

Change names, not the numbers

(FROM THE OAKVILLE JOURNAL RECORD)

Too many cooks, it has been said, can spoil the stew—according to Carl Eriksen too many politicians can do the same thing to government.

Ward 4 Councillor Eriksen, Oakville's answer to Don Quixote, is tilting at political windmills again. His more than 14 months as a participant-observer in the three-ring circus better known as the Halton regional council had convinced him that one of the council's major stumbling blocks is the number of councillors—he says there are too many of them and that the council, the region and the people of Halton would all be better off if 10 of the councillors' chairs were empty come 1977. He'd like the region to approach Queen's Park for an amendment to the Halton regional legislation reducing the number of councillors to 14. His motion needless to say, has something less than a snowball's chance in hades of being adopted.

Convincing a politician to relinquish his seat not merely without a struggle but voluntarily would be an achievement only slightly less remarkable than teaching a chimpanzee to recite the entire British North America Act while standing on his head and chewing half a dozen sticks of banana-flavored double bubble gum. And Eriksen, being no fool, undoubtedly knows that. Yet still, he has gone to the trouble of making the gesture. Why? At the risk of being presumptuous, could it be to make an important philosophical point? If so, it is a point well taken.

Carl Eriksen is one of few Halton politicians who seems to have a genuine philosophy of local government, apparently viewing grassroots politics less as the reactive force for the preservation of the status quo it too often is than as the active, creative force for change it could be. While we do not always agree with the Ward 4 councillor, we do share his concern

for the integrity of the municipal decision-making process. And that, it seems to us, is the concern underlying his move to reduce the number of politicians sitting around the Halton council table.

Anyone who has had the misfortune to observe a typical regional council meeting would understand why Eriksen is so concerned. To apply the phrase "decision-making process" to what usually goes on around the council table would be to stretch the meaning of the words beyond recognition. No, to meetings too often featuring a couple of councillors yucking it up on one side of the room, several mumbling to themselves on the other and at least a few bleating, "Mr. Chairman!" while one attempts to state a position, a phrase more apt would be, "political circus."

Eriksen is right. There are too many of them. Not simply because there are 24 of them, but because of the 24, there are so few with any real idea of what they're doing there, where they're going or why. There are too many because too many of them are little more than old-fashioned municipal ward healers, political hacks whose only commitment, if any, is not to shaping the future, but to hanging onto that modicum of power and respect they have today.

The Eriksen suggestion isn't going to rrid the region of such politicians because those politicians would never let it happen. Doubtless, the Oakville councillor has no illusions of success. But he has raised the issue, made his point and given the rest of us something to talk about. And perhaps that is reason enough for tilting at windmills, or windbags, as the case may be.

Carl Eriksen might not get the number of Halton politicians changed by 1977, but he might get enough of the rest of us talking that we change some of the names.

Gyroplane crashes in test

From the files of the Herald:
5 Years Ago

Two Georgetown District High School students, Brian Leslie and Brian Woods, have hitch-hiked to Florida at a cost of \$4,000. While in Florida the pair stayed at the home of Brian Leslie's uncle in Miami. The trip was estimated at over 3,000 miles.

Permits have been issued for the construction of a washroom at Golden Horseshoe Driveway just west of town. Councillor Russell Miller opposed the driveway and continued to oppose the addition of washrooms.

The conditions of poor roads continue to plague local council as members of the Halton Hills Ratepayers prepare to hold a public meeting into the subject. Roads in the older part of town and sections of the Delrex subdivision need attention.

10 Years Ago

The Bantam Hockey Tournament will be presented live on CHIC radio with host Dan Wagstaffe of Georgetown.

The Georgetown Home and School Association was officially disbanded. Boyd Lantz, president of the association, blamed failure of the group on lack of interest by parents.

Tom Trouten is now rehearsing for the Rotary Show that will be seen later this month. Mr. Trouten is a past resident of Georgetown and is well-known for his singing talents.

15 Years Ago

Avian Industries' gyroplane crashed after an experimental flight at the Waterloo-Wellington Airport, injuring the pilot Emil Zuber of Delrex Boulevard. The two-seater craft, which is a combination helicopter and autogyro is known to all residents of Georgetown where they have been seen flying over the town from their Armstrong Avenue manufacturing plant.

Students of Georgetown District High School are among the top 20 in the recently administered SATO tests. Colin Hayward was tops in English, Carolyn Taylor followed with Frances Bauer and Ian Murray closely behind in percentage points. In Mathematics Luke Jansen, Ian Murray and Norman Chisholm were tops.

The car of K. Davidson was reported stolen Sunday from the driveway of his Charles Street home. The 1963 Plymouth was recovered on Water Street a short time after it was reported missing.

The North Halton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Drive Fund has set a goal of \$8,000 for

the area of Georgetown Acton and Milton. A blitz will take place during the week and all residents are asked to support this important research.

BY DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

The air here is buzz, buzz buzz about John Roberts running for the next federal PC leadership.

Some people say that he is just holding off. Others say he is looking for a bit more pressure. Whatever the reasons they give they are all

sure he will be running. Most impressive of all is that practically everybody, whether they believe he will run or not, thinks he can win the leadership if he wants to.

On this fact there is pretty wide agreement. If Roberts wanted to run he could with little question take the honors. He has a solid base of strength in Ontario.

They arrived at 3:00 a.m. We arrived home at 5:45 a.m. and the players who lived close could make it to bed by 8:15—to be ready to play again at 4:00 p.m.

The incidents of last Saturday night are an insult to minor hockey. Georgetown should be ashamed for allowing such a disgrace to take place. The complete lack of concern voiced by most of your fans, makes me wonder about the degree of civilization in your town. I can remember very few who apologized or even felt ashamed of your fan reactions.

All of this action took place while your Juvenile team was winning by a score of 7 to 1. (A well deserved win). It makes me wonder what would have happened to our fans if the Oakridge team had won the game. There were threats heard in the stands that "if we don't get you on the ice, we'll get you outside." Nice play Georgetown.

I was thoroughly disgusted by the manner with which you treated visitors to your town. If such decadent actions continue, the image of Georgetown will be lowered to such a degree, that few fans will care to visit



The basics are found within

By Gerry Landsborough

I recently came across a poem by Edward Arlington Robinson, about a man by the name of Richard Corey. I had read it many years ago, and had lost it somewhere in a multitude of memories. But because its message is important to us in these days of hard times, indecision and feelings of inadequacy and stress I thought I would share it with you.

Whenever Richard Corey went downtown
We people on the pavement looked at him.
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored and imperially slim,
And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good Morning," and he glittered when he walked.
And he was rich—yes, richer than a king,
And admirably schooled in every grace:
In fact, we thought that he was everything

To make us wish that we were in his place.
So on we worked, and waited for the light,
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;

And Richard Corey, one calm, summer night,
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

In today's world we too seek the light.
Many go without meat, and with the prices constantly rising we do end up cursing the bread. Yet we all envy; envy that which is always just a little further up the scale.

We watched and listened as so many deplored the Vietnam war. Now we watch hearts brim over with emotion at the plight of hundreds of thousands of war orphans, Vietnamese children. We watch as a group of pioneering souls from Toronto try to leave today's reality behind in a wagon train, as they dream of a better way, high in the north country of Alberta's Peace River district. At the same time we watch the evening news and see people act as cattle, trying to flee war-torn Vietnam.

We watch the government at local and federal levels sink millions of dollars into recreational complexes, while people in Metro Toronto and boundary areas such as ours cannot find housing at a price they can afford. Yet we who pay for these arenas etc., are finding the rising taxes more and more of a burden.

There are many today who are sick at heart, with the harsh reality of life, yet feel tied, frustrated and unable to do anything about it. We watched as the government lowered the drinking age to increase votes, and dismissed the conclusions of doctors who foretold of potential alcoholics at 16 years of age. Now we watch as committees are set up to study the effect of mushrooming alcoholism in our youth.

Progress seems to be a series of complexities built upon hindsight. According to Peter's Principle "each man rises to the level

of his incompetence." What has all this to do with the above poem? Priorities!

If we place value on the material things or possessions—status; fame and glory—all of these can be taken away from us. It is not enough in today's world to know where you are going, you have to know why. Through this column many people call to speak of the inadequacy they feel to change things that upset and frustrate them. They worry about the world ahead, the world for their children. This is why it becomes so important to place value on the hidden truth, not that which appears on the surface.

It is very hard to change values but our value system today is a false one. It leaves

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out the feelings of so many. People become afraid to get involved. Being involved is to be vulnerable to the world around you. It forces people to reach conclusions, to make decisions. Even if the decisions are not always the right ones, it is better than no decisions at all.

One of the best examples of today's reality is that of those who place a torch in the campfire to carry a "message to the people". Some carry "save the children", some "power to the people", some equality to our Indian brothers, some else "let's all have a national identity", "help cure cancer with a check-up and a cheque", "help fight M.S.", "save your natural resources", and on and on they go.

These are all worthy and important things, but while all were off carrying their torches they forgot to notice that the "campfire went out".

This is the message in 'Richard Corey'. Surface value cannot be the measure. If it is, we will all lose, no matter how worthy our causes or our feelings.

Basics begin inside a man; you cannot take away that which is inside. Nations have risen to power and glory on the "dream of a better tomorrow". We all have to look past today. Look beyond the immediate future and keep the "dream of peace and a decent living for all" alive within us. The outside appearances do not count, for as with Richard Corey we cannot accurately judge from the outside.

There is never "one" right way. Don't be frustrated by what you see and hear, and read in the papers. There is sense in it. It is necessary in order to make the "dream" a reality, provided we do not become confused by outward appearances; provided we continue to keep the dream of "peace for all" alive within us.

When times are the hardest, that's when people come together in a common purpose. Perhaps what we are witnessing in the twentieth century is necessary, in order to have the world of peace and brotherhood, and a decent living for all, that so many already seek within their hearts.

Watch Johnny run, or is he going to?

BY DON O'HEARN
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

The air here is buzz, buzz buzz about John Roberts running for the next federal PC leadership.

Some people say that he is just holding off. Others say he is looking for a bit more pressure. Whatever the reasons they give they are all

sure he will be running. Most impressive of all is that practically everybody, whether they believe he will run or not, thinks he can win the leadership if he wants to.

On this fact there is pretty wide agreement. If Roberts wanted to run he could with little question take the honors. He has a solid base of strength in Ontario.

But beyond that he is strong in Quebec and the east, and even if Peter Lougheed was his main opponent he could probably pick up a fair measure of support in the west.

And those of his colleagues who aren't actually sure of this sense it. Roberts, they know, has stature. And a stature that the Canadian public will buy. Having said this one has to predict that there is not one chance in a hundred that the

former Ontario premier will go for the leadership.

Well above all reasons one would say it is simply that he is enjoying life too much these days. He is leading a dream life.

He has perhaps more important directorship than anyone else in the country. He is making lots of money. And if he needs any more all he has to

do is snap his fingers. He has his weekends off, can go fishing and sailing when he wants to, he has given more than 20 years to public life, 10 of them as premier, so why really should he get back into the political rat-race.

He might have the potential of being one of our great prime ministers. But personally I don't think we will see it.

Upset with town's fans

To the Editor of the Herald:
Happy Easter to you too, Georgetown:

On Saturday, March 28, we were unfortunate enough to visit the Georgetown Zoo, otherwise known as the Georgetown Memorial Arena, for a Juvenile hockey game. It was obvious from the start that the Zoo-Keepers were on holidays, and had left the cages open.

your town.

Is the arena area truly representative of Georgetown???

Mrs. R. Harrison
1055 St. Croix Ave.
London, Ontario

Letters to the Editor

Ottawa will aid Vietnam orphans

To the Editor of the Herald:
Several people in the riding have called me about adopting

The verbal abuse and threats from your Georgetown fans were unbelievable, and certainly a new experience to me. I have travelled many miles, following minor hockey, from Nova Scotia to California, and North to Sault Ste. Marie, and NEVER have I been subjected to such complete lack of common courtesy and class. BUSH LEAGUE all the way, Georgetown.

I hope your fans, who smashed and looted our buses enjoyed their sleep, and all their pillow goodies. I question their mentalities. While your Juvenile players were sleeping, or at least had the opportunity to do so - our players were waiting in the arena for replacement buses.

They arrived at 3:00 a.m. We arrived home at 5:45 a.m. and the players who lived close could make it to bed by 8:15—to be ready to play again at 4:00 p.m.

The incidents of last Saturday night are an insult to minor hockey. Georgetown should be ashamed for allowing such a disgrace to take place. The complete lack of concern voiced by most of your fans, makes me wonder about the degree of civilization in your town. I can remember very few who apologized or even felt ashamed of your fan reactions.

All of this action took place while your Juvenile team was winning by a score of 7 to 1. (A well deserved win). It makes me wonder what would have happened to our fans if the Oakridge team had won the game. There were threats heard in the stands that "if we don't get you on the ice, we'll get you outside." Nice play Georgetown.

I was thoroughly disgusted by the manner with which you treated visitors to your town. If such decadent actions continue, the image of Georgetown will be lowered to such a degree, that few fans will care to visit

children who are being evacuated from South Vietnam. They are concerned about red tape and delays in getting the children here because of the havoc in Vietnam.

I was in touch with Robert Andras, minister of immigration, about this. He has set up a special emergency desk in his office to handle the children placed in Canadian homes as quickly as possible with a minimum of red tape and delay.

I have also contacted the provincial authorities to ensure complete cooperation of the two levels of government on this important matter. We will take as many children as we can, depending on Canadian couples who will adopt. Canada has probably the most humane immigration policy in the world and we want to show our true colors by helping these unfortunate victims of a terrible war.

George Glover
McIntyre Crescent
Georgetown

Wants toll free number to Ottawa

(This is a copy of a letter sent to MP Frank Philbrook copies of which were also sent to the local media, and municipal representatives.

Mr. Philbrook:
Having tried today to phone "Information, Canada" to obtain some booklets on government activities and having found out that I was expected to foot the cost of the call, I'm writing to ask that something be done about this

This selective (or at least discriminatory) information distribution prejudices the involvement of all citizens out of major centres, in their government.

What I am asking for is a toll free line to Information Canada. I noted, with amusement, that the only toll free line now provided is to the Tax department and I, for one, would like to take some responsibility for where my

money goes.

For this, I need, at the optimum, access to all departments readily. This I had while I lived in Ottawa but I realize the great cost of such democracy and ask only for what must surely be the minimum required by a responsible citizen—access to information.

Dr. Frank A. Philbrook, MP
Halton