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A time to come together

This week will mark the beginning of a new phase in the life of Halton Hills. When the second council takes its place it will have a long and difficult job overcoming the parochialism created by regional government three years ago.

Now is the time for residents of Halton Hills to set aside the parochialism evident during the past three years of regionalism and strive to make it work.

Looking ahead to no change

To say 1976 was less than a quiet year, as predicted by a Herald new year editorial in 1975, is an understatement.

Many of the issues which became news in 1975 are still in the news. Site F hangs as a continued threat to residents of the Britannia-Tremaine area. The question of the municipal complex addition remains unanswered. And the need for an industrial commission in Halton, while demonstrated, still doesn't have a priority rating by the region.

The new year will bring more of the same. Politics will continue to be unpredictable; the community will continue to live day-by-day and everyone will feel concern over the cost-of-living and the effect of wage and price controls.

Taxes will certainly go up again as the provincial-and federal-austerity programs continue. Energy will play an important role in the community in the next year. Rates are expected to increase-partly, the hydro experts say because of the delay, some of it from Halton Hills, to the construction of a new power corridor from Douglas Point to Toronto.

But then daily living is a pragmatic existence. We make no prophecies but do say 1977 will not be a quiet year.

On Parliament Hill

Larry Zolf for senator? Maybe!

BY STEWART MACLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

The trouble with big, lovable Larry Zolf is that you can never be sure when he is deadly serious, when his tongue is pressing firmly against his cheek or when he is taking part in an outrageous spoof.

"Certainly I am serious about my great new undertaking for 1977, he now was saying, as he sat on the other side of the fireplace discussing his forthcoming campaign to become a senator.

It was a novel conversation. Who else has ever mounted a public campaign to become a senator? Thousands have probably written to various prime ministers, confidentially suggesting their own appointments, but no one has ever gone out there to stir up a populist movement. What Mr. Zolf wants is for Canadians to inundate Prime Minister Trudeau with letters and telegrams demanding that the 42-year-old broadcaster-journalist become a senator.

And on Jan. 1, a billboard is scheduled to go up at Toronto's Yonge and Queen Streets with the first public proclamation of "Zolf for the Senate," or something like that.

A group of friends at the Toronto Press Club decided to make this initial contribution. The candidate wants similar billboards in all provincial capitals.

I dared to ask how much money Mr. Zolf was prepared to spend on his campaign.

"Are you joking? My own money? Never. Not a sou."

But he plans on writing a book on his campaign which will be published in time for Christmas, 1977. It will be called "Running For Senate", and the author has already generously committed all profits to "The Larry Zolf Trust Fund."

"And if I am not appointed to the Senate by Christmas, 1977, that book will have a vicious last chapter."

When Mr. Zolf sits down to talk about a project like this, the words spew out like machine-gun fire and, lacking a tape recorder, most of his campaign platform is lost, unremembered. But at various

times he seemed to speak in favor of Senate reform, the Senate status quo and Senate abolition.

He also described himself as a provincial centrist, or was it an anti-provincialist? And "the most absolutely outrageous piece of pernicious legislation" he has ever seen was the bill forcing new senators to retire at 75.

"If I am appointed to the Senate, I'll speak out for those things I believe in. For instance, I believe in the abolition of capital punishment, except for the odd guy I would want to hang."

Mr. Zolf was reminded that an aide to Mr. Trudeau said recently that "there's only one criterion for appointing senators. They have to be friends of the prime minister."

This, the candidate conceded, could raise a problem. "I am neither a friend nor an enemy of the current prime minister, because I am no fool."

HEAVILY MANAGED
There is another little problem. "When you are relying on volunteer help, you can't afford to say No to any offer. That's why, at latest count, I have 120 campaign managers."

One will no doubt be in charge of the New York-based campaign outlet where the candidate hopes to rally "Exiles for Zolf."

Meanwhile, he is doing research for his planned book which, he says, will include a comprehensive look at the Senate, along with details of his campaign. "Other books have examined just certain aspects of the Senate, but I am going to describe the Chamber itself and even the washroom facilities."

If appointed, what would Mr. Zolf do first? "Well, there is a statue which prevents individuals from drawing money from two Crown bodies, such as the Senate and the CBC. I think it would be in the national interest to change such evil legislation forthwith."

As 1977 unfolds we will learn more about other campaign promises. And I hope Mr. Trudeau will keep us informed about the number of letters he gets as a result of Mr. Zolf's efforts.

There can be no room now for divisions or recrimination of what has occurred in the past. Now is a time for action to make government work for the needs of North Halton (including Milton). We need strong leadership on both councils to make Halton Hills a community where residents enjoy living, working and playing.

It will be a difficult job because of the attitudes which now prevail. Mayor Tom Hill, according to one Ward 2 resident was elected to support the rural need for a fourth vote on council. His opponent Harry Levy attributed his defeat in part to a mistrusting attitude of Acton residents for someone from urban Georgetown. And now residents of Acton have initiated a study of Acton's role in regional government and the benefits the community has achieved.

It's all a sad commentary on attitudes. Isn't it now the time to make this thing called regional government work? The prospect of Acton, or for that matter North Halton divorcing itself from regional government is remote to say the least.

Have a happy and safe New Year



Another year slips into the void and becomes 'it might have been'

BY Gerry Landsborough

This week Viewpoint shares a soon to be told secret, with your dear readers. It will be public knowledge in another day or two. The secret...another year has slipped by us and 1976 is about to depart to the land of "it might have been."

"It might have been" is a mysterious place that shows up every Jan. 1 and is usually gone by Jan. 2.

We all have goals that we probably didn't quite match in '76. But goals are for striving for the achievement is "the grays." The "meat" of the matter is in the striving. It is not in our personal objectives that "76" becomes another drop in the same old wash water - it is in the repetition of the same old world problems facing us in the same old way.

We all talk about the fragility of the land we live upon yet we all continue as though the world was an indestructible force destined for eternity.

We have the same old balanced amount of experts telling us... "things will get worse"... "things will get better"... "We are witnessing the end of democracy"... "democracy is entering the golden age"... "Man will always survive"... "the end of mankind is at hand."

The New Year again becomes a year of choices. The experts reflect on "76" as though it were a year of surprises as opposed to a year of logical conclusions.

War is still with us - but then it always is. The location changes now and again for variety - but as long as there are those who

Santa's resting

Santa Claus is resting comfortably this week following his whirlwind tour of the world last weekend.

He apologises to all the young boys and girls who did not have their letters answered during the past three weeks, but he hopes they were not disappointed Christmas Day.

Santa will be taking a long vacation to prepare himself for next year. Toy productions at the North Pole will continue and boys and girls the world over will be greatly surprised at what will come next year.

Santa, Rudolph and all the reindeer thank everyone for the kind thoughts they received Christmas Eve and for the nice snacks left for them to enjoy. He hopes everyone had a very Merry Christmas and will have a happy and prosperous 1977.

From here and there

Don't forget Ontario

We've been so engrossed in studying the monumental bloopers in federal government spending as uncovered by Auditor-General J.J. Macdonell that a similar report on Ontario's spending is almost second rate. But federal revenues are much larger, which accounts for the size of the questionable expenditures. On scale, Ontario's errors rate right up with Ottawa's.

Mr. Macdonell concluded that Parliament has almost lost control of the public purse. Ontario Auditor-General Norman Scott didn't draw that conclusion, but one can see that the Ontario legislature is nearing that point.

In an era when the public is clamoring for a close watch on spending for welfare, Ontario paid out \$19 million more than it should have to welfare recipients. OHIP, it appears, has more people on its list than live in the province. There are only 8,226,000 of us here and it's safe to assume that many families are listed under one number, thus leaving considerably fewer than eight million names in the claim files. Yet OHIP has nearly

13 million names!

Still in the health ministry files, Mr. Scott unearthed a doctor who was overpaid \$489,000.

During the 1975-76 fiscal year the cabinet issued 93 management board orders spending orders that authorize expenditures that do not pass through the legislature. They accounted for spending totalling almost \$290 million.

The government will be on the griddle for the remainder of this session and, hopefully, for much of the next.

The item concerning management board orders alone would sustain a good argument favoring more open government. Cabinet sessions are secret.

Do you really want a government that can spend \$290 million, in amounts ranging up to \$57 million in one whack, without having to go through the process of taking such expenditures through the legislature?

We will hear more of this government's spending as Mr. Scott's report gets further study. (Oshawa Times)

In a lighter vein...

Pass it on!

In a moment of petulance at supper, Louis XIII had given Cardinal Richelieu a slap in the face. To return it was impossible, to rest under it a disgrace, and any serious response to the insult would have forced Richelieu's retirement from the court. Without a moment's hesitation, the cardinal turned to his neighbor and slapped his face, saying, "The King wishes you to pass that on."

Each of us as individuals make our own choices every hour. Choices of acceptance, of inaction or the hardest choice of all "of action." Any action no matter how small creates change and change because it is unknown becomes something we fear. Not everyone can or wants to be a banner waver, or a front row marcher - but everyone can make a contribution.

We have all been brainwashed over the years as mice on a treadmill. Poor little mice they go round and round and get no where. We have been conditioned to believe that only the experts know the answers - yet the same old problems continue from year to year. Each passing year drifting away to the land of "it might have been."

When you accept things as they are - you have made a choice. This old world of ours may be far from perfect but it's the only world we have - we have to care about it.

Let us look forward to 1977 as a truly New Year. Let us reflect our Canadian way of life. We are a proud people - let us show it. We care - as we have shown the world in the past, let us stand out even stronger in the future. We keep our country together in unity for what is divided never stands.

As individuals let us set goals and strive for their accomplishment - for herein lies true achievement.

If we all tried with even half an effort 1977 would stand out as a year among years - ahead we have 365 days - 8,760 hours in which we "can make it happen. For each of us, as individuals - for our families and for our nation.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Queen's Park

Liberals frustrated by lack of press

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

What do they have to do, hit the premier with a custard pie?

Frustrated Liberals are asking themselves these days just what they have to do to get some attention in the press.

The party has been coming on quite strongly in the Ontario house this session. (Among other things they brought out their education program, which the government has been following as faithfully as a hound-dog).

But they can't get any real press coverage. And particularly in The Star and The Globe and Mail here, which have an extra-special relationship because they are the papers the members read when they are in Toronto.

They just don't seem able to make the news. Unless, of course, provincial Liberal leader Stuart Smith appears to reverse himself on something, and then the press pounces.

THEY SWEATED
...A current instance is the great bus-line dispute.

The Highway Transport Board has awarded certificates to Greyhound Lines to operate on Gray Coach routes between Buffalo and Toronto, and Toronto and Sudbury.

The decision eventually developed into quite a hot issue.

But the Liberals sweated away at it for days before they could get it noticed.

Yet it has all the elements.

There was the great big American corporation, Greyhound, against the

On The Home Front

I'll try and raise a glass or two

By SUSAN DE FACENDIS

If you can summon up enough energy after the past hectic week or two, it is time to raise your glasses once again to "Auld Lang Syne" and usher in a brand new year.

Despite the fact that I look and feel about as "spaced out" as the wretched turkey carcass that nudges me guiltily everytime I open the refrigerator door, I intend to see the year out in style. It was personally a good one and thus deserves a fitting send-off.

Generally, it was a strange year. Government scandals and earthquakes rocked out poor globe almost continuously; countries teetered precariously on the verge of bankruptcy and parmesan cheese hit a record high of \$9.00 a pound in Italy.

Our neighbours to the south elected a new President and Idi Amin declared his desire to become King of Hawaii. Prince Charles was linked romantically to-how many...? And I ran out of fingers and toes when it came to keeping track of Liz' husbands and Howard Hughes last wills and testaments.

Our government lost ten million dollars, they know not where, and I can sympathise because I will be facing the same problem, on a slightly smaller scale, at income tax time. However I do think purchasing an unfloatable boat was stretching the gullibility of the public a little too far. Even I demand a money back guarantee when buying anything larger than a breadbox.

Thanks to the guru-like philosophising of our own fun-loving Eugene Whelan, we learned to carefully avoid antagonising all those vicious, wild-eyed people rampaging out of the steakhouses, although I have to admit that I find certain weaknesses in Mr. Whelan's statement. My family for instance, pick on each other just as competently after a fish or chicken dinner as they do after a pot roast.

1976 was the year for nostalgia, a mass flight back into a serene, simpler way of life.

White clothes reflected the 1930's we learned to crochet and cross-stitch and to bake our own bread. Macramed plant holders went up in homes across the nation faster than the price of coffee and we were even exhorted to make our divorces creative.

Movies and television happily went along with the game. "The Fonz" became a household word - until a fickle public went ape over "King Kong" who became our new super jock.

We lived vicariously through the just romanticism of "Gone With The Wind" only to be stopped short when faced with the shocking stark reality of a Big Brother world of the 1980's, as portrayed in "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" and "Network."

Yes, it was a strange, restless, exciting, frightening year. I cannot wait to see the arrival of 1977.

I wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year. Face it with optimism for after all, if things become too rough we can always leave the country and move to Quebec.

publicly owned TTC Gray Coach (owned by the Toronto Transit Commission).

There was high political overtones. Acting for the company were former premier John Robarts and big-time PC back-room wheeler-dealer Eddie Goodman.

And the Transport Board apparently was reversing former policies.

If Stephen Lewis had introduced it, the press would have pounced on it. (Of course, Stephen probably would have managed to work in a few Indians.)

But though the Liberals pressed it for four days at question period, they couldn't get any time until Toronto labor got into the act.

And then, though this had been wholly their issue, they really got only passing mention.

What's behind it?
—One, the NDP has a lot of know-how in making news and promoting the news media.

—Two, at least a good many reporters tend to write off the Liberals as unimportant. Reporters can get that way.

POLITICAL OVERTONES
As for the Greyhound-Grey Coach issue what would seem to be mainly needed is clarification.

Greyhound seems to have a case at present, for example, with through passengers from Toronto to the west they have to change from Gray Coach to Greyhound at Sudbury.

Yet Gray Coach also has a case. For instance, it has built up an express service to Sudbury. And now Greyhound would be able to undercut this.

But above all it is hard to assess whether indirectly, if only through the power of the bodies appearing before it, the board was influenced politically.