

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Retaining the Past

Those who value history will be cheered by a recommendation by Ontario's minister of tourism that officials of the province's major cities examine preservation techniques being used in American cities.

One of these is a new zoning device which enables the owner of a landmark building to realize his potential profit without tearing down the building by permitting him to sell unused development rights to a neighbouring developer who wants to build nearby.

Earlier this year, the department of municipal affairs underook a study to develop legislation that will assist municipalities in preserving buildings that deserve an enduring place in our heritage.

The news adds hope that Toronto's old city hall, for one, will continue to stand. With the parliament buildings, it is one of the city's finest examples of architecture of its period. The type of building which tourists admire in European capitals, and

a real tragedy if it were to be replaced by another of the steel and glass monstrosities which are rising all around it.

Recently there has been much interest in preservation (not only of buildings, but of scenic beauty too.

In Fergus a citizen's group is protesting the demolition of a fine old bank building, perhaps the most impressive on that town's main street.

A preservation committee at Terra Cotta is active in opposing demolition of a historic old structure, and in straightening a scenic road which adds to the village's charm.

It is obvious that progress must have its way, too and that is not always possible to let nature's beauty outweigh the necessities of today's traffic or a private individual's profit.

But too often action is taken with complete disregard for history and scenic beauty. Government will make a lasting contribution if it acts as a watchdog for future generations.

Too Long Away

Return of traffic and criminal court sessions to Georgetown has been too long delayed, and will have general approval among residents, particularly those who have had to travel to Milton for court appearances, many of a minor nature.

Court sittings, twelve miles away, in a town which has no railway or bus connections, have been a decided annoyance to everyone concerned.

It has left the town short of police protection, when officers have been away all day. People charged with offences and

witnesses have been put to unnecessary travel expense, have lost time at work, and many a day's pay. It has cut into a lawyer's work week. And the end result has been delays in court decisions, which have helped to overcrowd the Milton agenda.

Court will be held in the Masonic Hall on Highway 7 just out of town limits, where adequate facilities are available.

Court was dropped here when the municipal building proved inadequate, and no other suitable location appeared to be available.

Old Brooms Could Sweep Too

Listening to the five major candidates for the Progressive Conservative leadership at last week's convention, we were struck by the fact that if five cabinet ministers had been doing for the past three years what they promise to do in the next four, we would have that much better a province.

We heard much about participatory democracy, control of pollution, a better deal for senior citizens, as if these were new ideas which only a few of our candidates could make possible.

And all the time we were thinking that all these promises have been possible all the time, with the able and powerful politicians in a position to make it so.

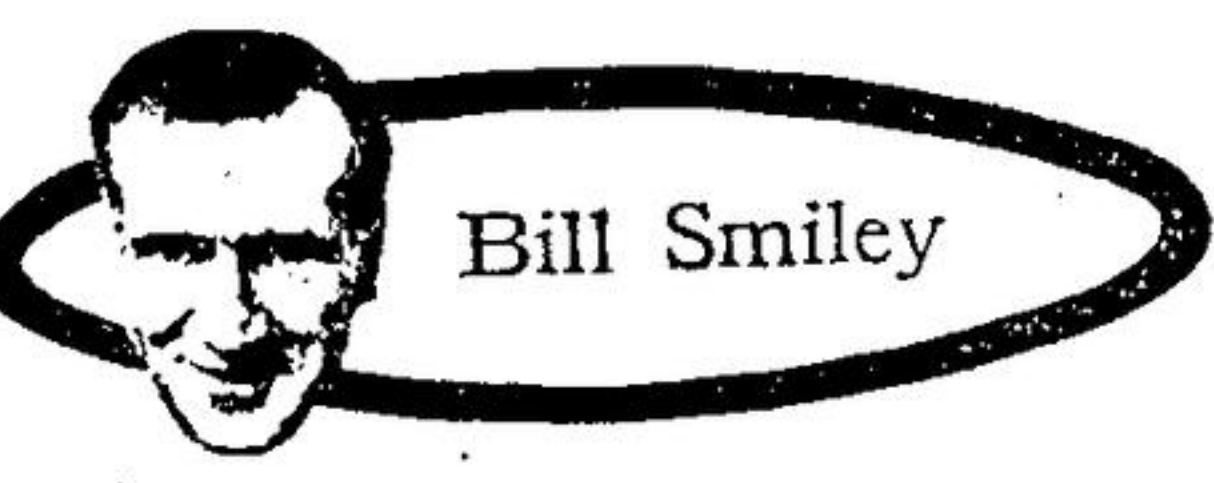
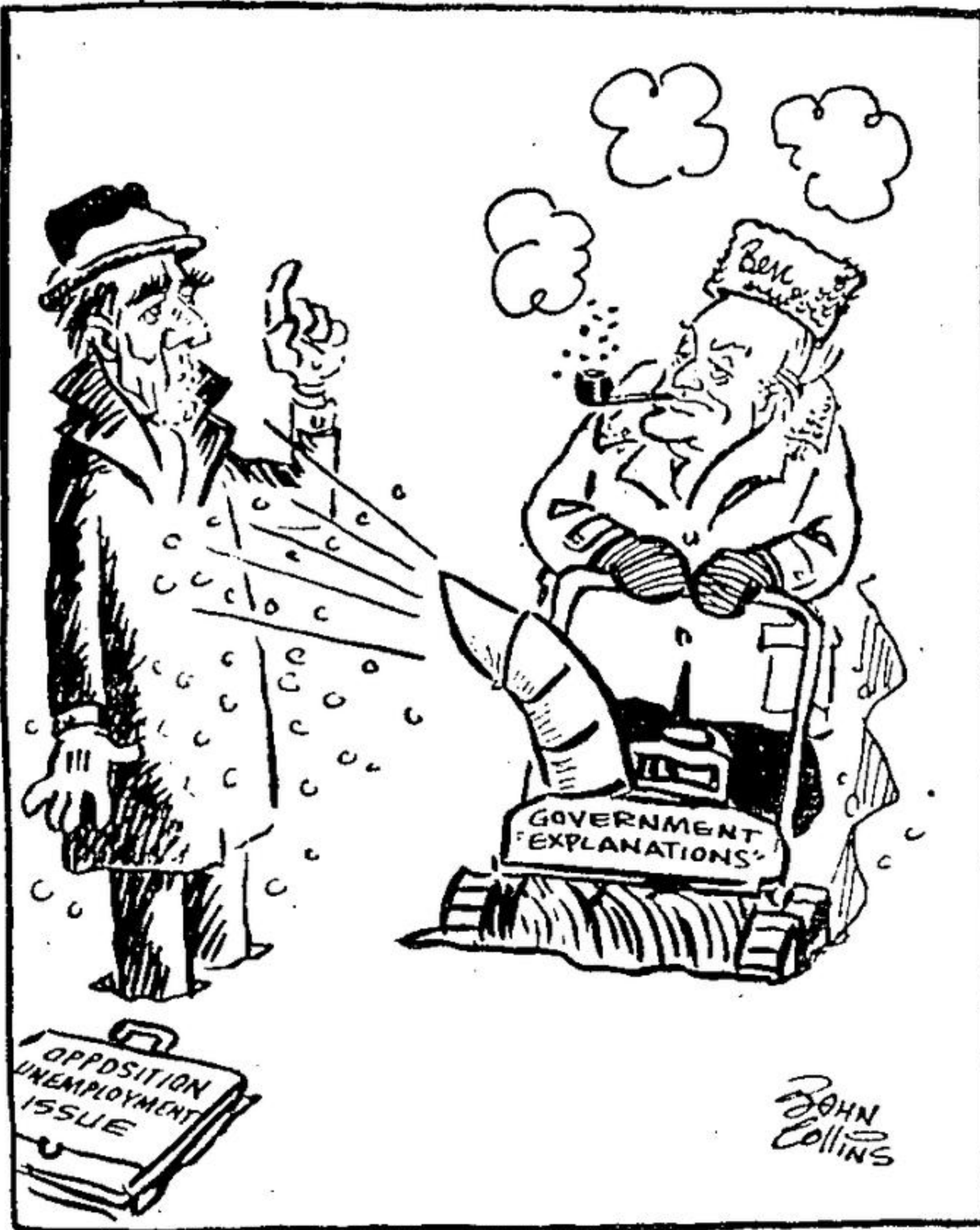
We realized, of course, that a man seeking leadership of his party and his province (for the new paper will now become premier) must say something and

not base his campaign on the way he dresses or the government's past record, for all are in the same boat.

But we particularly wondered if pollution is such a serious matter in our province, if the five candidates have been doing their job in that field.

So much publicity has been given to pollution of air, water and soil, to dire predictions that the human race is phasing itself out of existence, that it's past time leaders in our province and our dominion take action — either to clamp down on the spoiled politicians, or to determine that we are unnecessarily alarmed and set guidelines which permit progress without detriment to industry.

If Canada someday is to be a moon wasteland, there will be no one to care who has "premier" engraved on his tombstone.



Bill Smiley

What A Difference A Day Off Makes

Sometimes, I feel nothing but pity for those timid wretches who scurry to southern warmer climes at the first fall of a flake. They have betrayed one of the greatest aspects of the Canadian character — the stubborn, tenacious stupidity that makes the rest of us endure through the winter.

This last week has been a grand one, and let me hear no old-timer snorting contemptuously that "The winters ain't what they used to be."

I started off ordinarily on a cold day, but one of those perfect winter days, bright sun, smoke curling up like mist, notes from all the country snow crunching, eyes watering, lungs hacking.

Don't tell me Canada isn't a great place to be in winter. It is. Unless you have enough money to get out.

I have a friend in his seven feet Captain Dalton Hudon, retired Great Lakes captain. He's a salty raconteur, a frightening opponent at bridge or poker, and a deadly brilliant player. But he is living retraction of my last statement. He could go to Florida.

And he does. In spring he pilots a yacht to Florida, comes home and fishes here in summer, returns to fetch the yacht in fall, and says, as he stomps off into a blizzard, pipe clenched "Holy old Hughie" who'd want to live in Florida in the winter, when you can live here?" A real Canadian.

And to top off the work, a pleasant and warming letter from Mrs. Mary Bellavance of Lake Lenore, Sask., who claims "I still think you can't get into a door to get your black eye. I didn't, Mrs. B., but I'll try."

IN THE MAIL BAG

Appreciates Work of Dog Controller

179 Main Street North
Dear Mr. Editor:
Through your "Mail Bag" may I express my appreciation to Mr. G. Herrington of the dog control who, when our family pet "Queenie" was found by the Georgetown police lying badly injured in the centre of the highway, in the early hours of a bitter cold morning (2 a.m.), came out and picked her up, and after contacting us, put her out of her misery.
To make matters worse, Mr. Herrington had a tire blow out on the way home.
I feel that we are very fortunate to have such a humane person looking after our dog control department.
Yours sincerely,
Betty Parry (Mrs.)

Dear Mr. Editor:
I have sat back for a considerable time and listened with great interest, to the present snowmobile controversy. I do not own a snow machine, I wish I did, but at the present moment am unable to do so. I doubt if I will be accused of talking about a subject of which I know absolutely nothing. This is not so as I still retain my powers of observation.

Recently there was a snow mobile meet put on at St. Lawrence. This in itself is a most praiseworthy endeavour. It is the irresponsible actions of some operators, away from the met, that I object to and these I will proceed to enumerate.
1. Thursday, February 4 '71
Three snowmobiles, charging down a 70 degree slope and across a level ground that had been planted with young evergreen trees by the Department of Lands & Forests last summer. These persons showed absolute disregard for any damage or the fact that it was not their property. I am sure that any farmer who has planted winter wheat will attest to the damage being done constantly by trespassing snowmobiles.
2. Saturday, February 6 '71
At least 15-20 snowmobiles, operating at top speeds down the 17th sidewalk on a slope, for sometimes 3 and 4 abreast. This is safe? I know that winning a race is nice and you are proud of it, but do you have to waltz the flag at 40 mph 2 miles from the track?
3. Saturday, February 6 '71
Two machines parked outside a local drinking establishment in town. These idiots think they are responsible when they come out.
4. Also on Saturday one snowmobile going through the Helix plaza at 5 p.m. at the height of last minute weekend shopping. This is safe?
These are isolated incidents covering two days. I realize that it will seem that I have spoken out against Motherhood and the Great Canadian Dream but all the experts seem to have thought I had mine. Don't you think that if these people want our respect and support that they should earn it by the responsible operation of their machines.
— Peter Snider

IN THE MAIL BAG

The Other Side of The Snowmobile Coin

R. R. I. Georgetown.
Dear Sir,
I have read last week's reprint of an article, favourable to the use of snowmobiles.

May I ask you now to publish the much more timely essay, which appeared in the February issue of the Globe & Mail and originates with the New York Times.

Charles Hildebrandt
WILDERNESS BLIGHT

Just as the conclusion dawned on man that the automobile is not an unmixed blessing, along comes the snowmobile to sprout its worst features to the most remote countryside. It is no longer necessary to keep to the nation's roads in order to be assailed by gasoline fumes, threatened by speed maniacs and unhinged by the din of engines pushed to the point of agony. Now it can all be had in the wilderness.

Intrinsically as innocent as the snow it traverses, the motor driven sled is useful in rescue operations and explorations, a boon alike to the native hunter in Alaska and the country doctor in Maine. The trouble, as always, is that man seems incapable of confining his inventions to sane uses and simple

What is needed is strict registration and licensing, a severe limit to the sound level and rigid confinement of snowmobiles to designated areas at designated times under specified weather and trail conditions.

New York State's current regulations on snowmobiles are utterly inadequate. In its excellent report on The Future of the Adirondack Park the Temporary Study Commission recommends immediate closing of snowmobile trails in the wilderness areas and a phasing out or reduction of trails in other primitive and wild lands. That is surely a minimal step in what Governor Nelson Rockefeller claims to be his "quest to restore a more livable environment" to the people of this state.

The snowmobile in its meteoric rise is a threat to that environment.

SMILE!

When a woman called police constable Crawford in Owen Sound to report a skunk in her cellar, he advised:

"Make a trail of bread crumbs from the basement to the yard and wait for the skunk to follow it outside."

A little later the woman called back. "I did what you told me. Now I've got two skunks in the cellar."

IN THE MAIL BAG

Not Against Snowmobiles—But This Was Too Much

R. R. I. Georgetown

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THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

CADMIUM IN GUELPH WATER

GUELPH — Above-average concentrations of cadmium found in waters near Guelph "is not a cause of panic, but is a cause for concern," according to an official of the Canada Centre for Inland Waters. Anthony Kirby said that little is known about the heavy water's toxicity. Presumably the drinking water is safe but since tests for heavy metals are not conducted in Guelph there is no way of being certain.

LEAVES WIFE \$400,000 CASH

OAKVILLE — In addition to bequeathing his lakeshore home and its adjacent property to the town of Oakville, the late James Arthur Gairdner left substantial gifts to an Oakville boys' school, a new Brunswick University and a charitable foundation as well as his family. The wife of the well-known philanthropist was left a cash sum of \$400,000 and her choice of personal property from the home.

BRIDGE DESIGN OKAYED

TERRA COTTA — Preliminary plans for the construction of a new bridge on the Terra Cotta Road were approved in principle by Peel County's roads committee last week. The present bridge began to show cracks in the superstructure a few months ago, and is now restricted to a vehicle of less than five tons. The new bridge will be built this year beside the old span.

FUND IS NEARING \$20,000

STREETSVILLE — The Roy Ivor End Sanctuary fund has reached \$18,293 and the bank says the fund raising projects are not over yet. The fund is to set up a bird sanctuary to replace the one Mr. Ivor operated for nearly 40 years from his home near Streetsville which burned last year.

NEW BANK NOT WELCOME?

FERGUS — A. B. McLaughlin, one of the more active citizens in the drive to save the old Royal Bank building here has received an answer from Royal president, W. E. McLaughlin. Mr. McLaughlin said plans for the new bank call for a landscaped area for the corner and suggested the new building would be a welcome addition to the town. A petition is circulating to save the old stone structure which is a landmark in downtown Fergus.

INSIST ON UNDERGROUND WIRES

ACTON — Acton Hydro Commission stuck to its guns and insisted on installation of underground wiring for the new 150 home Hulud development on the former Seavue property despite pleas by the developer, Joe Adamick. For permission to use overhead backyard servicing, Commissioner Ted Tyler Sr. said the trend is to install everything possible underground, stating "in the long run it is safer and less costly."

PARENTS OPPOSE SCHOOL CLOSING

CAMPBELLVILLE — Opposition is growing here to the Halton Board of Education's plan to close the three-room rural school and send pupils by bus to Brantford. Mrs. Don Smith last week asked Nassagaweya council to support the 35 parents with children in the Campbellville school in their fight to keep the school open. Parents are content their children get a better education and establish better principles in the small school.

\$10 MILLION FIRST PHASE

BRAMALEA — Commercial construction worth \$10 million will be started here this year after last week's signing of the Bramalea City Centre official plan by Municipal Affairs Minister Dave McKeough. An Eaton's is scheduled for completion October 6th and another 60 stores will be under construction by that time. The Centre is bounded by Highway 7, Bramalea Road, Dixie Road and Clark Blvd.

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