

Equalization is not the answer to Halton's problems

A word we keep hearing more and more frequently at regional council meetings is "equalization."

The word crops up frequently in discussions about sewer and water charges.

It was heard once again last week in discussions about the new regional landfill site. Burlington and Oakville councillors are already calling for an equalization of haulage costs to the site.

Once and for all we wish the region would let those of us in the north, who will feel the biggest negative effects of equalization, know exactly what magic formula they have drawn up to provide this great equalization of costs among the four municipalities in Halton.

When we think of equalization in Halton our concept is that of a big scale on one end of which hangs a massive weight—the costs of operating Burlington and Oakville—and on the other end of which hangs a smaller weight—Halton Hills and Milton.

Now to equalize that imbalance the easiest method is to simply take some of the load from the heavily laden end and place it on the lighter end. You continue to do that until the two ends are evenly balanced.

There's a second method, though. With that, you move the centre of balance so that, without shifting the weights at either end, eventually you come up with an even balance.

That method, however, requires outside assistance to move the centre of the balance. That outside assistance would have to come from the provincial government in the form of increased grants to the larger municipalities but, in this year of cutbacks, the likelihood of that kind of assistance is small.

So we're faced with that first method: shifting the weight from the have's to the have-nots.

Burlington and Oakville have major financial difficulties ahead. Halton Hills and Milton don't have such serious problems.

Our growth and resultant costs for servicing are going to increase over the coming years, certainly. But our increases will not be to the same extent as Oakville's or Burlington's.

Halton Hills' major expenditures will be the extensions to the Acton and Georgetown sewage plants. The financing of those major projects is well in hand.

For the next 15 or so years we'll be paying off the loans for those projects. Hopefully, during that same time period, our demands for additional facilities will not increase too drastically.

Oakville and Burlington, however, will be having their problems.

We're not being parochial in this outlook. We're strictly looking out for Number One; or ourselves.

If the province wishes to help Oakville and Burlington and any other urban centre meet the financial pressures that growth, inevitably, brings, let the provincial government do it themselves. Don't try to pawn that responsibility off on the rural residents of Esqueping.

Equalization does nothing more than get the provincial government off the hook.

We sympathize with Oakville and Burlington in their struggle to handle their financial problems but trying to solve it through the region is the wrong route to take.

The provincial government after all was the chief promoter in developing this monster known as the Golden Triangle.



On The Home Front

Happy birthday Louisa

by Susan De'Acendis

This week Herald's Louisa's twelfth birthday and the proximity of this occasion to Valentine's Day is, to me, more than more coincidence. I find my daughter a total delight, who in one moment can drive me to distraction and in the next, warm my heart with an unexpected gift, a gesture of thoughtfulness and a growing companionship.

However, I have also become aware, much to my sorrow, that Louisa is growing up. I have decided not to go into an immediate panic over it as she is still very much the Tomboy soccer player, but I notice now that her pre-game preparations include a dab of perfume behind each ear.

As calmly as possible, I find myself having to respond to despairing statements such as, "Who would ever want to marry ugly old me?" and positive ones, "I think I'll dye my hair blonde." She lives in a constant state of terror at the thought of platform shoes going out of style before she's old enough to wear them.

Over the past two years she has taken on the characteristics of a young colt, all legs and arms, and she seems to be having great difficulty in getting it all together. She falls downstairs and even falls upstairs; her arms seem to get caught in everything she passes, and if there is a thread on the floor, she manages to trip over it.

This temporary, adolescent lack of coordination resulted in her being carried home by the school principal with an injury incurred in a soccer game and I recall, only too well, the occasion when she took a nose-dive off the balancing beam in a school gym class and succeeded in burying a front tooth in the floor.

Snap! Now you have it, you don't. And there I was with egg on my face, not having taken out school insurance.

I took one look at her battered little face and sobbed right along with her. "Sweetheart," I cried, "you have over two hundred beautiful, medically covered bones in your body." "Why did you land on your tooth?"

Temporary caps, root canal, permanent cap. That was bankruptcy time. I believe I could have gone on a six-month economy cruise for less. Root canal work, which sounds more like something that's needed to save Venice, we did manage to eventually avoid.

However, when the dentist tells you it's a temporary cap, you'd better believe it. The first one disappeared in a wad of chewing gum, the second into a cookie and the third came flying off when Louisa unfortunately sneezed.

The only blessing to come out of that episode was, that as a result of the gouge left in the gym room floor, we were not sued by the Board of Education for destruction to school property.

Obviously this growing up business is not all it's cracked up to be. The way she is going, I don't know if she is even going to survive it and I have a premonition that her parent's won't either.

On Parliament Hill

Camp-Diefenbaker still haunt PC's

by Stewart MacLeod

OTTAWA—Who is the most prominent person in the Conservative leadership race, Claude Wagner? Brian Mulroney? Flora MacDonald? Paul Hellyer?

No, any of these, or perhaps one of the other declared candidates, might win the race, but the most prominent individual at the moment is non-candidate Dalton Camp. And he has achieved this prominence by being constantly disowned.

It doesn't matter that Mr. Camp says he is a neutral bystander. It doesn't matter that he doesn't hold any office within the party, it doesn't matter that his only role at the convention will be as a commentator for CTV.

What does matter is that Mr. Camp was largely responsible for dumping John Diefenbaker in 1967—an event that won't be forgotten in his lifetime—and most candidates live in mortal fear that he may suddenly endorse one of them.

They would rather be flung by the

Mafia. Mr. Camp has said he will do no such thing. "I don't want to polarize their opinion about my opinion," the former party president has said. "I want the delegates to say 'we did it' when the convention is over. Not that Camp manipulated it."

No support. And he went on to say that some of his best friends are candidates. "I like them, I wish them well, but I am not going to publicly support them."

Normally, that should end it. But it doesn't. The objective now, it seems, is for the various campaign workers to identify, and isolate, the candidates Mr. Camp secretly supports. Then the remaining candidates could divide the spoils from the still-strong Diefenbaker faction within the party.

Since the campaign began, the professional whisperers have managed to identify Mr. Camp with John Fraser, Joe Clark, Flora MacDonald and now Brian Mulroney. And with Mulroney obviously up there with the front-runners, he seems destined to carry the Camp banner into the convention whether he wants to or not.

Workers for other candidates won't let it out of his hands. "Camp's boys," is a common expression when these workers talk about Mulroney's slick, and expensive, campaign. And when Claude Wagner talks about the "grey eminences" the "ELITE" and the "establishment" of the party there is no doubt that he is referring to Dalton Camp. So many candidates are saying things

like "I haven't talked to Dalton Camp in years," that you wonder whether Mr. Camp has lost his voice.

One Successful. The man most successful in disassociating himself from Mr. Camp is Paul Hellyer, the former Liberal cabinet minister. Not only was he in the Pearson government when the Camp-Diefenbaker feud was in full flight, but he now has managed to corral the support of many Diefenbaker loyalists. And he doesn't have to say a word about it. With so many close associates of Mr. Diefenbaker in his corner, Mr. Hellyer can rest assured there will be no public endorsement from Mr. Camp.

But imagine the fun Mr. Camp could have by merely saying something nice about Mr. Hellyer. The Hellyer organization would plunge into a purple panic.

Incidentally, Mr. Diefenbaker himself is saying nothing about individual candidates, although it is significant that so many close associates, and one employee, are actively working for Mr. Hellyer. The candidate has, on several occasions, suggested that the former Conservative prime minister had encouraged him to run.

This didn't sit well with Jack Horner, the long-time Diefenbaker supporter who is also in the race. "I have no fears whatsoever...of where John Diefenbaker's support is going to do," Mr. Horner had said. "I am not worried about him supporting anyone else." And some of us were naive enough to think the Diefenbaker-Camp war had been settled eight years ago.

Viewpoint

Linda Lovelace a health hazard?

by Gerry Landsborough

It's time again for potpourri a regular feature of this column. Here we take a sometimes serious, sometimes not so serious, tongue-in-cheek look at this wonderful, wacky world around us.

For our first stop let us visit the U.S. where we offer you this fascinating piece of information. Did you know that medical experts have found that there are approximately 100,000 hairs on the human head?

Of these we lose 50 to 60 hairs per day in brushing or combing.

In a year we grow about five inches of new hair.

Now if you think you might be going bald, here your big chance to find out. One, two, three, four.....?

Now it's over to London, England where that shady lady porno star, Linda Lovelace, is appearing in court over her new book "Inside Linda Lovelace." The book is being examined in Old Bailey for content matter.

Dr. Stewart Carne, commenting on the type of sexual practices outlined in the book, told the court "it might lead to a person's death." Miss Lovelace was accused of writing a book that is likely to "deprave and corrupt."

But, and I hope you're ready for this, the book was declared not obscene. Like beauty, obscenity is in the mind of the beholder and sexual practices that might lead to death according to the British court does not constitute obscenity. Sick-sick-sick.

Back home to Wellaceburg now where coroner Dr. M.A. McElligott found that a seatbelt (the lap type) worn by Stephen Wong, 20, of Sarnia contributed to his death. Mr. Wong died after a car hit his vehicle broadside. He had a ruptured aorta, damaged liver and other injuries. Dr. McElligott said he considers lap belt dangerous. So buckle up everybody, even if it kills you.

Off to California now where a strange crime almost took place in the community of Mountain View. Mark Bates allegedly had one drink too many when he got into an argument with his wife Cheryl. She ran into the bedroom where our friend Mr. Bates tried to drown her.

How, you ask?

He slit open the waterbed and tried to push his wife's face into it. Fortunately she escaped.

Now for the funny part, depending on your sense of humour. Mr. Bates was charged with attempted murder; drunken driving; malicious mischief and resisting arrest. Do you think the "Malicious Mischief" charge was for ruining a perfectly good waterbed? It just goes to show you that the promise of "happily ever after" when you buy a waterbed just ain't necessarily so.

While we're in California let's drop in on the assistant head of psychiatry of Stanford University Medical School in Palo Alto California. Prof. Donald T. Lunde tells us that we have a 1 in 1,000 chance of being murdered this year. Gee thanks professor. He also adds that the best months for murder are July and December and that two-thirds of all murders are committed on weekends. How does that piece of good news fit in with your vacation plans?

Let's slip over to Los Angeles now where the liquor industry has hit on the ideal gimmick. It's called moo-moo's. These are drinks—30 percent proof—mixed with milk. Alcoholic milkshakes aimed for the ladies who don't like to drink. Names for these psychological masterpieces are Snowflakes, Malcolm Hereford's Cows, Icebox and Aberdeen Cows. You can have strawberry, banana, chocolate mint, or mocha. What do you say when your wife looks you innocently in the eye and claims "But hon, I've only had a few milkshakes." Moooooooo!

Now we'll cross the globe to Bangladesh. An official pondering that country's over-population and the food shortage declared, "People will just have to learn to eat each other." To which I can only add, Stop the world I want to get off. And to think this is the nation that wants nuclear technology.

Away to London now where the director of Britain's Alcohol Education Centre, Marcus Grant, said the following: "Start them drinking young. If you learn to drink when you're young you don't become an alcoholic when you're old." He shares a gin every now and again with his six-year-old daughter. We have a few so-called experts over here that are in direct disagreement with him. Can you believe it?

Our last jaunt this week takes us once again to California where Walter Cavanaugh, 32 is on his way to having the world's greatest collection of credit cards. He owns 788 cards from all over the world with a purchasing power of \$750,000. He keeps his cards in a safety deposit box.

What can one say about a credit oriented society that would allow one individual to own so many cards?

Mr. Cavanaugh claims there are over 10,000 cards available in the States alone. He's been rejected by only one company to date. How nice.

Till next week just say "charge it" and keep on smiling.

Letter to the Editor

Yield to the members of the fire department

To the Editor of the Herald: I would like to bring to your attention, and to the people of this town, a vital need of this town. Every town city or village needs fire protection. As I'm sure you are aware, Georgetown has a very fine fire department. These men risk their lives every day to protect the lives and property

of the people of Georgetown. Not enough praise can be given to these men. They respond to fire calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, no matter what the weather.

The problem is, since these men are volunteers, they have to respond to the fire hall from work or home. Most of the men, while responding to a

call, have their high beams on along with their 4-way flashers and an orange flasher in the front windows of their cars.

If people see these men responding to a call, try if possible to let them by, because the fire may be at your home.

Ingrid Smeltink
Market Street,
Georgetown

— Years Ago

High school staff up to 29

From The Files of The Herald:

15 YEARS AGO

Karen Norton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Norton, was crowned Stardust Queen, by students attending the Stardust Ball. Karen was crowned by last year's queen, Carolyn Blehn.

Yolanda Goudekelling placed first out of nine other competitors in the annual public school speaking contest held this week. Yolanda is a student of Howard Wrigglesworth School.

The Georgetown High School teaching staff will probably increase by four next term. It was decided at a meeting of the school's trustees. The increase would bring the total Georgetown high school teachers up to 29, excluding the principal and vice-principal.

Ross Duncan will head the North Halton Golf Club executive for this year. Mr. Duncan will serve as president with Jim Linton as vice-president and Fred Helson, secretary-treasurer.

H. Graham Gillsbooly, who will be business administrator of Georgetown's new hospital has arrived in town to commence his new job. Temporary office accommodation had been provided in the Delrex Development

buildings until the hospital is ready.

10 YEARS AGO

Fifteen thousand new residents and property development of \$75 million was predicted for Georgetown last week by Bruce McLaughlin, president of the Metropolitan Halton Development Company. The firm, which has purchased the majority of Rex Heslop's Delrex Development holdings, hosted a gathering of Halton-Peel officials.

Mrs. J. Crichton was named president of the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary at the annual meeting of officers. She succeeds Mrs. George Hewson.

Gord Tapp — better known to most farm people as "Cousin Clem" — was guest speaker at the annual banquet of the Norval Junior Farmers and Junior Institute organizations. The banquet was held at the Stewarttown hall.

The Georgetown Herald received the fourth highest point total in its division in a newspaper competition sponsored by the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. It was announced this week.

FIVE YEARS AGO

The Georgetown Midlets, sponsored by Sunny Acres Farm, captured the "B"

division title at a tournament held in Dunnville, Quebec last week. Georgetown didn't taste defeat until the Grand Championship game when they were edged out by a Scarborough club, 2-1.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rawlings of 61 Delrex Blvd. are first to report the sighting of a robin in Georgetown this year. They were walking in Hungry Hollow during the week when they spotted a pair of the traditional harbingers of spring.

The penny parking meter will soon disappear from the streets and be replaced by the nickel and dime variety, according to a recommendation made by the Parking Authority to council at the meeting held Thursday.

Acquisition of town-owned acreage on Princess Anne Drive is an integral part of a plan for a prime residential subdivision. David Nelson, head of Nell Investments, offered \$120,000 for the property at a council meeting this week.

William McNally was re-elected people's warden and Rev. Eric Mills appointed Jim Court as rector's warden at the annual meeting of St. George's Anglican Church held this week.

Queen's Park Commentary

Hospital cutbacks good for NDP

by Don O'Hearn
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald
TORONTO—These days the much praised NDP research service will be busy, busy. The eager group of women and men who contributed so much to the party's success in September has a new beacon beckoning in the form of the government's hospital cutback program.

It seems there probably will be an election on the issue. And it is a question which is made to order for the NDP research group.

Hard Sell
There is no question who is

fundamentally right on the hospital issue. The government has acted as it had to. It has been obvious for some time that restraints would have to be applied in health spending.

But being fundamentally right and right in the public mind are two different matters. Restraint is never easy to sell. In a way the public likes being bribed with its own money.

And then in this case there are emotional aspects which, right or wrong, can be brought out and which if skillfully handled can confuse and sway the issue.

Rebuttal Touch

It is almost certain that at this moment the NDP researchers are looking for cases which have been or will be affected by hospital shut-downs.

People who are waiting for hospital beds, hopefully one or two who have died, and then some tragic cases among those unemployed by the shut-downs.

If this election is fought on the hospital issue it should turn into a propaganda battle. And this is the ammunition the opposition, and particularly the NDP, will want for such a battle.

Remember the long string of rental hardship cases we got in September.

We will probably get an even longer list of hospital cases. They will probably be more isolated and even less applicable than were the rental cases.

But they will be tough to rebut.

And this is where the government will be in danger. It will have to somehow or other do a selling job. And it won't be an easy task. It got off to a clumsy start and from here on the going will be really tough. Somehow or other, though, it probably will succeed.