

Candidates should disclose contributors

Major election contributions should not be secret at any level of politics.

Currently federal and provincial law requires that candidates file a list of all election contributions in excess of \$100 along with the name of the donor with the Chief Returning Officer shortly after the election. Politicians at both levels of government realized that in order to maintain some degree of confidence in elected officials voters must know who picks up the tab for a candidate's election expenses.

Currently there is no municipal by-law requiring municipal candidates to make similar disclosures. We think there should be and we think the disclosures should be made for donations of \$75 or more.

It is essential that voters know who makes large contributions to a candidate's campaign to coin a phrase, to keep them honest.

If, for example, a developer

hoping to start a project in Halton Hills makes large contributions to a municipal candidate's campaign, the voters have a right to know. While such a donation does not necessarily mean the candidate will behave in an improper manner once elected, if the donation remained secret it would be easier for a candidate to 'repay' the favor without raising eyebrows.

Asking for lists of large contributors to candidates' campaigns does not represent a lack of faith, it simply removes one area of possible lack of trust on the part of voters.

Opponents of this proposal may argue that in calling for disclosure of large campaign contributions we are going to discourage contributions from a candidate's supporters who wish to remain anonymous.

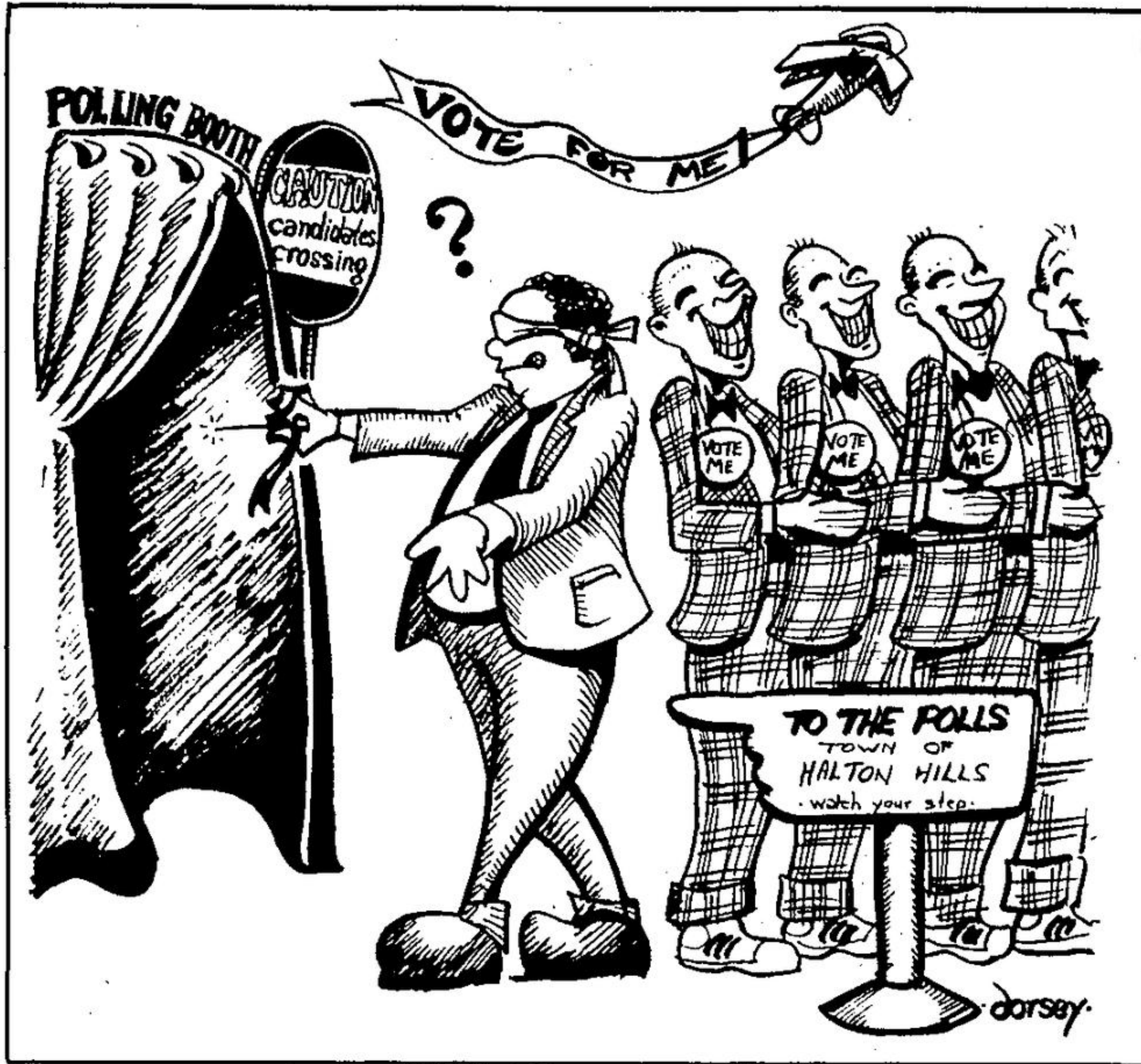
By setting the figure at \$75 there is a large margin for small donations from those who wish to help their favorite candidate anonymously. However, once a donation goes over the \$75 mark, the contribution is significant enough that the donor could feel the candidate is in some way indebted to him or her. The public's right to know outweighs the donor's right to anonymity at this point.

Full disclosure of large campaign contributions is especially important at the municipal level because of the candidate's almost complete dependence on donations to finance his or her campaign. Unlike candidates from the major political parties, municipal candidates have no party bankroll to help them through a campaign if their fundraising efforts are not successful.

This proposal is obviously most relevant to the mayoralty candidates in Halton Hills as well as the regional councillor candidates. They have to mount the largest and most expensive campaigns and are therefore the most dependent on campaign contributions.

Many of the area councillor candidates The Herald spoke with this week said they finance their campaigns almost entirely by themselves. They should have no objections to disclosing their campaign donations. In their case the by-law would serve more for the future when the councillor campaign becomes more expensive. The disclosure by-law would also remove any doubts about where their campaign donations come from.

We hope all candidates in this campaign will publicly go along with a proposal to move a new by-law as one of the first orders of business for the new council under which candidates in Halton Hills municipal elections must file a statement of campaign contributions and their donors, in excess of \$75, with the Chief Returning Officer shortly after the election.



—Letters to the Editor—

Mountainview pedestrian problem

To the editor of The Herald:
Pedestrians have a problem at the intersection of Mountainview Rd. and Sargent Road.

There are about forty senior citizens living in Sargent Court apartments. There are other people on both streets that cross there on their way across the field to the plaza.

Walking around by Sinclair Ave. or Campbell Gate is too far for most older folk especially when carrying parcels home.

One lady who is 91 years young crosses there carrying her parcels home. Mothers with children, citizens of all ages cross there. Two white lines separated by the width of a

sidewalk are the only indication of a crossing and are not easily seen by a driver watching oncoming traffic.

Some drivers stop and wave us across and we are very grateful to these kind people. Others go speeding past while we wait for a break in the traffic, wide enough for us to make it across the four lanes to safety.

I was standing at the curb waiting to cross. Two women and children were in the middle of the road when a speeding car crossed behind them. A woman shouted angrily "Get off the road, get off the road." Sometimes we get stern looks.

There are school crossing signs, cattle crossing signs and deer crossing signs, telling the driver to go slow and give children and animals a chance to cross the road.

In Victoria B.C. I saw a sign saying "Duck Crossing." I was told it was there to allow the ducks to cross back and forth between the beach and the park. I saw no ducks but a mother quail and her half grown brood cross in front of a car that had stopped, waiting till she was safely past.

We old timers deserve a sign too. How about "Pedestrian Crossing"? Many who now walk across once drove cars and quit driving for safety's sake.

Two signs would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Anne Ferwerda,
11 Sargent Court.

Recovery House need

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Rod Lewis, chairman of the board of directors of the Halton Recovery House. The Herald invites its readers to submit copies of topical letters they may have sent to public figures to be published in our "Letters to the Editor" section.

Dear Rod,
The possible closing of Halton Recovery House was discussed at some length at the Mental Health-Oakville meeting last evening. As Chairman of the Oakville Branch of the Association I would like to express my Board's support for your program and our sincere regrets that consideration must be

given to its termination.
A real need in Halton Region has been met by the service provided by the house, the only one of its kind in this Region, and it is regrettable that we in the region and its communities will lose this service. With all the recent studies available on alcoholism and related problems it would seem folly on the part of the various levels of government and the community at large not to endorse and finance programs such as Recovery House and ADAPT.

Sincerely,
Judy Henderson,
Chairman,
Board of Directors

No one lost in recent by-election



Queen's Park Report
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Chief of The Herald
TORONTO — The interesting aspect of the provincial by-elections results in Chatham-Kent riding is that none of the three parties was really hurt by them.

Agricultural representative Andy Watson polled 9,300 votes for the Conservatives, thus retaining retired treasurer Darcy McKeough's old fief in the Tory fold.

Kent County coroner Dr. Brian Gamble ran a close second for the Liberals with 8,800 votes, and electrician Ron Franko carried the New Democratic Party to a strong third-place finish with 7,400 votes.

Post-election analysis stressed the Liberals' failure to take the seat as some kind of anti-Trudeau protest, but that view is more than a little superficial.

In 1975, the Liberals finished third, with 3,000 fewer votes than Gamble took this time. That kind of hurt must politicians would dearly like to have.

And as McKeough said when he was asked about it, "The people here are a little more sophisticated than that. They know the difference between federal and provincial politics."

Still, Liberal leader Stuart Smith has nothing to complain about. The Liberal vote was up and second to Watson's. In a general election the seat would be a good possibility for them.

And for NDP leader Michael Cassidy the night too was good.

Although the NDP fell to third spot, they improved on their 1977 performance by 900 votes, which continues a trend to them in the riding that began back in 1971.

They could have lost votes, which would have undermined new leader Michael Cassidy's credibility and demoralized the campaign workers the party depends so heavily upon.

NUMBER ONE

But the happiest of all the leaders must be Premier William Davis.

Despite muddled organization and a split in local party ranks over Watson's nomination, the premier finally broke the by-election jinx that has haunted him ever since he took office.

Huron, St. George, Stormont and Carleton East have all been lost, and none have been won back in succeeding elections.

That heritage has now been overcome, and should give the Tories a psychological boost when they try to retain the late John Rhodes' Sault Ste. Marie seat in a by-election next spring.

ONE REGRET

In addition the Tories will be in an up-beat mood in the house this session, which should make for some interesting clashes with an equally encouraged opposition.

Cassidy must have one regret though. A victory in Chatham-Kent would have given them a tie in legislative seats with the Liberals.

Add that to their expected triumph in the Sault by-election, where the Liberals have no hope, and they would have replaced the Grits as official Opposition.

Now that's out the window.
One question remains. Why, in a campaign with no issues, did more people turn out in Chatham-Kent for this by-election than ever turned out in prior general elections, where presumably there were issues?

The answer may be that everyone knew McKeough was going to be re-elected anyway.

Regional apathy surprises

It was sad indeed to see the regional council seats in wards two and four filled by acclamation.

We were especially surprised to see the ward two seat go without a fight. Perhaps the harshest critics of regional government are those in the rural areas of Halton, such as ward two. As a result we are a little surprised more ward two residents weren't angry enough at the region to want to serve as council members and "improve" it. We wouldn't be surprised if this area's opposition to regional government loses a little credibility in the eyes of the region's supporters based on the apparent lack of interest reflected by the acclamations.

Being optimistic, let's hope the reason the two regional councillors were elected by acclamation is because of strong voter confidence in the two candidates.

Deprived of an election campaign to get input from their constituents, we hope that councillors Mike Armstrong and Russ Miller will work doubly hard to seek input from the voters in their respective wards in the immediate future.

Saskatchewan Premier commands respect, Blakeney will play big roll at conference



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Chief of The Herald

From an Ottawa vantage point, where one tends to become overwhelmed by the awesome federal presence, provincial elections are usually viewed as incidental events that leave only a minor imprint on the entire Canadian fabric.

But the Saskatchewan provincial election was different. Even those of us who were embarrassingly unfamiliar with all the issues at stake in the province, huddled around radios, intensely awaiting the outcome. Party affiliations meant nothing.

But what did mean a great deal was the immediate future of Premier Allan Blakeney.

The earnest 53-year-old New Democrat who whether he likes it or not, carries an increased intellectual burden every time he meets Prime Minister Trudeau and other provincial premiers around the constitutional bargaining table. And we are not only embarking on yet another round of such folly discussions, but we are probably entering the most crucial three-year period in the country's constitutional history.

It matters not that Allan Blakeney happens to be a New Democrat, and it matters not that the party leaders he trailed in that election might, if given the opportunity, become extremely able negotiators. What is important is that the unexcusable little premier will be sitting at that table during the next few years as the country's future hangs in the balance.

COMMANDS RESPECT

Even federal experts in the federal-provincial field acknowledge the fact that Blakeney, an outspoken political opponent of the Trudeau government, will have an inordinate influence on the country's future.

"He commands terrific respect," says a senior bureaucrat who has sat in innumerable federal-provincial negotiations. "No other premier comes close."

Former Ontario Premier John Robarts used to be regarded as the authoritative voice of reason, who managed to capture that elusive overview of the entire country. But few other premiers have achieved this distinction.

Premier William Davis of Ontario carries a great deal of weight because of the province he represents. But other premiers have never been impressed with his initiatives, or lack of them, regarding Quebec and national unity. As a source close to the prime minister said, "Davis is best when he's dealing with economic matters."

Premier Peter Lougheed of Alberta certainly could overshadow Blakeney if he chose to become a national force. But more and more is giving the impression of being very provincial in outlook, concentrating mainly on counting money and criticizing Ottawa.

OTHERS UNKNOWN

The Ottawa bureaucrats don't yet feel comfortable with Manitoba Premier Sterling Lyon, and British Columbia Premier Bill Bennett has yet to make much of an impact here. With all the changes in Maritime governments, the influence from that region is still, at best, unsettled.

Looking Through Our Files

STRONG OBJECTIONS
... THIRTY YEARS AGO — Against strong objections from Mayor Joseph Gibbons, a by-law to borrow \$80,000 for making various changes and improvements to Georgetown's water system passed its second reading at the council meeting Monday night. The \$80,000 will be used for such improvements as chlorination, elimination of wastage and leaks in the present system and exploratory drilling for a new source of supply.
Georgetown Council increased the salary of the mayor from \$200 a year to \$500. In presenting his motion, Coun. Whitmee said he was thinking not only of the heavy burden which Mayor Joseph Gibbons had been carrying this year, but also of the future, and while a man in Mayor Gibbons' position could spend so much time without proper remuneration, future mayors might not.
Due to the reduction in deliveries from Quebec Power companies, quotas in the southern Ontario district have been cut by the Ontario Hydro Commission. Georgetown's allotment has been reduced by approximately seven per cent. Power interruptions can only be avoided by cooperation on the part of Georgetown residents.

IGA BREAK-IN

... TWENTY YEARS AGO — Approximately \$500 in cash was netted by safecrackers in a break-in at the IGA Foodliner over the weekend. The break-in occurred some time between 6 p.m. Saturday night and 10:15 Sunday morning and was reported to police at 10:30 a.m. Entry was gained through a hole knocked in the roof of the building by a railroad sledgehammer. The thieves used the hammer to knock the dial off the safe, where they inserted cordite to blow the safe door. There was an estimated \$676 in the safe, but close to \$200 of that was destroyed in the blast.

Given another ten minutes, a fire which broke out in the front portion of Thompson's Hardware yesterday at noon could have resulted in a Main Street catastrophe. The brief blaze originated from sparks from a blow torch being used by painters on the front of the store. It was extinguished before reaching the flammable materials stored in the basement.

Probably the oldest building in the downtown business section and possibly in the entire town was levelled this week when it came under the sledge of the St. Clair Wrecking Co. Most recently housing the office of Ollie's Taxi, the historic building existed on Mill Street almost as long as the street itself. Even Georgetown's most recent memories can only date its known history back to when it was used as offices by Doctors Alf and Dick Nixon and at that time it was not a new building.

Georgetown's recognition of the fine work being done by the local Scout and Cub organizations was reflected October 18 in the generous response shown during the annual "Apple Day" fund raising canvass, which grossed the Scouts \$351.

TEN YEARS AGO — "We can't operate in a vacuum," said Bruce McLaughlin to council Thursday night. "It's time our engineers started talking to each other". After an hour and a half's discussion, council came to the same conclusion, and directed the batteries of high priced consultants ranged on each side of the room to get together. The solicitors, engineers, planners, financial and municipal consultants for the town and for the developer, will report their joint findings on the Silvercreek property.

Halton East MPP Jim Snow wants to see the county's seven municipalities reduced to five to better serve the purposes of regional government. Snow said this week he presented a draft plan outlining his recommendations to Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough two weeks ago. He said the basic aim of his plan is to reduce the number of North Halton representatives on a central regional government.

The Hornby-by-pass opens this week — six months ahead of schedule and about \$50,000 below the original estimated cost. The bypass, running north from the Base Line Road to the Seventh Line of Esquewaugh Township, was scheduled for completion next June. Favourable weather speeded progress, county engineer D.J. Corbett said this week.

The population of Halton county continued to increase this year, but the rise was less than in 1967. Figures released by county assessor Robert Beach show the population this year increased by 8,079 to a total of 169,731. This represents an increase of 5 per cent compared with 6.06 per cent last year.

HYDRO HEARING

... ONE YEAR AGO — An Ontario Municipal Board hearing into a 500 kilovolt Hydro transmission line that is being blocked by unanimous opposition in this municipality got underway Monday in the town council chambers.

Plans to build a Boys' Town are in very preliminary stages according to the lawyer for the man who hopes to found a settlement for unhappy youngsters somewhere in Halton. Gord Chapman says his client, Art Meunier, is looking at several sites and the most probable one is in Halton Hills.

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