

New plan for library/theatre is a good one

The latest proposal to resolve the town's theatre and library issues, unveiled over the weekend, sounds like a great idea.

For years local residents have been aware of this community's desperate need for a larger library facility and, at the same time, many local residents have struggled with the problem of inadequate local theatre facilities.

The problems have long been evident, however, finding a solution has proved much more difficult.

An earlier plan by the town to construct a new library on valuable Cedarvale parkland was rightly and successfully opposed by determined Georgetown residents.

At the same time, local citizens have argued that although the town needs expanded library facilities, they did not want to see the old building destroyed or thoughtlessly renovated.

Added to this list of problems has been the painfully evident need for a theatre facility to meet the demands of the town's thriving drama and music groups.

The new proposal appears to solve all of these problems and even comes relatively cheap considering the awesome scope of the project.

The proposal calls for a combined theatre library complex that will also include an art gallery.

The theatre will seat 300 people while the two level library will cover 14,000 square feet, in addition to the art gallery.

A look at preliminary drawings of the centre shows that the add-on section of the centre will not seriously detract from the grand beauty of the old library building.

Earlier opponents of an addition to the old library feared that the site did not have adequate space to accommodate the ad-

dition. By purchasing sites adjoining the present building, the town will get around this problem and be able to provide additional parking.

Another excellent aspect of the proposal is that it utilizes the old library's downtown site. It's nice to see that finally, unlike what happened with the Gordon Alcott Sports complex site, town funds will be used on a facility that will once again draw residents back into Georgetown's struggling downtown.

A project such as the cultural centre will be an immense boon to Georgetown's downtown core. It only makes sense that visitors to the library, theatre or art gallery will make the most of their trek downtown and likely make a point of visiting main street shops as part of their expedition.

Through the use of lot levy funds, debentures and, a hopefully successful fundraising campaign, the project will not place an unbearable burden on the town coffers.

Our compliments and best wishes to members of the Rotary Club and the Halton Hills Arts Council for their combined pledge to co-ordinate the project's fundraising campaign that will hopefully raise over \$185,000.

It's encouraging to see that local politicians do not appear to be blinded by a dangerous prevailing sentiment of unthinking fiscal restraint at the expense of much needed community services. Sure, the cultural centre project will cost money but it will be money very well spent.

Our congratulations to Mayor Pete Pomeroy and all those who have helped the town arrive at this plan.

Let's hope council gives the project a speedy and strongly supported go ahead at its next full council meeting.

Voters should pin down candidates

The leaders of the three major parties vying for office in the current election campaign squared off Sunday night in the highly touted 'great debate' on television and tonight their local candidates, along with representatives of the smaller parties will be on hand at the Georgetown high school auditorium for this area's major all-candidates meeting, beginning at 8 p.m.

It's something that all local voters should try not to miss.

Although it's been a long campaign, some say too long, there are still legions of undecided voters across the country.

Hopefully tonight's all-candidates meeting, perhaps aided by articles in this week's Herald in which the major candidates outline their policies, will help these puzzled voters decide.

We hope that as voters in the two local ridings—Brampton-Georgetown and Halton—make up their minds they will give each candidate the most serious possible scrutiny.

Many times it seems politicians would have us believe that the best MP is the man or woman who can throw up the most signs, rally the loudest brass bands and shake the most hands while smiling the biggest smile.

That's not what it takes to make an MP and that's not how Canadians should make up their minds on who they hand this country over to for the next, possibly five years.

Few would argue that during the past few years this country's economy has been on the rocks, unemployment is becoming a terminal economic problem, the separation from Canada by Quebec

looms as a possibility and many experts are unsure where our energy supplies will come from in the next decade.

It's obviously a time for answers, and not just simple ones.

As you local voters consider which candidate to support, it is essential that opportunities like tonight's all-candidates meeting are used to pin down the election hopefuls for their positions on the major issues facing this country.

And it's not enough for the opposition candidates to say simply get rid of the current government and we will resolve the ills that plague this country. Voters should insist on knowing how these changes will be made.

At the same time, it's not good enough for the incumbents to say they are the only choice, or we will solve the current problems, voters want to know why these problems were allowed to develop in the first place and why the other candidates are inferior.

And while voters consider which of the local candidates will best represent their desires, it is important to realize that, whichever candidate you like, he or she is bound by the party they represent. The records show that rarely, if ever does an MP buck his or her party and vote against the wishes of the caucus and the party leader.

In voting for the local party representative, you're getting the entire party package.

So good luck voters, let's hope you can wade through the rhetoric, smiles and mumbled promises and choose a government that will best serve the needs of all of us for the next term.



Joe Clark's Quebec stand confuses party members



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald
Yes, changes to occur rather rapidly in politics. And there is no better example than the recent declaration by Tory leader Joe Clark that "Quebec cannot vote its way out of Canada."

This apparent denial of self-determination for Quebecers—one of the few surprises in this repetitious election campaign—shocked many Tory candidates in Quebec and was widely denounced throughout English-speaking Canada as a blunder of monumental proportions. No one, not even the staunchest federalist in Quebec, had ever come out and said that the province could not decide its own future.

And the irony of it all is that the statement should have come from Joe Clark.

It was a mere five months ago that gleeful Liberals were having a field day kicking Clark around for being "soft on separatism." He was the one, it was alleged, who was in bed with Rene Levesque, the one who wouldn't defend the rights of Ottawa, the one who seemed to be tripping over himself trying to convince Canadians that a Tory government would "sell out" to Quebec. All this

came about after Conservative MP David Crombie, the former mayor of Toronto had said any federal government would be foolish not to negotiate with the Quebec government if the people of that province voted for sovereignty-association.

FAST FOOTWORK

That statement by Crombie was generally considered to be the winner of the blunder-of-the-year award. And it gave Prime Minister Trudeau a glorious opportunity to repeat his simplistic assertion that neither he nor a Liberal government would ever negotiate away the future of Canada. Clark appeared a bit awkward trying to overtake Crombie and reassure Canadians that he wouldn't negotiate the break-up of Canada. Somehow, he didn't sound all that convincing.

Who would have thought that in just a few months, Tory candidates in Quebec would be wringing their hands because their leader was apparently denying their people the right to self-determination? And who would have thought that the prime minister would be suggesting he might actually sit down and talk with a referendum-armed separatist government?

Clark remained adamant under persistent questioning. No province, he repeated and repeated, could vote itself out of Confederation. He was standing tough on this one.

Meanwhile Trudeau, the traditional tough-guy on the issue, was suddenly appearing more flexible. He said there would be a referendum in Quebec and "whether there are negotiations, or whether there aren't any, will depend on the results."

Later he added this: "I have always

said if there were a clear vote for the independence of Quebec someone would have to sit down with the Quebec government."

If he did always say this, it wasn't very loudly. In any event, the shoe seemed well-fitted on the other foot.

NOT PLANNED

A common reaction to the Clark declaration in Quebec was that he was admitting the province was a disaster area for his party and was appealing to the "rednecks" of English-Canada. Even Jacques Vasseur, the Tory candidate in Laprairie, suggested this.

Clark took that decision mainly with a view to toughening his image in Ontario.

Other candidates dissociated themselves from the Clark statement.

But Tory officials say their leader had not planned to take a tougher stance on this particular issue. Said an aide: "It was a question that arose unexpectedly at a news conference and Clark correctly replied that no province had the right to vote itself out of Confederation."

"Trudeau has said the same thing many times."

There was a pause. "But I must admit, he could have expressed it differently."

The officials sweated over the dilemma and decided that while it would be nice to clarify the situation to the satisfaction of all Tory candidates in Quebec, the gamble would be too great. Appearing wishy-washy in the final 10 days of the campaign could be fatal.

But it's still difficult getting used to seeing the shoe on the other foot.

Ban pre-election polls, unfairly influence voters



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald
TORONTO — We can all relax about the current federal election campaign. The Gallup poll says the Liberals are in their customary first place with a five-point lead over the Conservatives.

And the polls can't be wrong, can they?
Why bother going out to vote? We now know the results.

There is one slight problem. A CBC-Carleton University poll gives the Conservatives a two-point edge.
How does one explain the contradiction?

Well, defenders of polls say, they were taken at different times.
Besides, we all know polls are only accurate within three or four percentage points 19 out of 20 times.

Which means, for example, that the Conservative spread could be anywhere from 34 to 44 per cent of the vote, the difference between being wiped out and forming a majority Tory administration.

DOES INFLUENCE
This kind of crystal ball gazing would be grounds for mirth more than anything except for the theory, and it is partially documented, that polls affect voters.

And that's dangerous, regardless of whether they stay home, come out, or

change their vote as a result of the poll.

As one critic of polls said, they "put the emphasis in the election on the wrong place, on who is thought to be ahead rather than what the candidates propose and rather than what their election might mean."

There is also a tendency, especially in the media, to treat polls as predictions rather than what they are, records of past opinion.

And not always very good records at that, as the clash between the Gallup and CBC results show.

NOT GOOD

Politicians and party workers are also deeply influenced by polls, and it was Winston Churchill who once said "nothing is more dangerous than to live in the temperamental atmosphere of a Gallup Poll, always feeling one's pulse and taking one's temperature."

For these reasons it is too bad the provincial government is continuing to dither on a law that would ban polls during the 37 days of a provincial election, much as B.C. has already done.

Such legislation wouldn't do much to help the national scene, but maybe Ottawa would follow if Ontario set a good example.

Unfortunately deputy premier Bob Welch told backbench MPP John Williams (PC-Toronto Oriole) that while the government is "giving very serious consideration" to banning "no definite decision has yet been taken."

GOOD SUPPORT
What triggered Williams' question in the House is that one year ago a resolution proposed by MPP George Ashe (PC-Durham West) and calling for exactly that "serious consideration," unanimously passed the legislature.

Liberal and NDP members, including

MPP George Samis (NDP-Cornwall), who introduced the first bill to ban polls, endorsed the Ashe approach.

So far the government can't make up its mind, and the stumbling block appears to be the definition of poll.

But B.C.'s bill works, so why not just adopt it?

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Halton's History

From our files

NORVAL MAN INJURED
THIRTY YEARS AGO—Mr. George Day, a resident of Norval, suffered a painful injury last Thursday while employed on the farm of Jim Russell. Mr. Day was unhitching a team of horses in the barn when one of the horses turned and pinned him to the side of the stable. His leg was broken between the knee and the ankle. He was taken to Toronto General Hospital, where the broken limb was set, and he is reported as resting comfortably.

A new feature of the Junior Farmer Plowing Match scheduled for Saturday May 28, is to be a special tractor class for Junior Homemakers under 25 years. The prize list also includes a tractor class for boys 16 years and under, another for plowboys 17 to 19 inclusive, and a fourth for plowboys 20 to 25 inclusive.

The official opening of the Halton Community Park at Lowville for 1949 is scheduled for Monday, June 6. This will mark the turning on of the floodlights which are now in the course of being installed.

On sale at Carroll's: Red salmon, 1/2 pound tin for 37 cents; Pard dog or cat food, two one-pound tins for 27 cents; Monarch flour, a 24 pound bag for \$1.59.

NORVAL BREAK-IN
TWENTY YEARS AGO—A large quantity of merchandise worth close to \$1,000 was taken in a break-in at Kirkwood's Hardware in Norval some time over the holiday weekend. The thieves must have used a truck to carry off their loot, which included mixmasters, steam irons, electric coffee perks, a McCullough chain saw, two skill saws, electric fry pans, a vacuum cleaner, a quantity of work shirts, pants and socks, cigarettes and tobacco and a number of fishing reels.

With the election in Ontario only three weeks away, a relatively quiet campaign is expected. In Georgetown, the enumeration has already taken place, with the two enumerators having called at homes last week.

Two Georgetown men, Ralph Bludd of 3 Churchill Cres. and Keith Miller of R.R.1, Georgetown will probably share the \$100 reward money for their part in the return of a Galt youngster who disappeared from his home on Wednesday, May 13. The 14-year-old truant had been living with relatives in the Princeton district of Galt for the past eight years. The reward for information of the boy was put up by his father.

George Cuthbert of Brampton had a hare-raising experience driving to work recently. He was eastbound on the Queen Elizabeth Way, a mile west of the Humber River bridge, when a jackrabbit ran onto the road and froze in the path of his car. At the last second the rabbit jumped over the hood of the car, crashed through the windshield and struck Mr. Cuthbert in the face. Although bleeding from face cuts, the driver managed to retain control of his car and drove to St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto for treatment. He said a pair of sunglasses saved him from more serious injury. The dead jackrabbit weighed 9 1/2 pounds, and was buried by Mr. Cuthbert in his backyard.

SATELLITE CITY UNVEILED
TEN YEARS AGO—A Georgetown minister and his family will leave for Viet Nam later this year to serve in the mission field in that country. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Collins and Pamela, aged 6 months, of Maple Avenue West will leave in mid-August.

The annual meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce was particularly well-attended Wednesday when the dining room at the North Halton Golf and Country Club was full. The meeting drew a capacity audience to hear about Ontario's plan to amalgamate Halton and Peel counties into a new regional government. The plan, at present, calls for Georgetown, and a portion of Esquesing, to become one town, with its own municipal council and be a member of a regional council.

Plans for a \$1 billion futuristic satellite city of 47,000 population just east of Georgetown were unveiled Monday night by architect R.P.G. Pennington at Chinguacousy Council meeting. The 2,200 acre site—owned by Ar-Jel Developments Limited—Weston—is bounded on the south by Highway 7 near Norval on the north by Sideroad 16, west by the Esquesing Town Line and east by a line in the centre of the 4th and 5th Lines West. The unique radial core community has been designed by Mr. Pennington to eliminate cars entirely from a central area which will house 25,000 people, schools, theatres and commercial development.

A feasibility study tabled in the Ontario legislature last week by Honorable George Gomme, Minister of Highways, included information on a GO Train transit route which would link Georgetown with Toronto. The route would utilize the Canadian National Railway's right-of-way to provide a diagonal access from central Toronto to the northwest Metro outskirts where none exists.

GLEN WILLIAMS FIRE
ONE YEAR AGO—About 300 landowners crowded the public gallery at Queen's Park Thursday and many left disappointed that a private member's bill calling for a drastic cut in the Niagara Escarpment planning area was defeated by a vote of 60 to 41. The bill, introduced by MPP Bob McKeasock (L-Grey), was defeated on a combined vote of the New Democrat Party and the government.

Four people were injured in a \$30,000 fire in Glen Williams May 9. Mel Smith, 38, owner of the property, and Mike Spitzer, 18, suffered burns in the blaze, which was reported shortly before 3 p.m. Both men were taken to hospital where Mr. Smith was treated and released. Mr. Spitzer was kept in hospital for observation. Firefighters Ed Pearce and Bud Hyde, who were training hoses on two propane tanks on the side of the barn to keep them from heating up and exploding, suffered minor burns from the radiant heat of the fire. A drum containing methyl hydrate exploded, sending debris flying several hundred feet.