

Voters need insight into what lies ahead

With a municipal election campaign as short as three weeks, it's vitally important that voters in Halton Hills be versed on the abilities of each of the 25 candidates who are seeking election to regional, local and school board positions.

And it is for that reason that all-candidate meetings are crucial. These meetings generally offer the only chance for voters to meet face-to-face the prospective representatives who wish to govern this municipality.

It is also the reason that The Herald this week offers as complete a profile as possible of all candidates in this Dec. 6 election. All candidates were invited to take part and most have expressed support for the effort because of the aid it will give voters in determining how they wish to vote.

With this in mind, the next responsibility lies with the voter to attend and take an interest in the meetings to be held in Georgetown and Acton.

It is not enough for voters to allow candidates to answer questions with cliché responses that have characterized elections in the past. Halton Region and Halton Hills are facing the most critical election in their very

short history. The major concern in Halton is what direction the community will take in the coming years. Will urbanization wipe out the rural portions of the region? Will the Niagara Escarpment Commission Plan affect the growth and lifestyle in Halton adversely?

But these questions, however, have also been repeatedly ignored by a large segment of the populous. This year they play a most important role in the selection of new councils because of the unresolved regional official plan and Niagara Escarpment plan.

While a certain apathy may be reflected in the areas of planning and social services, there is bound to be, as there usually is in municipal elections, a call by almost all candidates to curb or restrict irresponsible spending of tax dollars.

Voters must not be misled. There are some areas of local budget control, but more and more these areas are being eroded by the increasing power of the senior levels of government: regional, provincial and federal. Should any candidate talk about reducing taxes, or curbing spending, it is justifiable for voters to seek specific answers from him as to where and by what means he hopes to accomplish this.

Halton Hills council this year sought approval of a \$900,000 municipal complex addition at its offices on the Seventh Line. Public concerns raised during the debate on the issue centred on whether the facility was needed; and whether it could be paid for without harming local ratepayers. The proposal will be revived next year.

Remembering this, ratepayers should consider priorities, demand clarification of the need for a municipal complex, and weigh its costs against other services which may be required.

Smoking ban try is comic relief

With the expert timing of a political speaker Halton board of education trustee Bill Herd proposed a ban on smoking at board meetings.

But while it may have set the tone for the "pleasantness" of the meeting, it also showed the logic of board members in not allowing what some people consider an innocuous matter to clutter the education agenda. The board spent about 15 minutes considering the proposal before rejecting it.

On Parliament Hill

Solomon needed to predict future for Quebec, Canada

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

It would take a Solomon, blessed with extra-sensory perception, to predict accurately what may happen to Quebec, and indeed to Canada, in the wake of Rene Levesque's stunning victory over Premier Robert Bourassa.

At one extreme, it can be argued that the break-up of Confederation is inevitable because Mr. Levesque's Parti Quebecois is dedicated to separatism and, with a clear mandate from the people of Quebec, a way will be found to separate from Canada. At the other extreme, it can be argued that with a majority of Quebecers apparently against separatism, Mr. Levesque will simply form another provincial government and that his general policies will be no more nationalistic than those of Maurice Duplessis in the heyday of his Union Nationale government.

And in between those two extremes are so many possibilities it may take weeks to think of them all.

Moments after the Parti Quebecois victory, I heard Eric Kerans, a former cabinet minister in both Quebec City and Ottawa, say on television that Confederation would not be endangered. In fact, he suggested, "now would be a good time to invest in Quebec."

About the same time, Bryce Mackasey, another former federal minister who had just won a seat in this provincial election, was offering a different interpretation of events. "Have no illusions," he was saying. "The Parti Quebecois is totally committed to independence. They have succeeded in fooling the majority of the French Canadian population."

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS
Apart from the long-term constitutional issue, no one knows what the election of a separatist government will do to the economy of the province. There have been predictions of a mass withdrawal of capital, and Charles Bronfman, head of the giant Seagram Co. Ltd., said that if the PQ won, he would even pull his Montreal Expos baseball team out of the province.

That's obviously another extreme. And it has to be weighed against the opinion of Michel Belanger, president of the Provincial Bank of Canada, that the economic disruption will be short-lived, perhaps for just a month. After that it will be business as usual.

Then we have the opinion of Sam Hughes, executive director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce that the business climate in the province will remain uncertain until the issue of separatism is settled once and for all. "The people have spoken on government and now the party has an obligation to let them speak on independence," he said.

He thinks a referendum on independence should be held immediately.

The issue of independence could be the most confusing of all. Mr. Levesque has promised a referendum within two years, and there are many who will argue that the results are not in doubt since a public opinion poll indicated that only 19 per cent of Quebecers favor separatism.

COULD MANIPULATE
But there are others who argue that once in office, the Parti Quebecois can manipulate referendums to suit its own purposes. The wording could be fuzzy, the implications unclear, and the vote could be timed to coincide with some emotional issue, such as an air controllers language dispute, the deliberate withdrawal of capital, or alleged outside interference.

Mr. Levesque downplayed the independence issue throughout this campaign in a successful attempt to collect non-separatist votes from people who were angry at the Bourassa government. "The issue is government," he kept repeating. "Independence can be decided later."
But we can't overlook the official platform of the PQ, although it has been scarcely mentioned in this election. A PQ government would commit itself to "realize the political sovereignty of Quebec through democratic means and to propose to Canada a mutually advantageous economic association." Furthermore, a PQ government would "set in motion immediately the process of accession to sovereignty."

All things being considered, how can anyone predict what may happen in the next few months, or even years?



Toy gimmicks designed to fascinate, some can actually be played with

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

This week Viewpoint looks at the toy industries latest gimmicks designed to fascinate the minds of parents and stretch their pocket books and oh yes, as an afterthought, some of these mechanical wonders can actually be played with.

A number one favorite of the intellectual set this year is "Baby Joey" (Archie Bunkers grandson) - right there is a winner in itself but wait "Baby Joey" has other means of entertainment for your hard earned dollars.

Baby Joey is "anatomically correct." Oh, isn't that wonderful!

Most pre-schoolers I know that play with baby dolls are between two-to-six year, after that it's nothing but Barbies. How many two-year-olds do you know that need the wonder of an anatomically correct doll. Don't be surprised to hear "circumcision not included."

Just think carried to it's ultimate next year you might be able to buy the wonderful Mary Mother Doll. Watch her grow and grow and grow... then push the magic button and you have the "Mary Mother Family." Oh, how wonderful and so true in life too.

Back to this year and we have Baby Alive - Baby Alive does "everything." According to the ads she can eat "safe non bacteria food." She comes complete with food packets and disposable diapers. Just think, your little darling can feed Baby Alive, watch her swallow, and then change her diaper. Oh how grand - such good clean fun.

Then we have "Baby Thataway." Baby Thataway crawls away "according to the ads" she's constantly on the move.

Picture Christmas morning. Your little girl is sitting under the tree, are you watching scenes of laughter, happiness and joy worth every cent you spent? Not on your life. Your darling daughter is screaming; her lungs out. Baby Thataway has crawled in.

From here and there

Election candidates deserve our thanks

We take our hats off to those community minded individuals who are seeing their way clear to let their names stand in the upcoming municipal election. Good people are not difficult to get elected - it is just difficult to get good people to seek election.

The difficulty lies not with just the local positions on city and regional council and boards of education but also at the provincial and federal level. Those who are successful in their respective line of work, rarely have time to devote to politics. Those who are young do not want to interrupt their careers and those who are retired see little satisfaction in taking the abuse level of politicians and the vicarious life of office. Others are convinced too, that if elected there is little that can be accomplished and little chance of bucking the majority, composed as it is of so few who pursue the public interest.

There is also fear of getting caught in the treadmill wherein an official is forced to keep re-election so forcibly in mind that day-to-day, actions become warped. We have all witnessed the official who has become engrossed in what should be done for the best interests of his constituents, but in what must be done to be certain of getting a majority of votes the next go-round.

under the Christmas tree, never to return. Baby Alive has eaten, but someone forgot to put her nappy on and she has had a "see accident" over the other Christmas parcels. Baby Joey - why he has something your three-year-old daughter hasn't got, and she wants one too. "Why can't I have one, mommy?"

Oh the joys of a realistic Christmas morning.

Leaving the baby dolls of the kindergarten set we enter the world of Bionics. Here we have the Six Million Dollar Man complete with a Bionic Transport and Repair system. Next we have the beautiful Jamie Somers Bionic Woman doll - but wait - what accessories do we have for our Bionic Woman. A transport Centre? No. A repair Centre? No. We have a wonderful Bionic Beauty Salon. How wonderful - what else would an intelligent female agent have but a beauty centre. So much for women's lib in the spy business.

Still keepen with the doll craze we have Big Jim's latest gimmick which is "instant

In a lighter vein . . .

First Sacrament

"Which is the first and most important sacrament?" asked a Sunday-school teacher of a girl preparing for confirmation. "Marriage," was the prompt response.

"No, baptism is the first and most important sacrament," the teacher corrected.

"Not in our family," said the pupil laughingly. "We're respectable."

Then there is the public man of us? We go to the polls expecting that the individual we vote for is a great speaker, a superb debater, personable in looks that they have a certain mystique, and to mention instant solutions for all our problems.

We demand too that our office holder, whether in the executive or legislative branch high or low, be a bountiful dispenser of individual favors to all who ask. We demand not only that he provide more work generally, but that he intervene personally for any job any constituent wants, and for any government promotion any voter believes he deserves. We expect him to step in personally to get the road widened or not widened and to intervene if we believe the income tax office has made a mistake in analyzing our liability.

Indeed it is a wonder anyone runs for public office. Yet it is such an essential process in a democracy. Once again a special work of praise to all candidates in the upcoming municipal election. . . . We need you. Thanks for caring enough to give a large piece of yourself on our behalf. May the best of you win. (BRAMPTON TIMES)

On The Home Front

Outing adventure

by SUSAN DE FACENDIS

I have just discovered a new breed of heroine. They are the mothers who accompany a teacher on class outings.

For some strange reason, having had my three children in various schools for a combined total of 19 years, I have never participated in one of these wild events. I have faithfully attended open house nights, plays and concerts, but I can only assume with a husband on shift work, that the timing for these excursions was always inappropriate.

However, I rectified this omission in my education recently, by volunteering to assist Teresa's Grade One teacher on a visit to the Royal Ontario Museum to view the dinosaurs.

Having been assigned six beautiful little people, I thought: What could be easier? Well - that over-simplification was my first mistake.

The ROM turned out to be seething with what appeared to be at least 50,000 other little people, all approximately the same size and shape as my six. At one point I called on little laggard about ten times before I finally discovered he wasn't one of mine.

It took less than 30 seconds upon arrival, to discover that I had one six-year-old who was obviously running on a different type fuel to the other five. To say he was jet-propelled would be an understatement. I, at various times during the day, retrieved him from: the top of an eight foot ladder, attempting a descent from the top floor via the totem pole and, a sure-footed parade around the narrow edge of a large fountain.

Having a group consisting of 3 boys and 3 girls, a massive dilemma of course arose, when an inevitable cry for the washroom facilities came from my young ladies. While one can ignore Nature's call to a certain degree, I have learned it doesn't pay when dealing with six-year-olds - but, what to do? I knew if I accompanied the girls, I would never see the boys again.

Making a fast, mental flip-of-the-coin decision, I sent the girls off alone and planted myself and the three boys firmly outside the door.

This might have worked out alright, except the girls failed to emerge. After 10 minutes of exhaustive consideration, wherein I imagined: A) they were playing doctors and nurses; B) they had locked themselves in; and C) they had flushed themselves away, I told the boys not to move a muscle while I hurried up their 3 classmates.

I discovered them having a great time with the hot air hand dryers. "This is more fun than the dinosaurs Mrs. DeFacendis," I was politely informed.

Meanwhile the boys had predictably vanished.

I found them fifteen frantic minutes later only to be greeted with - "How come you got lost?" - which did very little to suppress my rising hysteria. Even the knowledge that I was not the only mother being reduced to a nervous wreck could console me at this point. Thanks mainly to my little six-year-old bionic superman, we charged from one exhibit to another in record time, finishing up in the basement viewing the life-sized Indian models.

"How come they're not wearing any clothes?"

Thinking rapidly, yours truly responded: "Well it was very hot and they didn't need them."

"What's that guy doing, Mrs. DeFacendis?"

"Rubbing two sticks together to make a fire, dear," says I with a mental pal on the back for such in-depth Indian knowledge.

"How come he needs a fire if it's so hot?"

"Why don't we go and buy postcards of the dinosaurs and find the bus? I quickly and somewhat cowardly replied.

Lori, Jason, Andrew, Bradley, Laura and, of course Teresa, I love you. May you always remain as bright and enquiring. It's really not your fault that I'm no match for the six of you.

Queen's Park

New book is manual on politics

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

If you want to follow politics deeply and keenly, there's a new book on the market which, it seems, should be helpful.

Douglas G. Hartle, an economics professor and former deputy secretary of the federal Treasury Board, on assignment for the Ontario Economic Council has written A Theory of the Expenditure Budgetary Process.

The title is one to throw you. And the professor's academic style can be a bit tedious to wade through.

But there is no question about his basic thinking. It is knowledgeable and valuable.

APPEAL FIRST
Professor Hartle takes the position that there are four basic groups in the world of government: The politicians, the bureaucrats, the special-interest groups and the media.

And then that through an interconnection between them all the government process comes up primarily with short-term solutions rather than answers to fundamental problems.

It works this way. The first goal of politicians is to be elected and their thought is for actions that have public appeal.

The goal of the bureaucrats is to maintain and expand their bureaucracies, and to do this, particularly

their minister. The role of the special-interest groups (for example, the Canadian Labor Congress and the Canadian Manufacturers Association) is negative.

They should be prongs in the side of government forcing it to stronger action. But because they are not really united their effectiveness is lost.

And the media also is largely negative. Because rather than going deep, they indulge in the sensational, which attracts the most readers.

IGNORE BASICS

There are many nuances involved, of course, but basically Professor Hartle is right in that the world of politics and government tends very much to deal with the surface and leave the more fundamental problems largely alone.

To mention just one instance, the single, most important problem today in Ontario and Canada probably is productivity. But how much do you hear about it from your politicians, the bureaucrats, special interest groups and the media? Very little. It doesn't have sex appeal.

The Hartle book certainly isn't going to change this situation overnight.

But it makes a contribution. It is published by University of Toronto Press, and is available from the Ontario Government Bookstore at \$6.50.