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WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF, Publisher  
BOB RUTTER, Editor  
PHONE...877-2201

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## Let's be realistic

Last week Oakville Coun. Carl Eriksen proposed a pay cut for members of regional council.

It was a noble gesture which today will likely be bartered about by the full council as it prepares to receive and file his letter explaining his position.

And once again the exhibition of our elected politicians filling their pockets—to coin a phrase—will be laid before the public.

Mr. Eriksen, a social scientist by profession, is sincere in his arguments that the workload and responsibilities of the regional councillors job is not, perhaps, all that was envisaged by the previous council when it set the present salary level of \$8,500 a year.

But that aside, an argument which merits consideration is the changing shape of local politics. It is no longer a part-time pursuit for those with the time, resources and ability to donate community service. Politics—to coin another phrase—has become big business. A business which becomes more complex as each day new technology makes advances which influence changes in our lifestyle.

The fact that today an "average" citizen, the middle-class worker, can pursue a political career without fear of jeopardizing the welfare of his family, is an advantage to society which must never be overlooked. A case in point is Halton Hills Coun. Russ Miller who through circumstances will be unemployed when Domtar closes later this year. He has dedicated himself as a full-time politician.

The time at his disposal will be used to provide a full-time service to constituents and his remuneration means he can do so without economic sanction.

It's indeed unfortunate that today's politician is saddled with the responsibility of setting his own salary, not just at the local level but also at the provincial and federal levels. Some mechanism is needed to avoid the repeated embarrassed regular attempts to improve political salaries.

No. We can't see that a reduction in the present regional salaries is warranted considering the growing bureaucracy (not just regional, either) which local politicians must work within. But we cannot see any increase at this time either.

Ten years ago, for example, members of the Ontario legislature could carry out their duties on a part-time basis because constituent and legislative duties could be expeditiously and adequately dealt with. That's no longer the case as most members will testify. Members of the legislature now work more than the accepted 40 hours-a-week dealing with a monolith created to provide for our needs and desires.

Within the next two years the workload of regional council will no doubt increase as it first determines what Halton's goals and long-range objectives will be and then implements its official plan. To attempt to reduce the salary now may necessitate a make-up increase at some later date. Reducing the salaries now seems a backward step.



## Leaked Ottawa documents show need for perfect leader

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Psst. Over here! We've just received some inside information that's to be kept strictly on the "Q.T." We have come across some confidential letters and documents which it appears Ottawa has been trying to keep under wraps. Head on and you'll discover what the Canadian people "really" expect from their government.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:  
My name is Billy Smith and I'm in Grade 4 at Park Street Perfect School. I can't do my math. My teacher Mrs. Workrule says that I'm not trying hard enough. My mom says "Shut up and do your homework". My dad says that "what's wrong with the schools is all your fault." My dad is always right. My dad says "everything" is your fault - that's why he and mom fight so much. Please do my math for me or make the school do it or anybody else as long as I don't have to. It's too hard to do my own work.

Your friend  
Billy Smith

P.S. Please hurry my homework was supposed to be finished last week.

Dear Mr. Trudeau:  
Recently I had occasion to take "Fifi Precious" to our exclusive veterinarian Dr. William Answerall. My darling had become very upset. She was chewing my plants (my flowering fig is in a terrible state) throwing temper tantrums and also had "Bed-wetting" problems. Dr. William Answerall after extensively examining Fifi Precious feels she became upset after watching your press conference regarding Premier Rene what ever his name is. (Fifi Precious always watches the news from her velvet cushion on her settee.) Personally I can't be bothered keeping up with such unimportant matters. Dr. Answerall feels "Fifi Precious" has suffered trauma over your harsh words. There is no doubt in his or my mind that you are personally responsible for our Fifi's deplorable condition. I expect you to handle this matter with the utmost urgency giving my position full consideration. I do not care to have your interfering with Fifi Precious with such dribble and I'm sure you will take whatever steps are necessary to rectify this matter immediately.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs. R.J. Uptown  
(Uptown Ritz & Wallstreet)

N.B. We are giving a small dinner party for 359 of our closest friends and are looking forward to having Margaret join us. We

promised Jackie? and Grace that she would be there, and we hate disappointing our friends. Looking forward to seeing Margaret on Thursday.

R.J.U.

Dear Prime:  
Look old buddy I'm running my rig back and forth across this country and I'm running into a hell of a lot of static. Me and some of the guys are bloody fed up with your stinking controls. You know what you can do with them - don't ya. Now there's no way we want to lay it in you "good buddy" but if we don't start pulling in more bread fast your not going to be doing much skiing in the next few weeks - if ya get what I mean. It's just not worth it good buddy. Do something - FAST

Red "Bone Crusher" Karolovitz

Dear Prime Minister:  
Please excuse me for writing to you and bothering you with my problems. I want to have a baby. My boyfriend Harold says that it cost too much money and that times are bad and it's all your fault. Please help me have a baby.

Yours truly  
Susie Mixedup

Allo Pierre:  
We have ze little "problem" with the Anglous down the road. They run a food store. We went in to buy some "pea soup" - they say "pea-soup is for de birds." Now mon am we have been eating de pea soup ever since I can remember. My grandmother she eat de pea soup, my grandfather he eat de pea soup my

## deadline approaches

With less than two weeks remaining for the purchase of the licence stickers for 1977 car licence plates there's still at least 4,000 owners in Georgetown and a similar number in Acton who may be lining up for that piece of plastic.

Spokesmen for the ministry of transportation and communications report there will be no extension of the deadline. The two local licensing offices have extended hours until the end of the month.

great-great-grandfather eat de pea soup. What is this they are trying to pull? Pierre I know we can count on you to fix everything-tes bien.

P.S. Say Allo to les enfants.

Bonjour

Well dear readers after receiving these documents it has become painfully evident the kind of problems Ottawa is secretly trying to deal with. Trudeau is regarded by the Canadian people as a tyrannical and absolute monarch in effect—a God. The democracy we once knew is no longer with us. The "Canadian way" is a perfect government for a perfect people. It would appear that the Canadian people find it impossible to see any difference between "needs" and "greeds".

There has never been a perfect government let alone a "perfect official" but to see this, one would have to look at the economy and the social pressures that are happening in the rest of the world—but the R.J. Uptowns, the Susie Mixedups and the "Bone Crushers" of the world are really not interested in this. What is required is an ad for the next Prime Minister.

Wanted: Perfect person to run imperfect country perfectly. Hours, 24 per day - vacations taken at your own risk. Spouse must also be perfect - particularly in matters of protocol no personal displays of humanity please! Image could be summed up in total representation of perfection. "The Great Canadian Way". Salary commensurate with experience. Perfect people only need apply.

Apply in writing to:  
The Perfect Canadian People,  
Perfect Canada,  
Subsidiary U.S.A.

## Queen's Park

### Davis can sure shuffle a cabinet

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

Bill Davis may not be the best politician in the world. At least a lot of people think so. But when it comes to shuffling a cabinet he is better than a country hand.

Politically his recent cabinet reorganization was about as good as we have seen here in recent times.

The shift not only gave Northern Ontario its own minister, a master political stroke, but it wiped out some bad trouble spots and generally tended to put people where they better belong.

**SAID, BITER:**  
Outstanding in this line is moving John Smuta from Correctional Services to Government Services.

Smith has had his foot in his mouth so much he probably bites his toe nails. In Government Services about the only chance for him to get into print is when a new building is to be put up so he should be safely out of the way.

Arthur Meen, in Revenue, has been in trouble over both housing loans and land speculation tax exemptions.

The trouble has been mainly over his decisions and his judgement. In Correctional Services these are not called for nearly as much.

## On The Home Front

### Nostalgic memories of youth

By SUSAN DE FACENDIS

However happy I am living in Canada and unable to conceive now of living anywhere else, spring never fails to arouse in me a dreadful nostalgia and homesickness for the English springs I grew up with. Possibly because it is such a definite season over there, whereas here in Canada it never seems to be able to make up its mind whether to arrive or not.

I realise this is probably just a slight mental aberration on my part, however each year, spring finds me torn between the desire to return for a visit and the knowledge that, were I to go, it would probably be nothing like I remember. It could in fact, destroy an illusion that I have been able to use as a retreat into the recesses of my mind when necessary.

I know I spent my childhood in a little piece of heaven. We had the English Channel and its beaches at our front door and the gently rolling countryside known as the South Downs, at our back.

As a child I never remember being bored. The problem was usually to be able to decide between choices.

Would it be the beach at low tide with the shrimp and crab hunting and wet sand squishing delightfully between bare toes? Should it be a walk along the promenade at high tide, with the awe-inspiring majesty of the huge waves thunderously pounding against the sea wall, soaking me with its fine mist of salty spray?

Or should it be a long hike across the countryside with my scottish terrier Lindsay, prancing at my side in a delirium of doggy delight - a countryside where blackberries and red and black currants grew free for the picking?

The summer holidays spent in Devonshire at the home of my great-grandparents where at night, one slipped quickly past the paintings of disapproving ancestors lining the dim stairway, to climb a short ladder into an enormous four poster bed and to eventually fall asleep under the watchful eyes of a stuffed owl in a glass case adorning the surface of the dressing table.

One of my favourite haunts was a country estate, where a large segment of the grounds had been allowed to fall into disrepair and run wild.

A neighbourhood friend and I discovered a gap in the surrounding fence and proceeded to spend many magical hours there - a weed-choked pond that abounded with eels; rutted tree stumps filled with the nests of grass snakes, the young ones no bigger than darning needles, wriggling and glinting in the sunlight.

The occasional appearance of a gardener or grounds-keeper added to the day, with the thrill of possible discovery and its unknown consequences.

A bicycle, a packed lunch and a good companion, was all that was needed to make a perfect day. We came home tired, dirty and laden down with armfuls of the wild bluebells that covered the countryside like a carpet.

These days of my childhood bred in me a passionate love for the open country and the wildlife it contains. I wish my rather too-worldly city-bred children could have a glimpse of this world, that they too might have some dreams to dream when life's realities sometimes become too much.

### In a lighter vein . . .

Back in the days when Casey Stengel was a Dodger coach, one of his charges named Cuccinello hammered a hit to the bullpen in right field. Mel Ott of the Giants fielded the ball brilliantly and fired it to third base. "Slide!" screamed Stengel, but Cuccinello came in standing up and was tagged out. "You'd have been safe if you'd slide," roared Stengel. "Why didn't you do like I told you?" "Slide?" repeated Cuccinello with some dignity. "And bust my cigars?"

## On Parliament Hill

### Sewage will be first, later the constitution will be discussed

By STEWART MacLEOD  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

While all our attention has been focused on lofty constitutional questions, it's interesting to note that the first practical problem to arise between Ottawa and Quebec's new separatist government involves a sewage treatment plant.

I guess the bickering had to begin somewhere.

At issue is a proposed \$120 million project to handle sewage in the Hull-Gatineau-Aylmer region across the river from Ottawa. Under the agreement, signed last year after years of negotiation, the federal government would pay \$60 million and the other half would be divided between the province of Quebec and the municipalities involved.

The plant was given an urgent priority by the federal government because Hull's raw sewage is dumped into the Ottawa River.

When tenders were called last year the lowest bid came from an Ottawa firm which said it would construct the plant itself for \$29,530,000. This was \$1,450,000 below the next lowest bid.

The previous Liberal government in Quebec agreed that the Ottawa firm should get the contract.

But before the papers were signed, the Parti Quebecois government came into power, with a firm policy of giving its contracts to Quebec firms. Claiming there were irregularities in the tender offered by the Ottawa firm, Quebec's minister of inter-governmental affairs, Claude Morin, said new tenders would have to be called.

At first there were quiet behind-the-scenes negotiations as Ottawa argued that the so-called irregularities represented normal practice, that most of the employees of the Ottawa firm were residents of Hull and that within inflation any new bids would be automatically higher.

But then Prime Minister Trudeau appointed Urban Affairs Minister Andre Ouellet—he is responsible for the National Capital Commission—as chief Liberal organizer in Quebec. Mr. Ouellet is a fighter, and he knew that the residents of Hull were not exactly ecstatic about the Parti Quebecois attitude toward the city.

So just after Quebec Municipal Affairs Minister Guy Tardif said his government would help "liberate" Hull from federal domination, Mr. Ouellet and Mr. Juneau unleashed a new offensive.

**STRONG PROTEST**  
In an unusually stiff letter to Mr. Morin, and which was obviously meant for widespread distribution in Hull, Mr. Juneau relates the whole history of the contract and says the Parti Quebecois position "is most disquieting."

And he advances some compelling arguments for a Quebec City about face.

First the agreement among the governments had no provision for preferential treatment for Quebec firms. Anyway, he points out, the Ottawa firm says 100 per cent of employees used on the project would be residents of Quebec, and 99.4 per cent of all subcontracting work would be done by Quebec firms. All materials would be bought from Quebec suppliers.

The letter also referred to the fact that the firm employs many Quebec residents on Ontario projects. There was a hint there.

It will be difficult for Mr. Morin to counter all the arguments advanced by Mr. Juneau and it will also be difficult for him to win the current propaganda war over the issue.

The Quebec residents concerned desperately want that new sewage system and they are being constantly reminded that Ottawa will put up half the cost, while the Parti Quebecois, with a 25-per-cent commitment, is stalling.

Because the PQ government is pledged to trim all expenditures, as it demonstrates financial responsibility to outside investors, there is some speculation that this first federal-provincial dispute is merely a delaying action by Quebec City. But this is one sewage treatment plant that's worth watching.

## Looking through our files

### 30 YEARS AGO

Hunter's Inn was the scene of a fire Feb. 15. Firefighters, who were called to the scene at noon, had to break down a door and chop a hole through the asphalt roof to quell the blaze. Two bedrooms on the upper floor were gutted and a number of stored groceries destroyed.

Three Ontario Provincial Police constables began maintaining law and order in Georgetown with headquarters in the old town hall.

The Lion's club dropped plans to have a horse show in Georgetown because of the great financial risk.

A week-long campaign to raise \$1,000 for St. John Ambulance got underway, part of a Canada-wide campaign to raise \$1 million. Committee members were Dr. C.V. Williams, chairman; Mrs. R.T. Paul, secretary; R.H. Ireland, treasurer and Mrs. A. Reeve, publicity.

### 20 YEARS AGO

Consulting engineers recommended to council that the present sewage disposal plant be abandoned in favor of a new one costing \$830,000 to serve the old and new parts of Georgetown. C.S. Dutton, spokesman for Proctor, Redfern and Laughlin, told council that the current plant, with a capacity to

serve 3,700 persons, was serving 5,300 and under department of health standards should be operating.

John D. Kelly, Georgetown's clerk-treasurer for five years, resigned his post.

Council reversed its decision of the previous week and decided to purchase from Harold McClure, an ambulance to get the new ambulance service in Georgetown established. About 70 men volunteered to operate the service.

**10 YEARS AGO**  
Georgetown and district high school hired a second vice-principal, Neil Turnbull, of Galt, to handle administrative matters. He joined A.M. Baxter who was in charge of attendance and student discipline.

Town staff got an across-the-board increase of 10 per cent although department heads were excluded from the raise. Staff also got their lunch hour cut to 75 minutes from 90 plus 1.5 days per month sick leave accumulating to a maximum of 60 days in five years.

The Esqueping Agricultural Society changed its name to the Georgetown Agricultural Society.

Halton County MPP George Kerr was proposing a two-tier system of government for Peel and Halton.