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Library Board's soul searching is necessary

Halton Hills Library Board's decision to prepare a statement of purpose, goals and objectives is a commendable if somewhat arduous endeavor.

Just as a builder needs a blueprint before he or she can construct a building a library board needs a plan before it can develop a library system. The parallel made by board chairman Dick Howitt to a town's official plan is a good one.

At a meeting held last Wednesday night, library board members agreed that a major public perception on the library is as a source of concern and conflict. We would wager that some of this "concern" arises from the lack of a clear statement of principals and goals for the library. Nothing breeds suspicion like the unknown.

As William Kreisel from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation told the library board, how can we sell the library to the public when we aren't united on what we want it to be.

Halton Hills citizens are justifiably concerned at the prospect of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on either the renovation or construction of a new library before the needs of the library have been clearly stated.

The facilities required to ac-

commodate a library that is merely a book lending centre would be much different than those required by a "community centre" offering children's programs, guest lecturers and the like. Yet last Wednesday night the board members were not clear on which type of service they feel should be provided to Halton Hills residents. But at the same time there are board members clamouring for the construction of a new facility.

The board's "soul searching" self-examination is absolutely necessary before any further discussion of a new facility takes place and, before the public can be expected to support a new or renovated library.

The needs and purpose of the library must be clearly stated and the public must have direct input into the drafting of such a statement. The final statement of purpose, goals and objectives for the library must detail specific requirements for the library and, it must be the subject of the scrutiny of a public meeting.

Once such an exercise takes place and once the public is given an opportunity for direct input into the library board's policy making we anticipate it will be easier for the board to see their statement of purpose become a reality, with the support of the local community.

GARA's Focal report is a worthy effort

The report prepared by the Georgetown and Area Ratepayer's Association detailing that organization's objections to the proposed Focal Properties subdivision development is a boost to the credibility of all citizen's groups and we expect the report to become a highly circulated document.

Far from being a knee-jerk reaction to the controversial Focal proposal, the ratepayer's report is a thoughtful and carefully documented analysis of arguments for and against the project.

The ratepayers clearly state their opposition to the development project and they use some pretty convincing arguments. The ratepayers maintain that the Focal project will, at the least, push the town's existing services to the limit and at worst,

necessitate a tax hike of close to 19 per cent.

They support the town's stated policy of infilling, which advocates the small scale utilization of building lots within the town limits rather than grand, subdivision schemes that would push the town's sewage treatment facilities to the limit eliminating the option of infilling unless a new or expanded sewage facility was constructed.

Before passing final judgement on the Focal plan we are anxiously awaiting the results of the current closed door negotiations between Focal and the town.

But we wouldn't be surprised to hear that the ratepayers' document comes into the negotiations at some point.

It still takes two to make a strike

In this the "true north strong and free" it seems that some are freer than others.

While most working people in this country have the option of withholding their labor-striking-when contract negotiations with their employers reach an impasse, Canada's postal workers no longer have this right.

After more than a year of working without a contract the post office's inside workers voted to strike and after less than a day of operating without a postal service, the federal government decided to remove this right.

While the CUPW leadership is urging union members to ignore the back to work legislation, many workers - including Halton Hills - have decided to go back on the job, rather than risk costly fines.

While many applaud the government's "bold" step they are forgetting a basic element of labor-management relations-it takes two to make a strike.

Despite government attempts to paint the postal workers as a group of

depraved militants, nobody wants to strike. After all, if given the choice of receiving full pay, or significantly lower strike pay, any working person will choose full salary, it only makes sense.

Obviously the post office management were also not entirely pleased with the state of negotiations, otherwise there would have been a settlement.

But the injustice of the back to work legislation is that only the union suffers. While the union is now deprived of their one bargaining lever, management has the best of both worlds, they have the mail circulating again and a union that can no longer strike.

The stupidity of the back to work move is that it is only a stop-gap solution to the post office problem. If union members were dissatisfied before the strike, we hate to think what morale must be like now.

It strikes us as ironic that if the postal workers services are not valuable enough for management to come close to meeting their demands then how come this country cannot last more than a day without their services?

A NEW LOOK FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY: PIERRE E. NEUMAN.



WHAT ME WORRY?

Liberals 'whomped, clobbered,' may mean Trudeau's end

By STEWART MACLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

Before being rudely interrupted by 15 by-elections, we were talking about Prime Minister Trudeau's brilliant ridicule of Tory leader Joe Clark and how he will be such a formidable force in next year's general election campaign.

Ah, but those by-elections. Suddenly, it's no longer a question of evaluating election oratory, but rather a question of whether Trudeau's voice will even be heard in the next campaign.

His Liberal party was not merely defeated in those by-elections, it was whomped, clobbered, humiliated. And although the Liberals have a traditional tendency to rally around their leader in times of stress, even they have limits on loyalty. If, during the next few months, opinion polls indicate that the Trudeau-led Grits are continuing to wallow in the depths of detestation, there will be enormous pressure on the prime minister to step aside and call a leadership convention.

If this happened, it is quite probable that the Liberals would choose John Turner, Trudeau's former finance minister, to lead them into an election and thus is the scenario the Tories hate to think about. They desperately want a general election before a change in Liberal leaders.

NEED JOLT

While the Liberal establishment may not be particularly enthusiastic about Turner - many think he deserted the party in time of need - he still represents the best bet for an immediate victory. And if there is a change in leadership during the winter months, this would be a prime consideration. The Liberals don't require a long-term rebuilding program they need a jolting change of personality to reignite a basically sound, but depressed organization.

If the Tories suffered this type of humiliation in by-elections, the knives would be out before the votes had been counted and the airways would be filled with strident cries for a leadership convention. But the Liberals don't operate this way. They instinctively close ranks, delay decisions until all rational voices have been heard, and then whisper suggestions to the leader. The future of Trudeau probably rests with public opinion polls that will be taken during the next two months.

In the meantime, declaring that "you lose some and you win some," the prime minister will carry on as though nothing has happened. And, outwardly, he will be cheered loyally by his followers whenever he unleashes his fighting oratory in the direction of Joe Clark.

But the wounds are deep. It's one thing to say that "you lose some and you win some," but when you lose all seven Ontario seats, and your popular vote fall below the New Democrats, it's time for a bit of soul-searching.

TRUDEAU TRIED

Trudeau had campaigned heavily in those seven Ontario constituencies. And it must have been rather discouraging for him to see the Tories roll up 50 per cent of the popular vote, while the Grits managed only 22 per cent.

It would be frightening to translate these percentages into a general election. But Liberal organizers will be doing this, and unless there is a dramatic turnaround in the opinion polls - and remember that the most recent polls were far more optimistic about Liberal fortunes than the actual results of this mini-election - the prime

minister will likely, on his own initiative, decide to step down. And he would have good reasons for doing so.

It's not simply a matter of facing defeat in a general election that would prompt such a move. What is more significant is the possible devastation of the Liberal party in English-speaking Canada, with a continuing Conservative drought in Quebec. With the country already feeling the effects of linguistic and cultural divisions, it's unlikely that

Trudeau would want to add any partisan political elements to the division lines.

But still I am hedging my bets. Trudeau is, above all, a fighter and he is probably fascinated by the thought of staging once more magnificent uphill battle, climaxed by a stunning upset.

It's a question of how the Liberal establishment views the grade on that hill. At the moment it looks mighty steep.

'Industrial waste' issue could spell trouble

By DEREK NELSON
Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

TORONTO - When the legislature resumes later this month watch the political sparks fly when the words "liquid industrial waste" are heard.

Both the Liberals and New Democrats sense the problems of toxic waste will simultaneously stir public interest and make the Tories look bad.

Normally, environmental issues aren't all that popular. Trying to convince people, for example, that Inco should be shut down until they reduce their Sudbury mill emissions to the level some bureaucrat thinks is acceptable just isn't going to work.

Jobs are far more important. But that doesn't apply in the liquid industrial waste area.

Here the threat isn't some vaguely defined and poorly understood phenomena like acid rain or a creek that foams when it crosses rapids.

LOVE CANAL
No. Now we're dealing with human health, including real shockers like birth defects, cancers and nerve damage.

And the symbol for it all is becoming the Love Canal.
The canal is in New York State near the Niagara River, where assorted chemical waste, some quite toxic, was buried more than 25 years ago when the dangers were virtually unknown.

Now the residues are seeping to the surface, forcing abandonment of nearby housing where the health of some residents may have been affected.

The Niagara Peninsula Federation of Agriculture recently headed a press released

detailing their opposition to a landfill site near Hamilton "Another Love Canal for Niagara?"

SCARE TACTIC
And NDP leader Michael Cassidy has specifically warned that a "Love Canal disaster could happen here."

These are scare tactics, of course, but they contain an element of truth, as Cassidy clearly pointed out in one St. Catharines speech.

Under Ontario regulations, old landfill dumps are monitored for two years - yet at the Love Canal I learned effects may not be felt for 30 years," he said.

"Not only that, but local and provincial officials do not know where many of the old landfill sites are located or what kind of industrial waste went into them.

"Worse, the problem is skyrocketing because a number of disposal sites that were easily and cheaply used have now been closed for environmental reasons, yet no alternatives have been provided."

SOME MISSING

In fact, as Cassidy and other critics before him have noted, some liquid waste that used to go into landfill sites is now missing in the sense government has no idea where it is going.

In the case of one Toronto landfill site as much as 20 per cent is now unaccounted for. That the kind of problem the government's new environment minister, Harry Parrott, is going to have to come to grips with quickly.

Either that or it'll be a hot seat he'll be occupying once the house reconvenes.

Letter to the editor

Councillor says thanks to Acton firefighters

To the editor of The Herald:

On behalf of Gerry and myself I would like to thank the Fire Chief and the Volunteer Fire Men of Area No. 1 Acton for the hospitality shown us at the Official Opening of the newly reconstructed Fire Hall.

As Chairman of the Building Committee for this Addition I would

like to express my sincere thanks for the co-operation I received from Chief Holmes and the Volunteers during the reconstruction. I am sure that all the residents of Acton and District are as proud of this fine facility as I am.

Yours Sincerely,
Russell Miller.

Looking Through Our Files

NEWSERVICE

THIRTY YEARS AGO - The Gray Coach Lines are inaugurating a new service through Georgetown. Starting this weekend, the bus leaving Toronto at 11:30 p.m. which used to terminate its run at Brampton will be routed through Georgetown. It arrives at Norval at 12:48 and Georgetown at 12:55 a.m.
Miss Joan DeVries has returned from a six-month visit with relatives in Holland, during which she attended the coronation of Queen Juliana.

Saving hydro is just as important today as it was last week. So far, Georgetown has been one of the few fortunate municipalities which have not had one shut-off. Help keep it that way by continuing to turn off all unnecessary lights and use electrical appliances sparingly.

W.O. Brownridge reports that his chickens are now laying "labelled eggs". An egg laid last week by one of his flock had the letter B clearly etched on the shell.

SCHOOL OPENING

TWENTY YEARS AGO - With the Most Rev. Joseph F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton, officiating, Holy Cross Separate School had its official opening on Friday evening, when five hundred people gathered to view the ceremony and touring the building afterwards.

A Georgetown lady has been appointed assistant director of nurses at the large John Hopkin Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Doris Arms-Rong, R.N. will assume her new position on December 1 at the hospital where she has been supervisor of the general operating room for the past three years.

Rural mail carrier for RRI, Glen Williams for the past 35 years, John Hancock, died on Wednesday, October 15 after a lengthy illness.

Purchases made by the board of education included a portable classroom from the Esquimaux school board for the price of \$2,750, and new desks for the Park School for \$720.

ESCAPED INJURY

TEN YEARS AGO - Six people from Quebec escaped injury when their light plane crash landed on an unused road in Moore Park in the west end of town early Friday night. The plane, which was forced down by weather conditions, was damaged when it slipped into a deep ditch at the end of its landing run.

"It's nonsense to say a man can't afford to own his own home today," Brumac developer Bruce McLaughlin told a group of Georgetown businessmen last week. "Get going and we can produce what people want and can afford." Mr. McLaughlin was speaking at a dinner meeting of Georgetown Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday at Georgetown Golf and Country Club. Originally planned to present the Brumac and town council's opinions on large scale residential building in southwest Georgetown, the meeting was a solo effort when council declined to discuss the issue at the present time.

NO PUPPETS

ONE YEAR AGO - An attempt by Halton Hills to regulate truck traffic on 17 Sideroad has raised the spectre of possible further job losses in this community already wracked by major plant closings and employment reductions this year. Indusmin Ltd., which operates a quarry on the 4th Line, from which the major truck traffic along the road originates, says closure of the roadway could place the future of the mine operation in doubt.

The Junior Library in Georgetown will no longer hold puppet shows during the regular library hours, since the number of people who have been attending exceeds the occupancy limit recommended by the fire department.

Unemployment insurance claims are expected to increase to 19,000 in the Brampton-Georgetown-Mississauga area by February, says Terry Gormley, the president of the Brampton and District Labor Council.

MAIL PROBLEMS

In the event the current disruption in the postal service continues, readers may bring their letters to the editor to the Herald office at 103 Main St. South in Georgetown. After hours, simply put your letters through the mail slot on the front door.

the HERALD

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