



AFTER A RECENT TRIP to Washington D.C., the Gregorys were glad to come home, to their R.R. 3, Acton home. Bruce Gregory is part of teacher exchange and is teaching at the E.C. Drury school for the Deaf in Milton. He has traded jobs and homes with James McCulloch and wife Eleanor for one year. Judy Gregory and children Paul, age 11 and Melissa, 8, love their new home and all have made many friends since arriving on New Year's Eve.

From Australia

Gregory family part of exchange

The initial homesickness period is over, and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gregory and family have settled into the Canadian way of living.

Mr. Gregory is an exchange teacher from Australia, trading jobs and homes with James McCulloch and his wife Eleanor, R.R. 3, Acton, for a year. Mr. Gregory is now with E.C. Drury school for the Deaf in Milton, and Mr. McCulloch is at a private boys' school near Wollongong, south of Sydney, New South Wales.

Melissa, age eight years, missed her home very much until she made friends at Ospringe school, where she and her brother Paul, 11, are attending classes. Mother Judith feels pangs of homesickness after the children and husband have left for school and she is in the large McCulloch home alone, watching the snow silently fall outside.

They had to adjust to many major differences most Canadians take for granted. Left hand drive was an experience, and Mr. Gregory took his first shot at it in Los Angeles California on a stop over there while heading for Toronto. Mrs. Gregory was surprised to see the traffic at one a.m. there was as bad as in Sydney, Australia during rush hour.

The Gregorys had to get used to the food here, which is a lot sweeter, especially bread. When Australians are turning a light on, she says, they flip the switch down, whereas in Canada it is the opposite. At home, instead of plugging in the toaster they would flip a switch, as all electrical appliances are on their own switches, because of their voltage.

Names of some items are different. The first time Mrs. Gregory went grocery shopping in Acton, she had a hard time finding cornflower, until she realized she should have been seeking cornstarch. The same with catsup. Where the Gregorys come from, it is called tomato paste, and what is tomato paste here, is tomato puree in Australia.

The Gregorys have also found Canadians to be very polite. She cited drivers and telephone operators as examples.

It was a long trip for the Gregorys to get to their new home. Thirteen hours after

21.5 cents per mile

In an attempt to offset increased costs in gasoline and car repairs, Halton Region's Administration Committee has recommended an increase in the mileage allowance for

they left Australia, they landed at San Francisco airport. From there they drove to Los Angeles and spent a week with Mr. Gregory's brother. While there, they visited Disneyland, Universal Studios and other tourist sites.

It was while in L.A. that they also met the McCullochs and had a visit with them before heading in different directions.

From L.A. they flew to Toronto, where they were met by friends from Ottawa and Mr. and Mrs. Mae Swan.

Mr. Swan is a teacher at E.C. Drury. The day was New Year's Eve. From the airport, the family went straight to the McCulloch home where Miss Elva Pearen, a neighbor, was waiting to show them the various features of the house. With their newly-formed friends, the Gregorys had a quiet New Year's Eve celebration.

Even though the Gregorys have not been long in Canada, they have seen more of the country and the northern United States than many people. A visit to Rochester, New York to the National Technical Institute also included side trips to Niagara Falls and Erie Pennsylvania. All the exchange teachers in the area got together and took a bus trip to the Quebec Winter Carnival for another mini-vacation.

Last week, the Gregorys spent their time in Washington D.C., Gettysburg, and Baltimore areas. Mr. Gregory said the family was very disappointed in Washington, but were very impressed with Gettysburg, and Baltimore areas. However, once they crossed the border into Canada everyone was glad "to be home".

"This summer a trip to the east coast is planned as well as to many of the states. When the family leaves for home next December, they must leave from Vancouver airport. They hope to take the train out west in order to see the entire country.

School system Mrs. Gregory explained there is quite a difference between the Canadian school system and the Australian system. She noted the teachers at home work on a day-to-day basis and do not have contracts. She pointed out, however, that she feels

the contracts make the teachers more conscientious. Mrs. Gregory also feels the Canadian schools are must better equipped in all areas. She also explained that in Australia, the schools depend a lot on the parents and their Parents and Citizen associations. The parents have various fund-raising events to make money for the schools, and they also work right in the schools.

The Canadian cost of living is affecting the Gregorys more than they thought. Mr. Gregory is receiving his salary from the Australian government, set for living in that country. It is difficult for the average person to keep up with high inflation here, much less someone living on the wages of another country. Mrs. Gregory pointed out however that there are some things in Canada which are cheaper than at home. Telephone calls, mail service, electrical appliances and cars are better deals here.

Before leaving Australia for Canada, Mr. Gregory visited nearby schools for the deaf and learned the sign language so he would be prepared for his new job. He has had to get used to the totally new way of teaching. He likes his job and the country so much he would like to stay for another two years. However when this possibility is mentioned to the children, they have strong objections. Melissa would like to get home to see her friends, and Paul is anxious to make sure his tree house is intact.

The older Gregorys realize also the complications which would arise between school boards and governments if they were to stay on, and they regretfully face up to the fact they cannot stay. Mrs. Gregory emphasized she loved her home country very much and did not want to sound as if she were putting it down. The family however likes Canada very much and they feel "when in Rome do as the Romans do."

With the unusually cold winter and heavy snowfall this year the Gregorys have been experiencing their first taste of winter. Even after the two major snowstorms this year which had the area reeling—the Gregorys still feel the excitement about snow as they did the first time they saw it. Mrs. Gregory says maybe the family is a bit selfish, but they want even more of the white fluffy stuff most Canadians curse!

When the family returns home next December, they will have gained more knowledge than some people do in a lifetime. They plan to use it to the best of their ability, and to help friends broaden their horizons, through the Gregorys' eyes.

Pat McKenzie objects to Watson's letter

Regional Chairman Ric Morrow overstepped his jurisdiction in the "great dump debate" according to Milton Councillor Jim Watson.

In a letter from Councillor Watson to Chairman Morrow Mr. Watson says: "The regional landfill decision was one of the greatest issues that has ever come before this council. All the background material was available to help councillors make a decision. In the final crunch, the decision was going to be strictly a political one; not necessarily based on rational, sound reasoning and quite contrary to our Interim Regional Official Plan."

"Most councillors had made up their minds prior to the meeting. For you to try and influence those who were still uncommitted at the 11th hour, is overstepping your jurisdiction as chairman and completely unforgivable, as far as I am concerned, especially when the decision was carried by only one vote."

"It became obvious, in my opinion, that you had already reached your boys from the

North and were trying to make a last pitch to expand your influence beyond your area municipality."

"You stated you were speaking for 200,000 people—the correct figure is 180,000 as you sold Milton down the drain."

Mr. Morrow replied to Mr. Watson's charges in a letter and defended the decision as not being political.

An excerpt from his letter reads: "You refer to the decision as being strictly political when, in fact, everything humanly possible was done to make all the information available so that members of Council could base their decision on facts."

"Your reference to the members of the Halton Hills Council is certainly less than respectful of their rights as individuals to vote according to their conscience, and for the purpose of mutual respect and understanding, I hope you might reconsider your statement."

"In addition, you are aware that as Regional Chairman, I do not have an area municipality to represent

other than the entire region and will attempt to reflect that attitude at all times."

Childish Acton area representative Pat McKenzie brought the matter to light at regional council meeting when he rose on a point of personal privilege.

He said Mr. Watson's charges were childish. "I

want council to know that I'll continue to represent the region as a regional councillor and vote as I see fit for the whole of the region," Councillor McKenzie said. Mr. McKenzie voted in favor of locating the regional dump at the corner of Britannia and Tremaine Rd. After the meeting Mr. McKenzie told The Free

Press the record proves the councillors from the north do not vote in a block.

Best interests "I'm going to vote in the best interests of Acton," Mr. McKenzie said. "We have to have a place for our garbage. Reports indicate now that Site F is the best place. The next phase of study might indicate differently."

Mr. McKenzie now sits on a committee to study ways and means of cutting down on the amount of garbage collected. The committee, appointed by Halton Hills, includes councillors Armstrong and Pomeroy.

Mr. McKenzie suggests the burning of leaves and wood as possible suggestions to be considered.

Halton CAS to resist takeover

Halton Region Children's Aid Society will resist efforts Halton Regional Council may make to abolish the CAS as an autonomous body and bring it under the direct control of the

Automobile overturned

There were no serious injuries, according to Milton OPP, when a car driven by Kathleen Brisbin, R.R. 1, Flora, overturned on Highway 25 half a mile north of 10 sideroad Tuesday morning. Approximately \$1,000 damage was done.

Regional Council, according to newly elected CAS President Bryan Clarke.

The president termed the move "retrogressive and a misguided step." He noted the change would require an amendment to provincial legislation.

The most recent suggestion for a takeover is being considered by the Region's Bill 151 Review Committee at the request of Regional Chairman Ric Morrow.

This is not the first time the Halton CAS has had to fight for its autonomy. Regional Council considered the takeover last year but the move

was abandoned after some consideration.

Back in 1972 when Halton was still under a county system, Oakville Deputy Reeve Bill Gillies led an unsuccessful move to bring the CAS under direct control of the county council.

This year it is the 60 per cent increase in the proposed budget that has brought the CAS and the Region to loggerheads.

By legislation the CAS board of directors has six regional councillors or council appointees on the board.

Traditionally the regional

councillors who serve on the board have had poor attendance records. The poor attendance has left councillors in a position where they could not effectively defend or attack the budget when it went before council.

Council lost its battle to bring Halton Region Conservation Authority into the new regional headquarters recently. The Authority saw that as a possible threat to its autonomy.

The Bill 151 Review committee is taking a critical look at the autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies within the region.

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