

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reporter defends story, denies breach of confidence

To the editor of The Herald: My name is incorrect when he accuses this reporter (Independent and Acton Free Press June 8) of using confidential information given at a May 31 Press conference to identify the company considering take-over of the Domtar Fine Papers Ltd. plant at Georgetown.

The facts are that everything stated at the Press conference by George Gray, Progressive Conservative candidate for Halton-Burlington and Mayor Hill was "on the record." This can be confirmed by Hartley Coles of The Independent and George Evashuk of The Herald.

I can assure you that at no

time was the name of Scott Paper Ltd. mentioned to me by Mayor Hill or Mr. Gray as the company interested in moving to Georgetown.

Although I informed Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray at the May 31 Press conference (again Hartley Coles and George Evashuk will confirm) that I already knew the name of the company the only possible clues to its identity at the Press conference were given publicly by Mayor Hill.

These were published on the front page of The Independent on June 1: the name of a Mr. Goulet, the fact (incorrect as it turned out) that a Scott directors meeting on the possible take-over was being held in Vancouver and that the

company concerned was a manufacturer of paper products. Also, purchase of the Domtar mill was "imminent", according to Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray.

At the end of the Press conference (during which I didn't say the name of the company either) Mayor Hill and George Gray agreed quite specifically with the statements each had just made on the Domtar situation although to be fair Mr. Gray didn't say much on the issue at that time. However they "fully supported" what each other said.

So far as Mr. Gray's position on the issue is concerned he told the Georgetown Rotary Club, May 16, that the location of a new industry in the Domtar plant was "almost a fait accompli," it would possibly create 850 jobs and while negotiations for the sale of the Domtar plant were "completed" the actual sale

had not yet gone through.

On June 1, in my capacity as North Halton reporter for The Toronto Star I decided that some of the statements made by Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray should be checked out in the public interest, mainly in view of the provincial election campaign.

Acting on information I had previously received from other sources I telephoned George O'Leary, president of Scott Paper Ltd., only with the objective of checking the substance of certain statements made concerning the firm by Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray notwithstanding the fact that the company in negotiations with Domtar had not at that time been named in the Press.

I can assure you that Mr. O'Leary was most distressed with some of the misleading of incorrect statements which had been put out concerning his company by Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray.

As a result, I had specific permission from Mr. O'Leary to write a story for The Star (published June 2) naming Scott and denying the company has any firm plans for taking over Domtar mill or phasing out its existing production facilities in Crabtree, Quebec, or New Westminster, B.C.

It might also be interesting for Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray to know that I was congratulated for my "integrity" by Mr. O'Leary and Bernard Goulet, a Scott vice-president, for bringing the matter of statements concerning their company to their attention and on the accuracy of my subsequent story concerning the company's position.

I would point out that had the company substantiated the facts as given by Mr. Gray and Mayor Hill and had not wished its name published under those circumstances no story would

have been written by me for The Star.

Halton Hills Councillor Pete Pomeroy has backed Scott's official statement on the issue. For the Town of Halton Hills only Mayor Hill, Pomeroy and planner Mario Venditti took part in the talks with Scott officials and at the two meetings held Mr. Gray wasn't present although he does claim he is aware of the Domtar side of the negotiations.

I find it quite significant that Venditti says he has been "instructed" to say nothing on the issue. Instructed by Mayor Hill perhaps? If so, why?

As of last week I was personally assured by Mr. Goulet that the fact that the company name has become public "in no way changes" Scott's plans for "TAKING A LOOK AT PURCHASE" of the Domtar plant along with properties elsewhere in Canada.

I would suggest, with respect, that in future Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray be much more careful in the kind of "on the record" statements they make at public meetings and Press conferences, especially if they have suffered some embarrassment they have only themselves to blame.

Mr. Gray's public statement at a Kildee election meeting that the company interested in purchasing the Domtar plant "is moving from the East of Canada" - he meant Quebec - was certainly more than a little embarrassing to Georgetown and Scott and it was the first time this had been mentioned publicly, to my knowledge.

The only Eastern Canada production facilities Scott has are at Crabtree, near Montreal. However, the company denies emphatically that it intends moving its plant especially since it is spending \$7 million this year on capital improvements at Crabtree.

One last thing, if the identity of Scott was originally as secret as claimed it seems strange that Jonathan Fear, a

Globe and Mail reporter was given the name by a farmer whom he met casually while roaming North Halton on an election assignment.

The farmer wasn't George Gray I hasten to add and Fear at the time didn't realize the significance of the piece of information he had been given well before The Star story of June 2. Fear told me, he didn't realize the identity of Scott was supposed to be so secret.

Under the circumstances, as mentioned in the first paragraph of this letter, I believe I deserve an apology from Mayor Hill. I have been a news reporter for 20 years. I am a straight-shooting guy and do not have to put up with this kind of thing.

I have a public service to perform in informing citizens of what goes on in North Halton and I will try hard not to be used to promote news only as politicians or anyone else would like it when the facts appear somewhat different.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Dexter.

Dog killed

Brian Canary, 33 Kingham Road, Acton, was west bound in his vehicle on 22 Sideroad, June 9, when a dog ran in front of the vehicle. Police said the dog was struck and killed. Estimated damage to the car was \$50.

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JOYCE BEATON

A new perspective

Today's woman, whether she's single, newly married, in mid-life or in her sixties, is busy rearranging her perspective on life.

For some, as in the case of Margaret Trudeau, the route goes counter to all she has been raised to believe is "proper" conduct for a wife and mother. For others it is simply a re-shuffling within tightly maintained boundaries.

For others it's a compromise. My thoughts are as follows:

It makes no sense to my friends at home That a middle-aged woman should want to roam. But I've had the kids and I've been called mother And I've cared for a man and I've been his lover And I've cooked their meals and I've been his wife Now I want to live the rest of my life.

It makes no sense to society That a middle-aged woman should wish to be free. My very best friend just shook her head And my sister says that I've made my bed and should lie in it - that's her advice. But I want to live freely the rest of my life.

It makes no sense to the neighbourhood That a proper woman who's always been good Who's gone to church and lived life right should suddenly flap her wings for flight. They're sure there's a man - that would make more sense Than to change one's life with no recompense.

There's a stranger buried deep inside Who used to fly free but who learned to hide. She divided herself on the family tree Gave a piece to everyone else but me. But I've picked the pieces now they're ripe For my plan to shape the rest of my life.

Now, I have no desire to shake the tree bare I'll pick and eat as I see my share. As each bite gets sweeter it strengthens me To climb to the top of the human tree. There I'll swing from the branches and shout with delight. And begin to live the rest of my life.

It makes no sense to the person I knew That I'd cast all that's tried and true That I'd go it alone when there's those I love Willing to keep me - to set me above. I invite them along if they'll just agree

To grant me the space that I need to be me.

Joyce Beaton is the editor of EARLY CANADIAN LIFE, a magazine on Canada's history, artists and craftspeople. It's available from Goldenglow Publications, 181 Main St. Milton, Ont. at a yearly subscription rate of \$3.

Calculator use study for schools

Halton school trustees will hear the administration's position on the use of hand-held calculators at its meeting tomorrow (Thursday).

The administration recommends the judicious use of calculators at various grade levels to support, but not replace, the development of arithmetic skills. It does not recommend the use of calculators on elementary school mathematics tests.

Where a secondary school considers pupil use of the calculator as desirable or necessary to achieve the objectives of any course, the student will need to provide his or her own calculator.

Consider the users in library site study

To the editor of The Herald: I hope that Council, in its reconsideration of a suitable site for the new library, will give some thought to how the users of the library will get to the new site.

Actually, at present this is not a problem for me, but the time may come when I might move to Georgetown, and indeed may then not be driving a car. I would be unhappy if the library were situated a mile or more away from the town centre, so that I had to take a taxi to get there.

You may well ask what right I have to make suggestions in this regard since I do not even live in Halton Hills, though I have used the Library for the

past nine years. The real reason for my concern is to ask if Council realizes that every time a service is moved away from the centre of town another coffin nail is put into Main Street.

Georgetown is fortunate indeed to have such a beautiful main street, with a lot of parking space, and I know the merchants do their best to keep it alive, and attractive. But if all the services which draw us toward Main Street are banished to the suburbs, it will indeed be difficult to maintain the centre of Georgetown as a viable part of the town.

Yours truly,
(Miss) Mary L. Cassidy

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During Senior Citizens' Week, Ontario is calling everyone's attention to the contributions and needs of our province's seniors.

Talent doesn't retire. Senior Citizens have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with future generations. They are enriching the cultural life of the province by participating in every aspect of Ontario's artistic activities. They are also coaching sports, teaching, driving other senior citizens to appointments, assisting them to fill out income tax returns, and serving in many other different ways.

Ontario is helping our seniors do things for themselves even while they do things for others.

There are over 1000 senior citizens' clubs and 90 senior citizens' centres in Ontario.

Special grants and other assistance are enabling older people to return to school and university.

Health services, financial benefits, tax credits and alternative types of housing have also been made available to seniors.

A Senior Citizens' Privilege Card entitles them to special privileges at many cultural institutions, tourist attractions, places of business and transportation.

Two free booklets, "Ontario Benefits for Senior Citizens" and "Where to Use Your Ontario Senior Citizens' Privilege Card," offer specific information about where and how to enjoy programs and services available to senior citizens.

For your free copies, contact your local Ministry of Community and Social Services office, or write to:

Senior Citizens' Bureau
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Heppburn Block, 4th Floor
Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1S2

Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services

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