

Nursing home for North Halton deserves support

It is to be hoped that with the blessing of town council and (hopefully) regional council, the chronic home care program and the nursing home recommended for implementation in Halton Hills this week will get the nod from Queen's Park.

A report prepared for the Halton District Health Council on long-term health care requirements for the town's senior citizens served to reaffirm what a lot of local people have known for some time: north Halton is sadly lacking in extended care and chronic care facilities.

The report sanctioned this week by the town's general committee calls for the implementation of a chronic care programme by which patients in need of a long-term professional attention would be visited in their homes. Also recommended is the construction here of a 75 to 100 bed nursing home.

Both suggestions seem well-suited to resolve the worries of many elderly people who watch their friends and neighbors shunted off to chronic care facilities elsewhere in the region, in Guelph or Brampton or Toronto. That our senior citizens should have to leave their hometowns, friends and relatives to simply receive the health care and attention due them - if only by virtue of their age - is something of a modern tragedy.

Both Acton and Georgetown now have attractive senior citizens homes to complement their rest homes and serve the basic needs of

our elderly. Society is finally getting around to setting aside some money for its veterans, if only thus for accommodations and health.

This great "innovation" in itself finally coaxes civilization up through the ages from a time when the elderly, no longer able to hunt or defend themselves, were abandoned by their tribe by the wayside.

This kind of atrocity may have been born of necessity back then, but today there is no longer any justification for abandoning our senior citizens. Let them age gracefully while commanding our deserved attention, assistance, and respect.

A sincere good luck to the civil servants somewhere in Canada who are considering the feasibility of a proposal that would allow younger workers to take extended leaves of absence from their jobs as a kind of "early retirement." Being young enough to enjoy those leaves is to one advantage, but imagine the usefulness such a system would inspire in our elderly, who would continue working beyond the current 65 years old limit.

A feeling of self-dependence and usefulness would work psychological wonders for the senior citizens of the world, creating a self-propagating system of self-esteem, strength and good health.

Let's hope Health Minister Dennis Timbrell says yes to the Halton Hills recommendations, thus extending his own pat on the back for our senior citizens.

Irony can be found in nuclear accident

Halton Hills residents have to regard the recent nuclear disaster in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with little irony.

After all, local residents have been battling Ontario Hydro's attempt to run a hydro corridor through the town for years. The power Ontario Hydro is so determined to run through Halton Hills is generated (radiated?) at the Bruce nuclear plant.

For years local residents have used every argument possible to oppose the corridor. And it seems each week, yet another argument comes to the surface or an old one is proven true.

Certainly the apparent steady stream of announcements that the province now has a surplus of electricity would discount the province utility's arguments that the corridor must be strung or else Ontario will face power shortages.

But an argument we have yet to hear is that the plant itself is unsafe and should not be operating, thus making the hydro corridor unnecessary.

The Harrisburg near-disaster has raised doubts about the safety of the entire nuclear industry. Ontario Hydro maintains that the Canadian reactors are safer than those used in the States but we venture that, despite these reassurances, the people of the Pickering and Bruce areas have not been sleeping as well since the Three Mile Island accident.

We would also venture that, until the accident at the plant, the owners of the Three Mile reactor assured area residents an accident was next to impossible. Unfortunately, it still happened.

The Harrisburg accident serves to remind us that where human error is a possibility, sooner or later it will become a reality. The chances of an accident at a nuclear plant may be one in a million, but sooner or later, that one will come up. And considering the stakes involved in a nuclear accident, once is more than enough. We are ironically told in the movie "China Syndrome" that an nuclear accident of the magnitude of which almost took place in Harrisburg could contaminate an area the size of Pennsylvania. The mere possibility of such a catastrophe occurring is enough for us to

recommend the halt of nuclear power expansion.

Even if we are to believe the alleged experts about the probability of nuclear power plant mishaps, our concern is that once the inevitable accident finally takes place it will be of such magnitude that generation after generation might end paying the price.

On top of this, nuclear scientists themselves will admit they have yet to deal with the thorny problem of disposing of nuclear wastes.

It takes thousands of years for nuclear power plant wastes to breakdown. Currently, the problem of dealing with these potential contaminants is being dealt with by burying the wastes in the ground or submerging them in water. Unfortunately, these methods are only stop-gap approaches and the nuclear wastes maintain their toxic qualities for generations.

Our scientists are simply banking on the fact these wastes will remain undisturbed during the years. Considering the uncertain nature of this world, this is a rather major assumption to make, and one that could have devastating effect on generations to come. It strikes us as incredibly irresponsible on the part of the people of the 1970's to gamble with the futures of generations to come by pursuing a nuclear energy path which we are more than little unsure.

There is so much uncertainty surrounding the nuclear energy issue that now American scientists involved in the early stages of its development have gone on to join protests groups against the dreaded power supply.

The air of almost fatal uncertainty surrounding nuclear energy is enough for us to advocate a suspension of its development.

And who knows, the energy mishap that frightened the local may bear positive fruit for world residents. It may be enough for Ontario Hydro to reconsider its commitment to the deadly energy—and thus, reconsider the hydro corridor through Halton Hills. Of course we're not banking on the power utility to suddenly see the light after so many years in the dark.



NDP's optimism well-founded should increase federal seats



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

Being a politician, Ed Broadbent is entitled to dabble in overstatements by predicting that his New Democratic Party can win up to 70 seats in the May 22 general election. After all, we have even heard the Social Credit MPs predict they would form a government.

But Broadbent can be forgiven for sounding unusually optimistic at this early stage in the campaign. Not since the party was formed back in 1961 has there been such cause for enthusiasm.

Finally the NDP has some money — enough to charter a campaign jet just like the Tories and Liberals. And finally, an NDP leader finds himself in the encouraging position of campaigning against two other leaders whose personal popularities are under constant questioning. And, most important of all, the NDP is finally getting unqualified support and backing from organized labor.

Whether all this leads to an NDP breakthrough remains to be seen. But the

party certainly has all the necessary ingredients to produce more than the 14 MPs it managed to elect back in 1974.

Even if the NDP could reclaim its 1974 heights, when 31 MPs were elected to wield the balance of power in Parliament, it would be considered a cause for celebration. But the party has set much higher goals this time.

And the most important fact in this optimism is the outpouring of support from Dennis McDermott, the relatively new president of the Canadian Labour Congress. There is every indication that the CLC will be more involved in this campaign than any other election since its formation in 1957.

The New Democrats have always enjoyed some degree of support from organized labor, but this time, says McDermott "we have our necks on the line" in a national blitz to defeat the Trudeau government.

"It's the biggest and most extensive personalized voter education campaign ever devised in this country," says the CLC president. "We hope to reach a majority of our 2.3 million members directly in their homes..." This parallel campaign by the CLC will also be augmented by McDermott's personal appearances with Ed Broadbent at union halls, factory gates and downtown rallies.

The blitz on members homes will be the most interesting aspect of the CLC campaign because party officials have always felt they have been singularly unsuccessful in winning the support of

spouses.

SOCIAL FACTORS

"We have no statistics to support this," says one senior NDP MP. "But it's my experience that the wives of union members often vote Tory or Liberal as part of their social status. They want to leave the trade union association to their husbands."

The CLC campaign will go beyond its 2.3 million members and their spouses, taking the message of "the shrinking pay cheque" to most of the country's 10 million wage earners. Meanwhile, Broadbent will be trying to present himself as the most acceptable alternative to Prime Minister Trudeau and Joe Clark.

"Trudeau cannot be trusted as a man," he declares. "He broke his promise in 1974 over price and wage controls (and there is no reason to trust him now)." "God protect us from Joe Clark," he goes on, "Joe Clark has not only one foot on either side of the fence, but with his policy on Petro-Canada he has plunked himself right down in the middle as well."

It's nothing new for NDP leaders to attack the Tories and Grits + David Lewis and Tommy Douglas were masters of this art — but they were always up against reasonably popular individuals. This time both Clark and Trudeau may be more vulnerable.

Anything can happen during a two-month election campaign, but in these early days it's understandable that Ed Broadbent should feel a bit more buoyant than usual.

Ontario MPP talks 'treason' in blasting unity plea



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

TORONTO — NDP leader Michael Cassidy summed it up rather neatly. Ontario's doctors are taking "industrial action and getting paid while doing it."

That is an accurate trade union description of what doctors are doing when they opt out of OHIP.

And let's face it, doctors, through the Ontario medical association (OMA) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, are as unionized as lawyers or planners are through their organizations.

On Jan. 1 this year doctors came off three years of Anti-Inflation Board controls on their incomes, which suppressed fee increases for that time span.

Last spring the doctors received six per cent from the government, and this year they received another 6.6 per cent in January, which gives a figure equivalent to the current OHIP fee.

POOR PAY
However, the OMA sets its own fee schedule, although in past years it has been identical with the OHIP rate.

This year though, it's 43 per cent higher.

Doctors who opt out of OHIP will normally charge the OMA rate, which

OHIP will partly reimburse.

This gives doctors the best of both worlds, in that they're bound to recover a proportion of their charges even if they're out of OHIP.

Not that doctors don't have a case. They do.

A review of Ontario doctors' income by a Kingston physician in the OMA journal concludes the average U.S. doctor makes 35 per cent more than his Ontario counterpart.

ODD MAN OUT
But the American opposite numbers of university professors, lawyers, dentists, paperworkers, manufacturing employees and other all earn less than Canadians.

Doctors are odd man out. (Incidentally, Cassidy seem to think this is reasonable. The doctors union is the only union that suffered wage restraint under the AIB that the NDP has no sympathy for.)

The Tory restraint program is the backdrop against which the doctors' wage demands bounced.

The government is committed to bringing health care costs under control, and just about the only way to do that is to squeeze the incomes of health care workers, including doctors.

CHANGE RULES
Which is not unreasonable. If health care costs continued to grow at past rates we'd bankrupt ourselves by the end of the century.

But one by-product of restraint is the epidemic of opting-out of OHIP by doctors, almost one-fifth of them at last count.

Our present hybrid system of medicine, with its private and government aspects, isn't good at handling the strain that comes with too many hands chasing too few dollars.

The OMA agreement to charge only

OHIP rates at hospitals solves part of the problem.

The rest would dissolve if Ontario doctors, like those in Quebec, were either totally in or out of OHIP. If in they could negotiate like any other civil service union for their income.

If out they could charge what the market would bear, and the taxpayer wouldn't have to pick up part of the cost.

the HERALD
A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS COMPANY LTD
103 MAIN ST. SOUTH, GEORGETOWN, L7G 3E5
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Publisher & General Manager
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Halton's History

From our files

CVCA PLANNING STARTS
...THIRTY YEARS AGO — The first step towards the formation of a Credit River Valley Authority were taken at a dinner meeting in Brampton hosted by Lions Clubs from Georgetown, Brampton, Credit Valley and Orangeville.

Wardens, Reeves and officials of 16 municipalities in the Credit Valley were invited. Chief engineer A.H. Richardson, from the Conservation Branch of the Department of Planning and Development, and Professor G. N. Huhnke, research director of OAC, Guelph were the chief speakers. Mr. Richardson said that two municipalities must first petition for a meeting to include delegates from all the councils in the valley. In order to be valid two-thirds of the councils must be represented at the meeting and it would take a favourable vote from two-thirds of the delegates at the meeting in order to set up a Credit River Authority. When all the requirements had been met it would then be up to the department to make a survey of the valley.

Sundridge trounced the Raiders 9-2 in the opening game of the Intermediate B finals in Bracebridge arena. The game drew 1,903 fans to see Sundridge Beavers defeat the visiting team.

Although lack of time to get it properly organized forced the cancellation of a proposed soap box derby during the Easter vacation the Georgetown Recreation Committee had plenty of alternatives lined up to keep town youngsters busy. These included speed skating, a marbles competition and a ping pong tournament. Softballs and horseshoes were also left in several locations around town to keep local youngsters entertained in the parks.

The Herald carried an advertisement reminding readers to tune in to the CBC radio address on The Nations Business to be presented by Progressive Conservative party leader, George Dew.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL VISITS
...TWENTY YEARS AGO — It was announced that Governor-General Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey would visit Georgetown briefly in May.

Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Freestone of Temple Road celebrated their 65th. wedding anniversary on April 9.

A rural family were left homeless on Good Friday despite efforts of Acton and Erin fire departments to douse the blaze. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Snow and their three children were at the supper table when the fire broke out. An adjacent pond which fire fighters were using to supply their pumps ran dry and parked cars and drifting snow hampered efforts to reach a nearby stream. Firemen managed to save the barn and other farm buildings, however.

Georgetown delegates to the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation assembly held in North Bay were among those who discussed ways of dealing with inefficient teachers. It was recommended that these teachers should lose their certificates. To ensure that no unjust judgements were made safeguards were built into the system whereby the cancellation of the teaching certificate would be made.

Georgetown council received a letter from British Canadian Sales' lawyer threatening to sue the town to recover expenses for advertising a sale in the arena which had to be cancelled.

The Canadian National Railway told council it isn't prepared to replace bridges on Main Street North and Mountainview Road but suggested that the town ask the Board of Transport Commissioners to decide on cost-sharing if it wishes to take action on the matter.

Public school board representative Stan Finlay asked council to proceed as quickly as possible with the issuing of \$200,000 worth of debentures since the board had awarded the contract for construction of the Weber Drive school to Hofmann Construction.

NEAR TRAGEDY AT BOAT RACE
...TEN YEARS AGO — The Jaycee-Crazy Boat race almost witnessed fatalities when a three-man craft got caught in the undertow and sank at the base of the paper mill dam. Lynne and Monty Hyde and Dave Underhill wound up in the water and their would-be rescuers John Jones and Jim Barrieau joined them when their craft sank under the weight of those they rescued.

When council set its budget Monday a seemingly large drop in the assessment was largely offset by reassessment and most Georgetown homeowners faced a \$30 to \$40 tax hike.

The Department of Lands and Forests stocked the Credit River with Coho Salmon fingerlings the first of the month in hopes of re-introducing the fish to the river. The fingerlings were planted at the base of the lower paper mill dam and at two spots near Norval.

Since a French language school was economically unfeasible at that time a special committee was investigating the possibility of sending Halton's French-speaking students out of the county for their education. There were 12 French-speaking students travelling to Toronto to attend a French high school. The board policy covered the cost of tuition but not transportation for students being educated outside the county at that time. However, a question arose over board policy since these students could receive the same courses in English in Halton but had chosen to go elsewhere in order to study in French.

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Board chairman Denny Charles discussed a proposed addition to the hospital with members of Esqueving council. The \$1,780,000 addition will include 31 beds, and other facilities. The hospital was running at 99 per cent capacity then, he said.

JELINEK GETS TORY NOD
...ONE YEAR AGO — Halton Progressive Conservatives chose Otto Jelinek as their candidate for the next federal election. Mr. Jelinek held the constituency of High Park-Humber Valley which would disappear through redistribution at the time of the next election and thus chose to make a bid for the Halton nomination since he lives in Oakville. An Oakville high school was jammed as more than 2,300 voting delegates turned out to make their choice between Mr. Jelinek and his opponents, Dr. Art Ross, a former Oakville physician, and Tristan Lett, an economics advisor to provincial treasurer, Darcy McKeough.