



Arthur Maloney (middle right) and some fellow Nassagaweya residents

Ombudsman's office available to everyone

Arthur Maloney, Ontario's first Ombudsman, is concerned that people throughout Ontario have access to his office and his staff. But Maloney won't be waiting for the mountain of citizens' complaints to come to him. Maloney plans to go to the mountain.

Mr. Maloney speaking before many of his neighbours at a meeting last Tuesday night of the Nassagaweya Ratepayers Association in Brookville Public School, explained that the staff of the Ombudsman's office have been developing a "blue print" on the operation of the new setup.

The key to it will be "concern with the interests of the ordinary citizens," he explained.

Handling the workload which, since the office was formed in the fall of this year, has reached well over 1,400 cases, is a large staff of researchers based in an office almost totally isolated from any involvement with Queen's Park.

"We must show everyone that we are not part of the civil

service. We must remain aloof of it if we are going to remain at all free of it."

One of the aspects of the Ombudsman's work in helping citizens deal more easily and fairly with all levels of provincial government, have been the recent public hearings held in North Bay which proved so successful. Mr. Maloney noted that he has plans to hold similar meetings throughout Ontario during the early part of the new year.

The North Bay hearings saw 90 different people present their stories of claimed "injustices" suffered at the hands of civil servants.

A suggestion made during the hearings which Mr. Maloney is now considering is the setting up a branch office in northern Ontario to provide closer contact between the Ombudsman and the people of the north.

The Ombudsman's office, although concerned with the ordinary citizen, Mr. Maloney noted, is equally involved in ensuring that "the lone voice of society" receives a proper

hearing from the provincial government. "You don't have to be down and out to approach our office for assistance. We're there to serve any person who ordinarily speaks as a lone voice."

That, he explained, can include the small businessman, a small municipality that is unable to afford proper legal advice, or even an MPF who is in need of some assistance.

A special office of the Ombudsman in Queen's Park is open any time the legislature is seated, Mr. Maloney said, to help MPF's with any problems.

Although the Ombudsman's office is still in its first stages of life Mr. Maloney noted that the "mill is running quite efficiently. People will begin to see and feel the full results of our efforts very soon."

The mail strike has slowed down the demands for assistance, he added. "I'm afraid to think of what is waiting for us once the mails start flowing again."

"People will have to have a little patience."

Trying to "be the best" in his

new position Mr. Maloney has been carrying out a great deal of research into the office of the Ombudsman which, while new to the Ontario government system, is an established part of many other governments, both in Canada and overseas.

Mr. Maloney told the audience that he has already met with his counterparts in the seven other Canadian provinces that have established Ombudsman systems. He has also travelled to the United Kingdom, Germany and Israel where he has met with over 50 different officials from those countries' Ombudsman offices.

"It's invaluable to sit face to face with the man who has your same job and find out the problems he has faced, how he has handled them, and what he would do if he could start all over again."

Mr. Maloney was presented with a wood carving by Bill Johnson, chairman of the Nassagaweya Ratepayers Association. The carving depicted a griffin and was done using a piece of Nassagaweya pine.

'Wicked Willy' helps Ombudsman

Ontario's first "protector of the people" Arthur Maloney, received some advice from Halton's Volunteer environmental "Ombudsman" Bill Johnson, during last Tuesday night's meeting in Brookville Public School near Campbellville.

Explaining that members of

parliament have mail privileges which allow their constituents to send them mail without stamps Mr. Johnson suggested that the Ombudsman's office attempt to gain that same privilege.

"I'm an officer of the legislature," replied Mr. Maloney, "so I would think the

same arrangements should apply to me." He promised to look into the matter.

Later, following the meeting, Mr. Johnson brought up the matter of the scheduling of Ontario Municipal Board hearings which are always held during the daytime.

"A businessman has a

choice," commented Mr. Johnson. "He can either not attend and thus not express his opinion or else lose eight or 10 working hours of pay. It denies many their democratic right to express their opinion."

Mr. Maloney again noted that he and his staff will consider the matter.

Levy questions high hydro use at GAMA

The question of the high amount of hydro being used at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena cropped up at the finance and personnel meeting Monday night.

Reviewing the town's ac-

counts for the month of November committee chairman Councillor Harry Levy pointed out that the bill for electricity at the new arena was \$1,824, well above the approximate \$600 bill for hydro at the old arena.

"For the entire town of Georgetown we pay something like \$4,200 for street lights, so I can't understand why the bill for this one facility could be so high," Councillor Levy said.

Facilities superintendent Pat Sheehan was on hand for the meeting and pointed out to the committee members that the hours of use of the Gordon Alcott and the Georgetown Memorial Arena could not really be compared.

"The Gordon Alcott Arena is used seven days a week from early morning to late at night. The bill also includes lighting the recreation department

offices downstairs and the large community hall upstairs."

Mr. Sheehan however, will carry out a study of the hydro costs at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

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Pomeroy to operate summer hockey school

Peter Pomeroy, well known in local hockey circles, has been given full approval by town council to operate a private summer hockey school at the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena next summer.

Council's approval of Mr. Pomeroy's submitted tender over two others was given Monday night but not before Councillor Ern Hyde once again questioned whether the town's new arena should not be used for something less costly than hockey and figure skating during the hot summer months.

A report received by councillors recently showed that the maintenance of ice in the Gordon Alcott rink last summer was costly. Councillor Hyde pointed out, "We must consider if it's practical and economical to carry on with this practice."

"There are many other functions that could take place there rather than just hockey and skating."

The general administration committee members however claimed that a full year's operations would better show the pros and cons of summer ice at the GAMA. "We have to

get maximum use of the arena to really be able to tell," commented Councillor Roy Booth.

"The more we can get into it and the more we advertise it, the closer we can come to making it a paying proposition."

The agreement between Mr. Pomeroy and the town will allow the hockey school use of the arena for a minimum of six hours per day for four weeks, running from August 2 to August 27. The ice time will cost \$25 per hour.

An added benefit of Mr. Pomeroy's proposition, commented Councillor Ric Morrow, is that if the hockey school wishes to use any other town facilities such as the swimming pools, regular rental rates would be applicable.

Bronchitis, Emphysema, Tuberculosis and Asthma accounted for 3,689 Canadian deaths in 1973 notes the Christmas Seal organization your Halton Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association.

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Library busting at the seams

To the Editor of the Herald
"Complaints in many and various but the old devil likes it." That happens to be the title of a new book about Newfoundland's early history. I don't think I ordered it but if even one person asks me for it I will rush right out and get it because I love the title.

Actually we probably don't hear as many complaints as we ought to be hearing. What makes me say that? Well, not so very long ago the Library Board displayed some rare unanimity by politely tearing a strip off the librarian's hide when a borrower complained that there wasn't enough fiction in the library.

Apparently this is a universal complaint with a multitude of variations. Such as: "What happened to the good novels they used to write?" "How come all you've got is junk science fiction?" "Why can't I ever find books?" "My name has been on the list for the Bermuda Triangle since last spring and I still haven't got it" (this from the Chairman!).

Well ladies and gentlemen, this is the gist of our answer to this problem.

A: For the past five years 37 percent of the new books purchased by the library has been fiction. The Canadian Library Association standard calls for 10-20 percent of the collection to be fiction, so we are well above standard in this respect. However, and this is the crux of the situation, the current standard for the size of collection calls for 3 books per capita or a minimum of 54,000 volumes for a population of 18,000.

but what we are forced to do with the fiction collection goes beyond judicious weeding.

B.C. & D: The good novels of yesterday? Well, some of the old reliables are still writing but after all most writers, except Creasy and Simenon, don't turn out more than one novel every year or so and thus the supply is a lot more limited than the demand.

Also, undeniably, styles in writing alter to reflect the standards and tastes of the current mores. If sex, violence and four letter words sell like hot cakes then as far as the publishers are concerned they are doing something right. If sex, violence and four letter words hit the best-seller list then the library will be asked for them and they will provide as much as they can afford within reason. Deplorable? Perhaps.

Tastes and standards in reading are as subjective and varied as is the spectrum of individuality.

Should a library provide hard-core pornography? That depends on the demands and response of the community served. Most library boards would probably refuse — despite exhortations to abjure censorship, but I'm willing to bet that somewhere in North America hard core porn is available on the shelves of the local library. What is one man's garbage is another man's feast. One thing history teaches us is that nothing is less stable than standards of social or moral acceptability.

Well, what are we going to do about it?

A: campaign for a new library.

B.C. & D: Try to ease the fiction demand by beefing up the paperback collection and displaying them more advantageously.

Consider the use of a rental collection for the high demand currently popular material. (Daily rental fee encourages rapid reading and return and facilitates supply.

for future developments!
P.S. Complaints — if you are to shy to give them to us personally send them to us care of this paper. If we can answer them we will, if not we'll pass your complaints on to the Councillors!

Halton Hills
Library Board

Thanks

My friend Deb and I would like to thank you for the book. We got a lot of use out of it. And from the book we believe we're going to get A's. We also think if we have to write a story about a newspaper yours would be it. And thanks again for your help.

Yours truly,
Chris Leavitt
Debbie Osborne

Letters to the Editor Renaissance not bogged down

To the Editor of the Herald:
In a recent letter appearing in the regional press, William A. Johnson commented: "The Renaissance Committee that started off in great form, has seemed to bog down on sex education and the literary merits of certain books utilized within our schools."

Mr. Johnson ought to remember that Renaissance was triggered by the protest of one parent over the decadent literature being recommended to the students, and the kinky sex education philosophy that thrust "Gay Libbers" unannounced onto a Grade 12 Family Life class in the high school his daughters were attending. That "great start" to which Mr. Johnson refers, I suppose includes the Renaissance regional rally, (March 28, 1974), attended by 600-1000 Halton residents who heard an address by Larry Henderson attacking the "moral pollution" in the schools.

But instead of getting "bogged down" in dealing with the offensive literature and the irresponsible approach to sex education in the schools, Renaissance was established on the broadest basis of

parental and taxpayer concerns as expressed in our 4-fold purposes:

1. to accept and reassert our responsibilities as taxpayers and parents for the Halton public education system;
2. to provide through the philosophy governing the public educational system, an expression of the wisdom of adulthood and the moral guidance of parenthood to our youth in our schools; (perhaps it is because like so many parents and adults, Mr. Johnson has copped out in this area of responsibility to our youth, that he has consistently down-graded Renaissance?);
3. to insist on a re-emphasis on academic excellence in the basic educational disciplines;
4. to present both ultimate views of origins, the theistic and the atheistic, to the students in our schools.

"Furthermore we undertake to seek to effect this renaissance in education through the processes of participatory democracy."

On that basis, Renaissance now has 700-800 dues-paying members in Halton and about three times that many more from coast to coast in Canada with strong local and

provincial committees developing in several areas.

Far from being "bogged down" over the deficiencies of the approach to literature and sex education in the schools, Renaissance has presented briefs to the board, the ministry, and the Ontario cabinet which have contained constructive proposals, from the viewpoint of the parent and taxpayer, for improving our fine public education system.

Just this week I met for an hour with a member of the Ontario cabinet in Queen's Park to discuss the need for alternatives in public education as a solution to the frictions now disturbing the schools. As the defeated NDP candidate in north Halton, Mr. Johnson should know that such alternatives were recommended by Mr. Lewis himself prior to the election. (Oakville Journal Record, June 4, 1975).

We're glad to see that Mr. Johnson is applying his warm humanitarianism and hearty enthusiasm to the needs of public education, and wish him and his colleagues well. In fact we have encouraged Renaissance members to support Mr. Johnson's crusading for educational reform. We think that if Mr. Johnson were the father of a 13-year-old young lady, he'd share the anguish of many parents in Halton over the degrading influences their children are encountering in the classrooms.

As a dedicated environmentalist, we think Mr. Johnson needs to cultivate the same capacity to detect moral pollutants threatening the health of the psyche of our youth, as he is able to identify the environmental pollution that threatens their physical health.

As responsible parents we don't apologize for such concerns.

Ken Campbell
Chairman, Renaissance Ontario

No reserves would be taken on the rental collection but normal reserve procedures would be followed with the "Free" copies.)

Offer readers advice.
Offer what? Readers advice. In other words if you don't like the looks of any of our books come and tell us. If you can't remember the names of your favorite authors come and ask us. If you just plain can't think of anything you haven't already read come and challenge us to find you something new. That's what we are here for.

We aren't all experts and our tastes vary as widely as the general public's but we do have a pretty wide spectrum of specialties. Mrs. Cooper is a real expert on the new best-sellers. Mrs. Irvine soaks up the historical fiction. Mrs. Ball fishes in the deep waters of literature, classics and poetry. Mrs. Purdy and Miss March have pretty eclectic tastes and as for me — well, good old fashioned mysteries (preferably British) are my favorite escapism, closely followed by historical fiction with a few genuine re-readables such as Jane Austen, the Brontes, Tolkien, A. A. Milne, Isaac Bashevis Singer, John Fowles...and well, don't get me started.

Actually, I'm starting to twist arms around here to get staff members to turn out columns on their favorite reading. Maybe this will give you some new ideas for authors and books to look into. In any case watch this space

Current Ripples Swimming for the handicapped

By Vic Stoddart
Do you have a physical disability? If so, have you thought of swimming lessons? The water is a great leveler where some handicapped people can function better than non-handicapped people.

The water supports the body with no pressure of the body on the floor. You are in an almost weightless situation, just like flying through space.

Make a New Years Resolution early, take swimming lessons in 1976.

The next session of lessons starts January 5, 1976. Enrol in our handicapped children's swimming program. The lessons are on Saturday mornings from 11 to noon. We will have qualified instructors and a number of volunteers to assist you. I hope to see you in the water in '76.

Do you need some help with your Christmas shopping? How about swim suits, swim goggles, nose plugs, skin diving equipment right down to mask, fins and snorkel? For help on choosing the latter just contact the pool supervisor.

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