

McGibbon's sale may help town

We are sure many local residents greeted news of the sale of the infamous McGibbon Hotel in Georgetown with a hearty cheer.

Once the grand showpiece of the town's business area — back in the 1800's — the hotel has been allowed to degenerate and decay to a point where many town residents feel unsafe venturing inside.

Considering the McGibbon's dominant location in the centre of downtown Georgetown, it's state of disrepair reflects badly on the whole business area. The sight of a boarded up, imposing building with the paint peeling off the window frames does little to inspire area residents to head downtown.

But the new owners assure us they plan to change this. They say that once their renovations are

complete the hotel will be one the entire community will be proud of. Certainly it's possible. Despite the building's poor shape, it is basically an attractive example of the finer points of Canadian architecture in the 1800's.

If someone were to invest a sizeable amount of money into repairing the cosmetic problems with the building; sandblasting, replacing rotting wood and removing the boards from the windows, the McGibbon could indeed become a showpiece, maybe even a tourist attraction.

The new owners assure us they do indeed have the money necessary to revive the once proud hotel.

We are sure that downtown merchants and local residents-alike hope they will succeed.

Congratulations to Arts Plus committee

Halton Hills Arts Plus committee have proven once again that nothing is more effective for swaying politicians than a well-thought out argument, backed up with statistics and, equally important, a roomful of supporters to drive the point home.

Last week the Georgetown Little Theatre released results of a survey showing overwhelming support for expanded theatre facilities within the town. The survey idea was a good one on the part of the GLT. Since a significant amount of taxpayers' money will be involved in constructing theatre facilities or even conducting a feasibility study,

it is imperative that the town council know if the idea has support in the community. And it does.

The Arts Plus Committee was also wise to mobilize their members on Monday night. The large turnout of theatre supporters at the council meeting undoubtedly helped sway some council members into supporting the group's request for a feasibility study — or the crowd at least helped speed up the decision making process.

The Arts Plus Committee's success should serve as a pointer for other groups hoping to get things accomplished through the town council.

Letters to the Editor

Angry student charges abuse

To the editor of The Herald:

I'm writing this not only to get some of my own anger off my chest but also in case it might be useful to other teenagers, hoping to get a job by applying through our local Manpower office.

I went down last week hoping to get some part time work at Frank Vetere's. When I went in the first time the place was so full so I just took an application form and went home to fill it out. I went back the next day prepared to wait because I really do want a part time job. Not only do I need the money I also need the experience so I can get work as I get older and need better jobs to help pay for university. I waited an hour and a half and missed two classes before the girl who was screening applications for the Vetere's interviewers called me. She took my papers and asked my age. When she heard I was just 14 she took my forms, crumpled them almost in my face and threw them in the garbage.

I had gone in quite prepared to hear I couldn't be hired because I'm not old enough to work in a licensed restaurant. I was also prepared to hear they were taking

older kids first because they needed the jobs worse and my turn would come when I got to be 15 or 16. But I wasn't told anything except that I had to be at least 15. She simply ripped up my application and left me feeling so humiliated as well as shocked that I didn't even get over it enough to be angry until I was half way home.

When my mother phoned the office to find out if there was some special age requirements forbidding 14 year olds from getting part time jobs, the office director said I should have created a stink and demanded to know why it happened so that people in the office would know I was getting rude treatment. If I had done that it would have been a complete waste of all the years my mother spent training me to be polite in all situations.

Of course the woman denies ripping up anything but my Vetere's application and says I was told I was too young to work in a licensed place even though I was looking for a kitchen job like dishwashing. I could report her to people higher up than her boss but it would be my word against her since I didn't raise a fuss and alert 25 or so witnesses so I don't think I will. She embarrassed me enough without a run in with higher Manpower management.

The office director says they would only have ripped up my Vetere's application yet for some unknown reason they can't find the other card I filled in. My malicious streak wants to know why it should be missing if they only destroyed my Vetere's application. Why should the woman quickly blame me if I didn't speak up and say I was looking for any work I could get and that I would leave my name on file if anything else came up? What would the point be lady? You had already crumpled and tossed the form before I could even say anything.

So maybe I have learned a valuable lesson. Maybe the only way to get anywhere is to be as rude and ignorant as the people who run the system. Adults like to knock us for being too lazy to look for work but if that's how we're treated by adults, who are supposed to help us it's not much wonder if teenagers like myself hesitate to face them let alone prospective employers.

Now I have to go in there and do it all over again and I am doing anything but looking forward to it. I am so embarrassed I could just forget the whole idea, except that my experience may help someone else so I hope you will accept my signature as a . . .

J.R. McDonald



Self-employed businessmen dominate Ontario legislature



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald
TORONTO — Ontario Premier William Davis is a lawyer. So are 13 other Conservative MPPs in the legislature, five of them in cabinet.

Two of the New Democratic Party's leading lights, Jim Renwick and Pat Lawlor, are also lawyers.

The Liberals can produce six lawyers, including former leadership contender Albert Roy.

In fact, lawyers hold 17 per cent of the 125 seats in the legislature (58 P.C., 34 Liberal, 33 NDP).

Cynics have suggested that lawyers are so common in legislatures because they have a vested interest in laws. The more

there are, the more work they have. More likely it's because lawyers find it easier to achieve a status of financial independence as well as finding the time needed to play the political game.

SELF-EMPLOYED
But even with their high profile lawyers aren't the best represented occupation in the house.

Perhaps not surprisingly, people from the business community are, in particular the self-employed small businessman. Together they make up nearly 30 per cent of the legislature.

If one adds in farmers, who tend to think of themselves as self-employed small businessmen, the figure jumps to nearly 40 per cent.

(These figures are necessarily approximate. MPP Julian Reed, for example, is both an actor and a farmer by profession. Do you count him twice, or ignore one of his jobs?)

And how do you count MPP Donald MacDonald, who has been a teacher, journalist, political agitator, naval officer, political organizer, and college lecturer in his career?

TEACHERS NEXT
But what is surprising is the group that stands second behind businessmen in membership in the assembly. They are public sector employees,

almost 20 per cent of the total, and of those about three-quarters are teachers.

You'd think they'd have a conflict of interest when it comes to voting on increased government spending.

The next largest identifiable group are trade unionists, who number from eight to 10 per cent, depending how you count membership, and of course excluding the public service and teachers unions. If they were included, the unionists would be right up there with businessmen in numbers.

PARTY BREAKDOWN
There is also a scattering of professionals other than lawyers, including four doctors (two of them psychiatrists interestingly enough) a dentist, a pharmacist, a firefighter and a few journalists.

Those prominent by their absence from the legislature include women in general, youth, capitalists or big business men, and your average office or assembly line worker, in all cases there being few or none.

The party breakdown is not unexpected among those sitting either.

Almost all the business community graduates, and the farmers, are with the Conservatives or Liberals. Most of the trade unionists and public sector employees are with the NDP, although a sizeable bloc of teachers sit in the Liberal ranks.

Clark's New Year's interview fails to impress our columnist



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald
Since, rightly or wrongly, Conservative Leader Joe Clark is being studiously scrutinized as a future prime minister, I am surprised he isn't being a bit more definitive on such crucial issues as national unity.

I know Clark regards the economy as the over-riding issue for the next election campaign, but Prime Minister Trudeau is certainly going to be concentrating on the unity issue, and no political leader can avoid facing it head on. So far, Clark has tended to be just a bit misty on the issue.

The Tory leader did little to assist his own cause when he suggested that he, as prime minister, would be willing to talk about sovereignty-association with Rene Levesque providing some 60 per cent of Quebecers favored this course of action. Perhaps, as his aides were quick to claim, Clark's comment was taken out of context, but nonetheless the idea was planted. And then along comes one of his top drawer MPs, Toronto's David Crombie, to state flatly that "anyone who refuses to negotiate is silly."

Furthermore, Crombie added, he was more concerned with Quebec Liberal Leader Claude Ryan, as a negotiator, than he was with Levesque.

All in all, Clark should not be losing too many opportunities to clarify his party's position on this delicate sphere.

BIG JOB

The recent federal byelections in Queb

ec certainly indicated that the Tories will have a major sales job facing them as they fight for a respectable share of the federalist vote.

Anyway, when the newly-formed United Press Canada confronted Clark for a major New Year's interview, one would expect the Tory leader to clear away the misunderstandings, misconceptions and misstatements associated with the Conservatives and Quebec. With Quebecers facing that sovereignty-association referendum, not to mention a 1979 federal election, it would appear to be a good time for clarity.

I, for one, didn't get it.

"What we have to do in relation to a referendum is demonstrate some faith in the system," declared Clark.

I don't know about you, but after 111 years of Confederation this particularly generally didn't impress me a great deal.

The Conservative leader went on to talk about a two-stage approach to the problem. "One of them is to prove that the system can work; that it hasn't broken down."

Again, with a separatist government already elected in Quebec, that struck me as less than innovative. And so did this follow-up:

TOUGHER QUESTION
"The much tougher question is then going to be to take a very fresh look at the nature of the Canadian community and whether or not there have to be some changes that recognize the existence of the two principal cultural communities."

"I frankly don't think we're ready to face those questions yet. I think that before we face those there has to be some restoration of faith in the ability of the system to work."

I don't want to take Clark out of context in any way, but it seems to me that if we're not yet ready to accept changes which recognize the existence of two principal cultural communities, then we haven't

come very far in our 111 years.

For the most part, Clark seemed content to blame Trudeau for the difficulties that now exist. "One of the things that has added force to the Parti Quebecois has been

that a lot of Quebecers . . . have reacted against excessive centralization in Ottawa," he said.

"They are separatists because they oppose; they're against Ottawa because they oppose the way Mr. Trudeau has made Ottawa grow in the last 10 years.

"Most of them intend to stay as Quebec nationalists within Canada, but they are not going to do that if they think that there is no opportunity for their culture to be strong within the context of Canada."

Oddly, one of the chief Tory complaints against the Trudeau government has involved the alleged decentralization of power out of Ottawa. And, again oddly enough, one of Trudeau's most persistent policies has been to turn Ottawa into a bilingual capital in which French-speaking Canadians feel comfortable.

If Clark hopes to slay Trudeau on the unity issue, he's going to have to do better than this.

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Halton's History

From the Herald's files

BIENN BOARD HEAD
THIRTY YEARS AGO — Walter Biehn, who headed the polls in the December vote for Georgetown's first board of education, was chosen chairman of the new board when the first meeting was held in the high school on Wednesday evening.

The biggest show ever staged in Georgetown is booked into the arena on Friday January 28 when the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band sponsors the Skating Follies. The ice show will be presented by members of the University Skating Club of Toronto, which has been rated as the second best such club in Canada. A feature of the decoration scheme will be the use for the first time in Georgetown of painted ice. For the show, the ice surface will be painted a brilliant green, with harmonizing color used in the other decorations.

LIMEHOUSE GUIDES' GUEST
TWENTY YEARS AGO — Meeting last Tuesday in Municipal building, a group of downtown merchants and property owners chose a five-man committee to investigate all angles of a proposed parking area purchase.

A report from the office of Assessment Commissioner Joseph Gibbons this week reveals that 500 people have taken up residence in Georgetown since the end of September. The new figure of 8,722 compiled to the end of December indicates that since 1954 the town has more than doubled in population and before the end of 1959 will have surpassed the 10,000 mark.

The district commissioner, Mrs. E.C. Reed, opened the first Girls Guides troop for Limehouse on January 6. First Georgetown were guests for the Candlelight enrolment.

According to a report from the Brampton office of Dr. R.I. Twiss of the Health in Animals division on Friday, the highest concentration of rabid foxes in Halton County is in the Georgetown area. Dr. Twiss told the Herald that of the nine foxes from this county confirmed by the Animal Disease Research Institute at Hull, Quebec, as rabid, five were killed in and around Georgetown.

When the North Halton High School district board assembled at Georgetown high school for their inaugural meeting on Monday, January 12, Georgetown was represented by five members for the first time in the history of the tri-school directorate. Attending the meeting for the first time as a member was local lawyer Doug Latimer who recently received an appointment to the board by the county.

FIRE FRIES TURKEYS
TEN YEARS AGO — Ed Osborne, a farmer on the 8th Line north of Georgetown has started to look skyward for the answer to mysterious disappearances of pets and livestock from his property. A year ago two small dogs suddenly disappeared, and a couple of faithful milters have also vanished without a trace. Mr. Osborne ties in the disappearances with recent sightings of a huge bird, which he said he originally took for an owl, but which his son Mark claims fits the description of a Golden Eagle.

Sam Liebovici, who operates a turkey farm on Highway 7 just north of Georgetown, lost a new batch of 22,000 turkey chicks in a flash fire Sunday morning that roared through the brooder barn at another location on the 1st line of Esqueping. Hampered by a lack of water and the deep snow, the Acton firefighters fought the blaze for five hours until 1:30 a.m. They saved the front end of the 300 by 40-foot barn, and kept the fire from leaping 100 feet to a smaller barn housing some 17,000 older birds.

About 40 Halton county health unit staff members expect to find out in mid-January whether or not they can organize themselves as a local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. The decision will be made by the Ontario Labor Relations Board. A union spokesman has indicated that CUPE is confident the board will grant the certification.

On January 8, at a meeting called by the Georgetown YM-YWCA the Georgetown Recreation committee was formed. The committee adopted the following aims: to investigate the recreational needs and resources in Georgetown; to provide an opportunity for liaison between the individual organizations.

A Georgetown lawyer, Kenneth A. Langdon, has been named President of the Halton County Law Association. The election was Monday night at Milton. The association has a membership of about 80.

Two of the eight-man crew flying Canada's only relief plane to Biafra, are Georgetown men, Roland Sparling, Duncan Drive, and Dennis Hughes, Eleanor Crescent. The Lockheed Super Constellation left Tuesday from Montreal to begin the long flight to the island of Sao Tome, in the Gulf of Guinea, 500 miles from Biafra. From there it will carry 21 tons of supplies nightly making two trips a night. The night trips are necessary to avoid anti-aircraft fire.

NURSING HOME NEED
ONE YEAR AGO — The need for chronic nursing home beds in Halton Hills is clear, former NDP Ontario Leader Stephen Lewis said last week. In a telephone interview with The Herald, Mr. Lewis said, "It seems to me, based on information from the hospital administrator, briefs and (New Democratic Party researcher) Mary Morrison, that the case for chronic nursing home beds has been made and made well."

In the past 2 1/2 months, the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic has assisted "a fair number" of people who need legal advice on a type of problem lawyers don't handle, clinic worker Peggy Balkind said.

Halton Regional Chairman Ric Morrow told about 100 Acton citizens Monday that their community faces a substantial tax increase if regional government fails to adopt a recommended policy governing payment of sewer and water servicing costs.

A lawyer hired two years ago to defend the rights of landowners in this municipality against plans for the Bruce to Milton transmission corridor told his clients Thursday they have less than a 10 per cent chance of winning the battle in court. Two days after the Ontario Supreme Court denied leave to appeal last month's government decision to approve the expropriation of land, lawyer Dick Howitt admitted the possibilities of stopping the corridor through the courts are virtually exhausted.