



## Local councillors, trustees deserve raise

That sticky wicket of councillors' pay popped up briefly at Monday's council meeting and was quickly put back on the rear burner with no decision at all one way or the other for this year.

It might come up again, it might not.

The mere mention of it is more significant this week because of Councillor Mike Armstrong's recent observation that dollar for dollar a local councillor is worth more than a regional councillor.

A report staff prepared comparing Halton Hills councillors' pay with those of trustees, councillors in other Halton municipalities and the region lends credence to Armstrong's view.

If one compares pay cheques for councillors and trustees with the amounts of our tax dollars they control, sort of dollar for dollar, it certainly looks like a Halton Hills councillor or a school trustee is a bargain.

A regional councillor, on the other hand, costs us a lot.

Halton Hills spends about 30 cents of each of our tax dollars. A local councillor is paid \$6,922.

A school board trustee helps spend about 54 cents of each tax dollar. A school trustee is paid \$7,200.

Regional councillors spend about 16 cents of each tax dollar. But they're paid \$13,615 this year.

Other councillors in Halton make from Milton's low of \$5,500 to Oakville's \$7,796 and Burlington's \$9,455. One councillor per ward sits both at Halton Hills and region, so these councillors draw pay from both.

For mayors and chairmen of boards and

councillors the pay range is more dramatic.

The mayor of Halton Hills is paid \$17,490 a year while Milton's Mayor gets \$15,750. Oakville pays its top politician \$23,678 and Burlington \$31,105.

This year the regional chairman's job pays \$45,000 while the school board chairman gets just \$10,800.

The region spends the smallest portion of the local tax dollar, yet it pays the best.

Trustees spend the most and have a bigger system and budget to support, yet they are woefully underpaid.

Local councillors too would seem to be underpaid, though not as much as trustees considering work impacts so strongly on citizens lives, as compared to the region and its pay scale.

The regional councillors' pay has already gone up for this year according to the staff report. We'd like to see a rollback to '83 level and freeze in pay for this post for a couple of years to allow other positions to catch up. In fairness, the region has been restrained with pay hikes in recent years, but that post started out far ahead of the others.

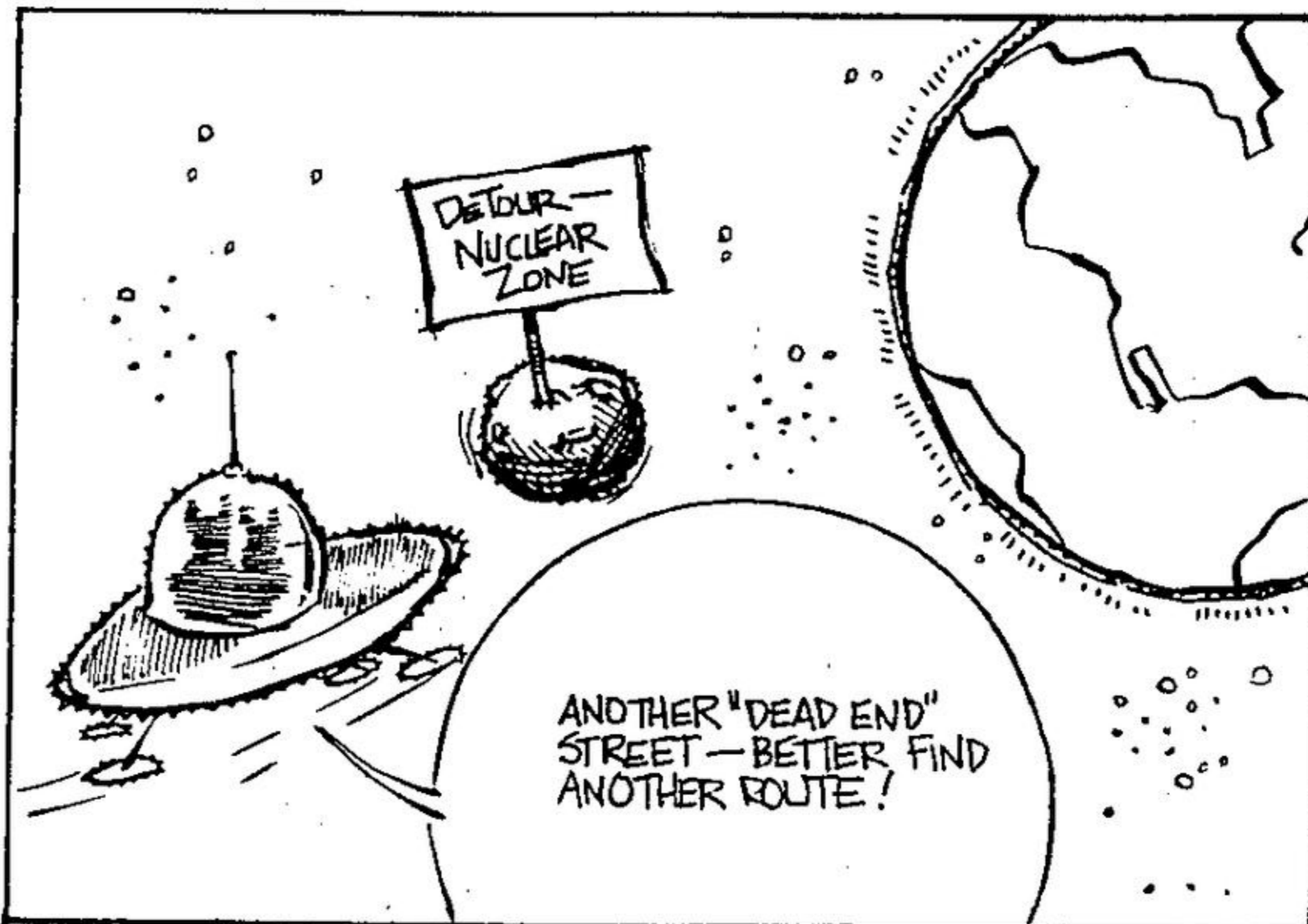
At the same time, as surprising as this may sound, we think a five per cent raise for councillors and trustees would be in order in 1984.

Raises for both have been restrained or skipped altogether in recent years for local councillors and trustees.

The mayor and board chairman also deserve a five per cent pay boost.

Actually both councillors and trustees probably deserve more, but in this day of restraint, five per cent will have to do.—G.M.

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## From the editor's desk

### Dull Grit race not over yet

I don't know about you, but so far the Liberal leadership race has left me pretty cool.

Considering this process will elect a P.M., not just a new Grit leader, the campaign has been pretty dull, with a capital 'D'.

I'm not exactly sure why either. Is this the much vaunted Liberal civility coming out?

Or is this just a dull field? Does it seem tame, compared to last year's Tory heat, because there's no beleaguered leader in it struggling to hold on?

Or is the party as out of steam and enthusiasm as it should be after all these years in power?

For whatever reason, and until some experts tell me differently I'll be content to assume a combination of the above four theories is responsible for the current state of the campaign. I don't think it's going to remain that way to the end.

I noticed a few weeks back Hartley predicted on this page that Turner will probably win, though his pick would be Chretien.

I won't say at this juncture Hart's not right, he'll probably turn out to be on the money, but with five or six weeks left before the convention I still think there's a chance for another scenario.

I'm speaking of one of the other four in the race challenging from third spot after the first ballot.

Joe Clark did it (actually Joe was in fourth after vote I in a bigger field), John Crosbie didn't.

Last June on the eve of the P.C. conclave, I picked the laughing Newfie to come from third on the first ballot to top spot on the sixth ballot.

I still think that's the way it would have worked out too, if there'd been a fifth or sixth ballot.

What went wrong then was fourth place Michael Wilson and sixth place Peter Pocklington both quit after just one vote, reducing the field from eight to just four.

If fringe candidates John Gamble and Neil Fraser had been

the only ones to quit after the first vote, the end result I think, would have been different.

Clark's support slipped on both the second and third ballots.

Crosbie, coming from much further back after the first ballot, picked up more votes on the second and third than second place Mulroney and had the momentum.

However, that's when John ran out of time.

But, I wonder if Clark could have kept his second and third vote slippage from being an avalanche if instead Pocklington had dropped out after two, Crosbie after three and Wilson after four votes.

Anyway, the above "what might have been" is the way the dash from third has to play out.

For someone to execute this play this June in Ottawa the field must expand by two or three fringe or even just weak players to extend the ballots, or better yet Iona Campagnola must enter the field.

Then, both Chretien and Turner must stall after the first ballot like Clark did last year.

I think the latter is a very real possibility.

I'm with Otto Jelnek when he says Turner peaked the day he announced.

Except out west, Turner has looked rusty on the stump. He doesn't seem to say much new or significant, except when he's putting his foot in his mouth, and he's short on details.

I believe that his reputation is winning him delegates now, not his current performance.

He may have all he can get after the delegate selection process is completed. All those uncommitteds that'll be in Ottawa, and soft Turner supporters too, will assess him on this show and find him wanting.

Where will they all go? To Chretien?

No, to the others.

Chretien, I think, will also have trouble growing after the initial ballot. His performance so far has



by Gord Murray  
Free Press editor

been superb, likely he'll be magnificent in Ottawa.

But he'll have trouble winning because he represents a continuation of the Trudeau era, a maintenance of the status quo not just within the government but also the party.

So who'll be number three? Back at the start when I figured on a one ballot Turner sweep I'd have said John Roberts.

Now I'm picking Donald Johnston.

He's running a Gary Hart style new ideas campaign, with real, bold ideas and not just a new ideas slogan.

However, Johnston's working under the burden of a decided lack of style.

He's not well-known, he's rather dull too.

His black eye, staged I believe, did the trick last week and got him some media attention. Unfortunately when he talked about it at a press conference on TV he looked, sounded and laughed like Joe Clark.

If he wins he might well be Don who?

But he is a reformist and champion of new liberalism, and in a party trying to figure out where to go and what to do to keep from dying, his ideas might just catch on. This candidate at least has fresh content.

Of course, if Iona enters all bets are off.

If she goes she'll have a strong third on the first ballot locked up and I suspect have little trouble moving on up to challenge for the P.M.'s job.

## Back issues

10 years ago

May 1, 1974

There were under 20 interested Actonians in the group of 50 gathered in the M.Z. Bennett auditorium for the local meeting arranged by the Halton Renaissance committee.

Halton Hills council made a spectacular cut in the budget last Wednesday night—slashing it by over 50 per cent. The original submission of \$5,183,000 was cut to \$2,365,000 mainly due to a proposal to finance a new Georgetown arena without debentures.

Six former members of the Acton parks and recreation committee met formally again Monday night as the newly-installed recreation advisory committee for Ward 1 of Halton Hills. Diane Spielvogel is chairman, vice is Barry Insoce, non-recording secretary Brendan Ahearne. Others present were Ed Wood and Gil Malcolm of last year's committee. Lou Bonnette was absent.

20 years ago

April 30, 1964

Sunday morning 22 joined Knox Church by profession of faith. They were: Wayne Aitken, Patricia Beerman, Lorraine Cleland, Jane Cooper, Gerald Dick, Sally Dick, Shirley Greenwood, William Hansen, Alan McKenzie, Ronald McKnight, Allan McNabb, John McNabb, William Rogers, David Watson, Wendy Bowen, Margaret Guthrie, Janet Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Agnew and Kenneth Dadds and by certificate Robert Paul.

Thirty were confirmed at St. Joseph's Saturday night. They were Josephine Murray, Rita Murray, Susan Rody, Gloria Rody, Marianne Coles, Barbara Frost, Judy Dwyer, Lorene Paul, Irene Severinski, Joanne Wasowicz, Dianne Bonnette, Mary DeBartolo, Lenora Dowling, Patricia Holmes, Beverley Howard, Ann Marie Quinn, Kathleen O'Rourke, Michael Marchment, James Psycha, Mark Kowall, Peter Marzo, Josephine Petric, William Muchibucher, James Slaven, John Newell and Robert Lindsay.

Confirmed at St. Alban's Sunday were John Frederick Courtney, Susan Gail Fricker, Elizabeth Deidre Hurst, Anthony Derek Hurst, Elaine Myra Johnson, William Fredrick Laid, Susan Radford, Robert Leslie Radford, Joseph Randolph Ridley, Sharon Robinson, Beatrice Lynne Roy, Sharon Smith, Kenneth Allen Bennett, Morris Frederick Courtney, Peter Harm Bouwman, Herbert Albert Braisler, John Cosar, Brenda Louise Ellis, Gary William Ellis, James Frank Funk, Margaret Hoare, Marion June Hunter, Jens Christian Lauston, June Lewis, Doreen Ruby Lindsay, Dorothy Mavis Robinson and Florio Tournour.

50 years ago

April 26, 1934

Ontario license plates for 1935—not pleasant to think about so early in 1934—will be colored orange and black, it was announced at Guelph yesterday, at Ontario Reformatory where plates are manufactured. The markers will carry black letters on an orange background.

The breaking of a transformer at the Hydro station in Guelph on Monday evening plunged Acton and other municipalities fed through this point into darkness.

Messrs. Bruce Pargeter, F.J. Roney, F.L. Wright, and Alex McDonald attended a re-union and memorial service of the First Canadian Contingent and "Old Contemptibles" last week-end at Toronto.

75 years ago

April 29, 1909

That there are too many girls about the age of sixteen and under who are allowed to roam around the streets at all hours of the night is the opinion of the Humane Society Inspector Rev. Mr. Tovell. Mr. Tovell is now making enquiries into the matter and it is his intention to do all in his power to have the practice stopped.

100 years ago

May 1, 1854

Two years ago this morning the Scott Act—or more properly speaking the Canada Temperance Act of 1878—came into force in this county and a review of its working, especially during the year just closed, will without a doubt prove of considerable interest to the public.

Revs. W. Byers, Acton and J.S. Colling, Georgetown, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

A tramp lodged in the police cells on Sunday night. We are inclined to think beds provided are almost too good for tramps. They seem to attract a good many this way anyway.

## Older people face layoffs better

by Lydia Pawlenko

Losing a job is probably more of a blow to younger workers than older workers, according to a University of Guelph aging expert. Older people are likely to have less trouble adjusting to being unemployed than young people, because they're usually in a more stable social and financial position, says gerontologist Dr. Joe Tindale.

There's a good chance that people who lose their jobs in later life will be unemployed for a longer period than younger workers, not be retrained for other work and retire prematurely. But they are likely to be rooted in communities where they own homes and have accumulated social support from their families, friends and neighbors, community and social service agencies and unions.

Younger unemployed people are more likely to move from the communities where they were last employed, so as to be closer to their families. Financially they're apt to be in worse shape than older unemployed workers because they don't have as much money saved, don't own homes and are not making pension contributions for later life.

Dr. Tindale is launching a study of the consequence of unemployment on families. His research will focus on finding differences in the impact on the families of younger and older workers. About 60 jobless people will be interviewed in Guelph, Cambridge and Brantford, which have high levels of unemployment.

As part of the study, Dr. Tindale will examine the role of spouses as social support mechanisms for unemployed persons.

## Our readers write

### Local firms help drive Controversy, weeklies don't mix

Dear Sir,  
You may be interested in the following for publication.

The Acton Council of the Knights of Columbus has taken over the raising of funds for the Arthritis Society. As part of an ongoing effort to raise funds for the Society a car draw will be made at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, on May 19, 1984.

Five cars are to be raffled. They are a 1984 Oldsmobile Cutlass, Dodge Caravan Wagon, Plymouth Turismo, Ford Mustang and an AMC Alliance.

Acton's L & L Ford and Canadian Tire assisted Acton's effort in raising funds for the Arthritis Society. L & L Ford loaned a car for display purposes, and Canadian Tire permitted the use of their parking lot during the ticket sale for the draw, on Saturday April 28, 1984.

Those citizens of Acton who supported the draw and the Arthritis Society warrant a sincere thanks.

Paul E. Slipper  
Grand Knight  
853-3781

## Raise nearly \$130,000

Dear Sir:  
The 1983 Christmas Seal Campaign is over.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all the media for their excellent coverage of our campaign. Your continuing publicity both at campaign time and during the year certainly assists us in achieving our goals.

The Christmas Seal Campaign itself raised \$118,919.00 but thanks to our Supplementary Fund Rais-

ing i.e. Holly Day, Book Sale, Bingo, Coins from Oakville Place Fountain etc., we came within \$244.15 of reaching our goal of \$130,000.

With the help of contributions from the community and from businesses in Halton we will be able to continue to provide our programs to help control respiratory disease.

Our cordial thanks to all,  
C.L. McFadden, Chairman.

