

It's no time to give up hydro fight

At times you have to wonder where the opponents to the stringing of a hydro corridor through Halton Hills get their tenacity.

Despite numerous defeats spread over the past few years during which they have opposed the corridor, they have remained as resolute as ever in their battle against hydro's move into Halton Hills which would see them stringing hydro wires over prime farmland.

The latest defeat to the Interested Citizens Group and their supporters came with the Ontario Municipal Board's recent decision to approve the corridor through Halton Hills.

Despite this, the anti-corridor groups still have a number of avenues of appeal open to them. They are now in the process of appealing the OMB's decision both to the OMB and the courts. At the divisional court level the anti-corridor groups are challenging the authority of the OMB to make a decision overruling the town of Halton Hills' by-laws that would not permit a hydro corridor through the municipality.

Recently claims by the anti-corridor groups that Hydro does not need the power that would be transmitted by the corridor through Halton Hills appear to have been proven by recent announcements that the province's utility has a surplus of power. At a time when hydro is laying off staff and cutting back expansion there seems to be a strong argument that the hydro corridor power is not needed.

Certainly the anti-corridor arguments are gaining credibility and while we can never be certain how sincerely the provincial

government listens to objections to the corridor, their arguments are getting harder and harder to refute.

This is definitely not the time to be giving up the battle.

And as major supporters of the anti-corridor fight, the town of Halton Hills has re-confirmed their opposition to the corridor.

Town council voted Wednesday night to channel another \$3,000 to \$5,000 into their fight against the corridor and have directed their solicitors to take part in the appeal procedures.

While urban residents of Halton Hills may not be overly concerned about the hydro corridor issue, to the rural residents of the town it is a life and death question. Realizing this, and the bureaucratic and undemocratic manner in which hydro decided where to place the corridor, the town of Halton Hills has supported opponents of the route almost from the start.

The decision of council to continue this support at this crucial stage was a good one and the only one that makes sense considering how much resources the town has already poured into the fight. Why throw in the towel this close to the finish?

Pat Patterson, who represents the rural ward two on town council argues correctly that considering the crucial nature of the corridor fight to his constituency it is not out of line for the town to support the fight to their planned level.

Considering how much money and time the town has poured into fighting the Focal Properties development in Georgetown, now that the rural residents need help, their request deserves support.

Time to stop town's sign jungle

Town council should make sure that a request by a soon to be in business Mr. Donut outlet in Georgetown to erect yet another gaudy pylon neon sign on Guelph St. stays shelved.

The town's general committee had recommended that Mr. Donut be given permission to a 15-foot by six foot sign 22 feet back from the edge of one of Georgetown's main streets.

The motion of approval died Monday night when a motion to okay the committee's recom-

mendation ended in a six-six tie.

Georgetown does not need another gaudy sign to add to the ever growing neon jungle on Guelph St. A motion to reject the Mr. Donut request should be approved immediately hopefully to be followed shortly by a by-law clearly limiting the erection of any further pylon signs in town.

Council has agreed to request sample sign bylaws from the town's staff for consideration by council. Councilors should make sure this request is met as quickly as possible so that the much needed bylaw can be passed.

Previous town councils have recognized the need for a bylaw regulating sign erection in the town but have been unable to draft one. Those legislators expressed concern with enforcing such a bylaw.

We are now paying the price for the lack of such a bylaw. Anyone who drives along Guelph St. can see that Councilor John McDonald is right when he warns that the street is quickly becoming another "Golden Mile" Brampton's infamous neon strip on Queen St.

The only way council can stop the increased proliferation of the gaudy signs is by banning them outright, beginning with Mr. Donut. Surely a good merchant does not need to resort to the almost hypnotic ploy of using a gaudy sign to lure consumers into their place of business.

Many local residents have moved to "the country" to escape the "plastic" nature of suburbia. We should not allow suburbia to transplant itself in Georgetown in the form of a neon jungle on the main entrance to town.



Controversy continues to rage over French Prime Minister



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald
As the controversy still rages around the behavior of Rene Levesque during the visit of French Prime Minister Raymond Barre, I see that the Quebec premier is being called everything from an egocentric to a fool.

The general conclusion is that the premier, with his apparent display of petulance and bad manners, has seriously damaged his own image, that he has embarrassed fellow-Quebecers, and that the separatist movement may have suffered its first major setback. If you heed the words of federal Justice Minister Marc Lalonde, you will believe that Levesque's behaviour was not only petty, but also rude, childish and sick.

Editorials in most newspapers — English-language newspapers, that is — have condemned the Quebec premier for the way he behaved in the presence of the dignified French prime minister. The French-language newspapers, perhaps for reasons of their own, don't seem so aggravated, but then we've seldom been able to get the two cultures exercised about the same things in the same ways.

Based on all accounts of what happened, it seems fair to say that Levesque failed to cover himself with glory during Barre's visit. By any standards, his manners left a great deal to be desired when, in proposing a well-wined toast to Barre, he let fly at his domestic political opponents — a gesture that apparently embarrassed the guest of honor.

POOR SHOW

And regardless of how you measure behaviour, it is difficult to condone Levesque's attempts to have Barre repeat the famous, or notorious "Vive le Quebec libre" cry that Charles de Gaulle uttered in 1967. Again Barre was clearly embarrassed when he felt obliged to inform the crowd that the Quebec premier was whispering suggestions in his ear.

In fact, even Levesque looked embarrassed. Barre, always the perfect host, didn't yield.

During the departure ceremonies, Levesque looked both undignified and petty when he declined to stand at attention for O Canada, when he held a cigarette during the playing of the French national anthem, and when he refused to accompany Barre to his plane because Lalonde was also there.

When you put everything together, you would be inclined to go along with the view that Levesque behaved like a juvenile, that he seemed to be losing his grip, and that he won't recover from this escapade of embarrassments. Lalonde sounded more like a physician than a

politician when he said the premier was suffering from a persecution complex. "Perhaps he should take a rest cure," he said.

DELIBERATE MOVE

Well, perhaps, he should. I know nothing about Levesque's general condition these days. But I do know that the premier is basically a shrewd politician, that he has a good many hot-heads to appease in his Parti Quebecois, and that, so far, his boorish behaviour hasn't sent any shock waves through the French-lingua media.

Perhaps Levesque's handling of the Barre visit will prove to be the onset of his decline. Perhaps it will be a major setback to the separatist movement. Perhaps it will discourage French interest in Quebec's future. Perhaps it will make federalism look tall by comparison.

I just don't know. But despite embarrassment over what happened, I suspect there is a certain segment of the Parti Quebecois which is openly applauding the events. And of course we can't forget that the separatist movement, in his various forms, has managed to survive every embarrassment from mud-throwing to murder.

So, apart from acknowledging some rather sleazy behaviour, perhaps it might be best to wait a month or two before assuming Levesque's cause and credibility have begun to crumble. We do tend to forget things rather quickly.

In the midst of all his miscues, the premier did drop one significant aside. "I am not an idiot," he said.

Early developer's anniversary exposes poor history keeping

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

TORONTO — One of the great developers of Ontario, Canada and North America was William Hamilton Merritt.

Perhaps you may know this, particularly if you live in the Niagara peninsula. But the chances are you don't.

I really wasn't aware of Merritt until chancing on a brief mention of him in Joseph Schull's new book, Ontario Since 1867. And then coincidentally finding out that all this year there is a grand celebration honoring this pioneer in communities along the water route in the peninsula. The celebration is recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Welland Canal.

BERTON ONE

This anniversary is a perhaps sad, perhaps startling, but in any event, pertinent reminder of how poor a job we have done in Canada, and particularly in Ontario, of uncovering and recognizing our roots.

National politicians, Sir John A. Macdonald, Joe Howe and others fairly recently have been getting some attention quite a bit of it due to the activity of the CBC.

But the men who physically developed the country have largely been ignored. With one notable exception, Pierre Berton has given them a lot of attention. He is the one commercial writer to have done so. And no matter what you think of Berton — and some of us can be supercilious about him at times — he has made, and is making, a solid contribution in writing readably about our pioneers.

WHY KNOW?

Merritt, however, illustrates what hasn't been done in this area, and what should be done.

Again, particularly in Ontario, Merritt not only built the first Welland

Canal. And remember this meant erecting a water route which rose 350 feet in its length; and 150 years ago, working in limestone and before the days of machines — earth movers and bulldozers. He was only 32 when he completed the first canal, opening up the Great Lakes as an inland sea. But he went on to other outstanding and mammoth engineering achievements and almost equally massive political and economic leadership.

The people of Ontario should have the opportunity to know more about this man and others who were the physical architects of the province.

Why?

Why should we know history, particularly Ontario and Canadian history?

There is material in this for a thousand and one essays. None will be written here.

But let us just say if the Canadian

public, all of it, really knew the deep story of the history of our French-English history what a different tone there would be to the debate about Quebec and what a more practical approach to the national unity problem today would result.

Incidentally, the Schull book is new and welcome. It fills a gap in presenting a quick look at the province's political history since Confederation, probably in as readable a style as could be expected from such a project. Joe Schull is a veteran professional writer and a good one.

But a carp. This is part of the historical series being sponsored by the government. The book peddles for about \$16. Surely to God, it would have been possible to put it out at a price where it could reach Joe Public — who doesn't have \$16 to put into a book.

CONE knocks NEC

The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment has rejected an Ontario government proposal for additional quarrying along the Niagara Escarpment. Despite several meetings arranged by government officials to allay the fears of the coalition of environmental groups, CONE maintains that no compelling evidence has been presented to justify removal of the restrictions.

Poorly regulated quarrying was one of the destructive forces leading originally to protective legislation for the Escarpment. According to Ron Reid of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, lifting the ban on new or extended quarries now is a bad omen for the effectiveness of the Escarpment plan.

"We are being asked to accept blindly the need for further quarrying in one of the most sensitive parts of the Province,

only months before the Escarpment Commission is due to produce their draft plan. MNR was very critical of earlier NEC proposals for not providing enough quarrying area. We fear this move now is merely a ploy to circumvent the eventual plan, and to protect the entrenched interests of present quarry operators."

"Past regulation of pits and quarries has been poorly enforced with widespread abuse of wayside pit provisions. This new process could be used to legitimize past abuses and cover the tracks of the Ministry's poor record."

CONE had recommended that critical supply problems be resolved by a process involving local municipalities, with alternative sources of supply examined in each case. The government, however, is insisting that MNR alone will designate specific quarries to be considered for expanded operations.

Halton's History

From the Herald's files

Hired Sargent

THIRTY YEARS AGO — Council hired Jim Sargent as a town employee at a rate of 85 cents an hour plus time and a half for overtime. The town foreman, who had requested that another permanent town employee be hired, explained that he felt that the present staff was not large enough to do all the work required and that an extra man would be a saving for the town because many jobs which would have to be done by outside contractors could be done by the men themselves.

Deputy-Reeve Goodlet reported that a Kitchener firm was interested in securing land in town to build a factory which would have an initial floor space of 10,000 square feet and eventually 30,000. Fifty men would be employed in the plant.

The new Westinghouse Cushioned Action Washer washes clothes cleaner, without wear, with safety and convenience, and gives longer years of trouble-free service. The Westinghouse washer is the only washer that provides the "Sentinel of Safety". This protects the motor against damage and ends the bother of blown fuses. Beautiful pure white porcelain enamel tub with "Feather Touch" Safety release wringer, just \$154.50.

Grace Fields will be appearing in person at Guelph Memorial Gardens Friday March 18 at 8:30 p.m. Reserved seats will cost \$1.50 and \$2.

FRANK BLACK HONORED

TWENTY YEARS AGO — Sixteen men who were without work one week ago have found jobs through Georgetown Employment Service, it was reported to the Herald this afternoon. All but 15 of the 430 now registered with the employment service are former Avro or Orenda workers, and it is believed upwards of 100 have either been called back or have found employment on their own.

Mrs. Spencer Wilson of Norval was the first woman ever to speak at the Ontario Plowmen's Association convention and annual meeting held recently in Toronto. Speaking on a woman's views of the International Plowing Match, she was one of four speakers asked to give their impressions of the match as well as suggest improvements.

Hindered by heavy crusted snow which cut deep gashes in its legs and worried by local dogs a buck deer which failed to shake off its pursuers was found dead recently near the CNR crossing at Wildwood. The animal had apparently died of fright and exhaustion.

An oil painting by local artist Frank Black will have an honored place in Georgetown High School in future years. The painting, commissioned by the students, portrays the old portion of the school scheduled for demolition in a construction program presently in progress. John Lenz, president of the Student Council, presented the painting which was received by school board chairman Murray Coles and unveiled by another student, Joan Cummins, at the high school commencement exercises Friday evening at Knox Presbyterian Church.

INDUSTRIAL OFFER

TEN YEARS AGO — Georgetown is almost fresh out of town-owned industrial land to offer prospective industries and the need for acquiring more every month is becoming more acute according to the Georgetown Industrial Commission. Vice-chairman Alex Blackwell told The Herald this week that Inducen, an industrial development firm and building firm which bought over 90 acres in the Industrial Park last year, has three large parcels left, but the town's own industrial land there has shrunk to about four acres.

An emergency telephone number of three digits, 911, should be in operation in town with two years. Council upon the recommendation of the Municipal Safety Committee, took the first step toward that end Monday night, when they made application to the Bell Telephone for the emergency number.

Thursday morning at 11:30 a.m. a young Delrex Blvd. couple, Jim and Carol Throver, appeared on Toronto television. The show, a Canadian version of "The Newlywed Game" was taped two weeks ago at Channel 9 studios, but was shown this morning. The Throvers were the winners, and ended up with a new sewing machine, and approximately \$300 worth of linens and bedding.

In response to a letter from Edmond Routhier, Raylawn Crescent, accompanied by nineteen letters from French-speaking ratepayers, the board decided to establish an Advisory Committee on French Language Instruction. R.K. Self, superintendent of program, pointed out that the board is required to provide for the establishment of such a committee, within two months of the application.

The strap is to be discarded in Halton county separate schools. At its meeting Tuesday night the board received a memorandum from the Ontario department of education recommending that teachers refrain from corporal punishment to pupils. Without discussion, the board voted to accept the department's recommendation.

MILLIERE'S TV

ONE YEAR AGO — The man who installed the first television set and aerial in Georgetown is celebrating 25 years in his own business. Bill Milliere of Milliere TV Sales and Service opened his own business March 1, 1953, in a room off the building that is now Hunter's Inn on Mountainview Road North.

Unless an 11th-hour candidate announced him or herself today, Halton board of education will tomorrow appoint one of five persons to fill the seat vacated by Don Long of Georgetown.

While parents at rural schools suggested as twinning partners for urban schools are desperately opposing the proposal, parents at the urban schools are showing an almost total lack of interest in the suggestion.

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