would like to say. The dangers of alcohol have not been appreciated by this ministry, by this government or by this House. We are contributing incredibly to the sale of hard liquor, to the ruination of this society. The government is increasing its earnings by many millions of dollars each year.

I have a suggestion to make to the minister. Take a fixed percentage of that increase—10 per cent or five per cent of the profits that the government received—and donate it to research and control in the use and abuse of alcohol. We are giving tiny amounts—less than one per cent of the profit each year—to investigation and control.

I suggest to the minister if he is going to do one thing that is going to have any lasting effect—he will do a lot of things that have minimal effect and we'll argue about them; it'll hit the headlines—but if he is really going to care if someone remembers him 10 years or 20 years hence, he should divert a portion of that fund to help those who are suffering the effects of liquor abuse.

That will be far more important than all the other things that we talk about. We talk about the funny, silly things they do down there and the abuses that they cause, but those are minor. This is the major problem; the minister should direct himself there and he will really do something worthwhile.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the Conservative Party is next, is it not? The hon. member for Wellington South.

Mr. J. Root (Wellington-Dufferin): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to this debate and I am not going to take very much time, but I want to make one or two comments.

There has been a suggestion in the debate that the principle of local option should be

abolished. I cannot agree with that. The riding that I have the honor to represent has 14 municipalities where the people, by their own choice have decided that they do not want liquor outlets in those municipalities. I have six municipalities that now, by their own choice, have decided they want certain types of liquor outlets. When I was first elected there were five.

I am not going to try to impose my own personal feelings on anyone, but I do think the people have some right to decide what type of municipality they want to live in. I have had wet municipalities. I have supported the applications for liquor stores and the various types of outlets because that was the decision of the people in those areas.

I think the dry municipalities have an equal right to express their views. If the time comes when they want liquor outlets, let them say so and they have the means under the local option legislation to make that decision.

I want to make one suggestion. I have listened with great interest to the comments along some of the same lines as the member for High PARK. I have watched liquor advertising and it is very attractive. But what I have in my files are the problems created by the overconsumption of alcohol which is altogether different from liquor advertising. I can always tell the heavy drinking areas from the thickness of my files on municipalities.

People lose their drivers' licences. They come to me asking, "What am I going to do? I have to have a licence to drive." Maybe there is a motor accident. Somebody is critically hurt and they are in the hospital; or maybe there are convictions. All these problems are associated with it.

It seems to me, to be fair to all sides of this question, I would like to suggest that the minister look at the possibility of having the liquor interests contribute to the health program the same amount of money that they contribute to advertising their products.

Mr. MacDonald: We were suggesting that 10 years ago! Why didn't the government put it in effect?

Mr. Root: I am making my speech now and I am saying this—

Mr. MacDonald: That is the gestation period for a good idea on the government side of the House.

Mr. Root: Well—

Mr. F. Drea (Scarborough Centre): It is the only side that ever has an idea.

Mr. Root: Mr. Speaker, I suggest this because the health program has to pick up the effects or the byproducts of the liquor advertising and the overconsumption of alcohol. I don't think it is fair to the people who don't consume alcohol that they have to

have their premiums raised to take care of the byproducts of a trade that increases the load on our hospital facilities. I think that this is one way that we could give some reasonable compensation, to ask the liquor industry to put the same amount of money into our health program that they put into the advertising of their products.

Mr. R. F. Nixon: Why not stop advertising?

Mr. Root: Well, that's another idea then. I think if they had to put that kind of money in, they might be a little more careful of the type of advertising that they use. This is putting a penalty on the liquor industry and it will be a recognition of the fact that the excessive consumption of alcohol does create problems. I make that suggestion.

I cannot agree about what has been said about the Liquor Licence Board and the Liquor Control Board. They are dealing with a matter that causes great concern and causes problems. I think that they are trying to do the best they can with a very contentious subject.

I just make these two or three suggestions: Don't abolish local options. I think that the people have some right to say what kind of municipality they live in. Ask the liquor industry to put the same kind of money into our health program that they put into their advertising. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York Centre.

Mr. Deacon: Mr. Speaker, I rise and support the position taken by my leader with regard to this whole question of local option. I personally worked very hard on two occasions to oppose the granting of liquor outlets of any sort in the area in which I live.

But once the province imposed on us those outlets by allowing clubs to have licences, it made a farce of the whole business. We should recognize that instead of saying that those who have the money to belong to a club can have drinks in areas, even though the people don't want those drinks. Unless we do recognize that hypocrisy, then we are making a great mistake.

I suggest to the member who has just spoken that he should realize that any person who has money to join a club in his area is abusing the rights of the people he is pretending to defend by insisting that local option continues. When that change was made, we changed the rules of the game in this province. We are just kidding ourselves until we eliminate this whole business of local option which causes a great deal of heated debate and yet has no real effect when you get down to the analysis of it.

Mr. Root: In other words, the member wants it thrown wide open, right across the province?

TOYS AND REINDEER
On the night before Christmas, according to tradition, Santa Claus and his sleighful of toys are swirled through the air by eight reindeer who answer to such spirited names as Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen.



Greetings

A Star to guide them on their way, Wise Men came bearing gifts. Today the wonder glows anew, with gifts of joy to gladden every heart. May yours be a blessed Christmas.

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Greetings
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A Joyous Christmas
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Family, friends produce articles for gift shop

Charming Pat Clemons, owner of the gift shop The Anonymous Benefactor, finds Acton a perfect location. She has just moved here from Scarborough, and wanted to be in a small town half way between Toronto and Brantford where she has relatives and friends.

She has set up her first shop in her own home on Wilbur St. and two of the downstairs rooms are filling up with articles of her own making or her own choice.

Living with her and also always willing to chat to browsers are her daughter Jeanine and brother Bruce Nobbs. Jeanine is in public school and Bruce attends Acton high school now. The family cat is another newcomer very willing to make friends.

Starts with candles
Pat started making candles three years ago and it is still her specialty. She strives for effects that can't be duplicated in mass production. Beeswax candles and pillars of wax with poinsettias imbedded in them are some of the candles delightfully arranged in the rooms. The hall has a wrought-iron spiral staircase

with gifts on its angled treads. She also does picture framing herself.

Parents help
It's her mother in Scarborough who makes the gift-sized jars of preserves.

Brother Bruce has a fascinating hobby - skin diving. He has located old bottles, crocks, ink wells and even a tea pot. Where he chooses to dive for these sunken treasures is in Muskoka, offshore from old hotels! With bottle collecting growing in popularity, he has some of his finds in another shop as well. Pat's father specializes in fascinating pictures made in layers, which are properly called "Vue d'optique." These are beautiful framed and others can be ordered.

She is specializing in wrought iron, with tables, chairs, lamps and decorative articles catching attention everywhere. These are made at a smithy at Glen Orchard in Muskoka.

Contacts with other artistic friends have produced Christmas decorations, dried flower arrangements, mounted photographs, pottery and a host of other gifts in all price ranges. Tiny Christmas figures and wrapping paper catch the eye these days.

She also hopes to contact local craftspeople.

She is happily surprised at how many Acton people have already been dropping in to her new shop, which is open every afternoon but Mondays.

CHRISTMAS DAY
Pope Julius, about the year 349 A.D., fixed Dec. 25 as the date of Christmas. Two years later, after agreement on this date had been reached among church officials, some in favor of fixing the date in January or March, Julius decreed that Christmas should therefore be celebrated on Dec. 25. In the 6th century A.D., the year 543, Christmas was made a legal holiday in Rome. But, even 100 years before that, the Roman government had required all theatres to close on Christmas day.

Poinsettias popular at yuletide

The poinsettia is probably the most popular potted plant at Christmas time.

A colorful show is provided by the bright red (sometimes cream) bracts that surround the true blossoms. If you receive a poinsettia as a gift, remember that it needs special care to last for the holiday season.

Poinsettias require a high light intensity and temperatures of about 65 degrees. The plants will do best when placed in a sunny window. Keep them out of drafts and rising air currents from heat registers.

The dry air in many homes may cause the plants to drop the decorative bracts. To slow this process, keep the plants well-watered, without leaving the soil wet.

After your poinsettia has "flowered", store it in a cool, dry place and let the soil dry out. When the danger of frost is over in the spring, you can transplant it into your garden.

An example of inflation can be seen in the price of whiskey. In 1807 a distillery in Trafalgar Township sold the spirits for 50 cents a gallon.

Take care of leftover turkey

When the Christmas dinner is over, before everyone has gone off to enjoy the evening, take care of the leftover turkey. Food specialists at the Ontario Food Council, Ministry of Agriculture and Food suggest you take special precautions with leftovers so that they may be enjoyed at a later date.

It is not a good idea to leave leftovers at room temperature. Immediately following the meal, remove any stuffing left in the turkey and store it in a covered container in the refrigerator.

Take all meat off the carcass, wrap, cover and refrigerate. Leftover meat and stuffing should be used within 2 to 3 days, or frozen immediately for later use.

Never freeze a stuffed bird, either before or after cooking.

Greetings

Here's to a very Merry Christmas full of peace and happiness.

from everyone at
ADAMS BUS DEPOT



Merry Christmas

The best of hopes are extended to you for a warm, happy holiday with friends you hold near and dear.

DR. L. A. EMBRACK AND STAFF



Reflections of Christmas fill the air with Santa, children, gifts and smiles. Hope they're all part of your holiday.

Acton Home Furnishings



Merry Christmas

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