

Consider alternate plans for transit use

It's unfortunate that a study of bus service options for within the Georgetown area, recently discussed by town council, did not include other, more feasible transit options.

The study looked at a plan that would see one, and sometimes two buses operating in town on a route from the downtown area to the corner of Delrex and Gairy. The buses would operate every half hour during peak periods while one bus would be in service on a reduced level during other times.

The plan would cost approximately \$113,000 per year before support from riders and other Georgetown groups is considered against the cost.

The plan sounds neither financially sound nor likely to meet the transit needs of Georgetown residents.

The bus route described by the ministry of transportation survey does not include any service to the Moore Park subdivision. It does not thoroughly serve the town but instead provides token transit access to local bus users. Considering the huge annual costs of the service, as outlined in the ministry's study, a substantial ridership would be necessary to support the system and, to help keep bus fares reasonable.

We doubt the described bus service would attract significant ridership. And we doubt that the town would be able to keep costs low, considering the service's likely ridership.

Certainly a community the size of Georgetown has a need for local transit. The need for transit in Georgetown is especially pronounced during the day, contrary to patterns in larger urban areas.

Our senior citizens would be

greatly aided by transit service during the day, for visiting, shopping and, the independence mobility gives. The same goes for spouses in a one or no car family. When one member of the family heads off with the car, the one at home often feels stranded.

But the transit system under study will neither serve the town nor the community.

What is needed is a serious study that does look at real alternatives for a Georgetown transit service. One possibility that deserves serious consideration is a share-a-ride taxicab service. The share-a-ride system is operating successfully in many Ontario communities and is sanctioned and partially subsidized by the Ontario government. The plan is similar to the dial-a-bus system but does not have the startup costs of that type of plan.

Under the share-a-ride system, users pay a low, flat rate for taxi rides. Riders call the cab company 30 to 45 minutes before they need a ride. They explain their destination and the cab collects other riders headed in the same general direction before arriving at the home of the original caller.

Supporters of the plan say that many users of the share-a-ride plan would not otherwise use taxis so the cab companies are not deprived of revenue. Share-a-ride taxis generally carry three to four riders and at from 35 to 75 cents the plan is not expensive to run, certainly less expensive than the ambitious bus system discussed at last week's council meeting.

The share-a-ride plan is a reasonable one, just one of many feasible options open to council. They should all be considered and the town should not spend much more time discussing the overly ambitious bus transit system for Georgetown.

Council correct on Acton hall stand

We have to chuckle at the logic put forward by some council members recently in opposition to supplying funds for renovating the Acton Town hall.

In initially opposing funding for the renovations, although he later changed his mind, Councillor Roy Booth argued that since Acton councillors have "cried" in the past that more downtown parking is needed, it would be better to demolish the fine old building and turn it into a parking lot.

He further argued that the many community activities that would probably take place in the newly renovated hall would attract even more parkers thus contributing to the parking problem.

Sounds a little ludicrous to us. By our thinking if a renovated Acton town hall is going to attract people wishing to take part in activities in the building, that's an argument in favor of its renovation, not against.

Using Booth's logic, the town could solve many Halton Hills parking problems by simply

closing down Alcott arena, the Memorial arena and forgetting about the proposed Georgetown cultural centre.

At the same time, Booth's argument that the town hall would better serve Acton as a parking lot is equally absurd.

We shudder to think of how the councillor would approach a commission on the proposed LACAC. His cavalier disregard for local heritage is a little unnerving.

Still, the voices of reason prevailed and even councillor Booth was won over to supporting the hall's preservation.

We're sure many Actonians heaved a long sigh of relief knowing that the old town hall is on its way to again serving as a focal point for their community.

Considering the likely expenditure of over \$1 million on a cultural centre in Georgetown, council showed good sense in agreeing to allocate the \$40,000 for the Acton renovations.

Despite ward two councillor Pat Patterson's argument that rural residents should not pay tax dollars to support an urban facility, the renovated town hall will meet a real need in Halton Hills' northern community.

Certainly for the price, the Acton community centre is a real bargain. Of course, the job is still not complete.

Council is counting on the public to help support the endeavor by responding to the fundraising campaign already in progress. We suspect that Acton fundraisers will have a little more luck drumming up dollars for the town hall renovations now that residents are sure town council is willing to supply a financial commitment of its own.

Let's hope this new found enthusiasm for the grand old building materializes in the form of donated dollars from Acton citizens, including members of the business and industrial sector.



Election not under-explained, voters had a deluge of detail



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

I know I am swimming against the tide here, but I can't accept this theory that the boredom of the current election campaign is due to under-explained policies and a general dearth of detail.

Instead, I think the current election campaign has become a bore because of an over-explanation of policies amid a general deluge of detail. In fact I have never seen so many devastating details about a mere election campaign.

Perhaps it's because this particular campaign effectively began more than a year ago and most sales gimmicks had been presented before Prime Minister Trudeau actually pulled the plug on April 26. In previous campaigns, all the election promises and platitudes hit us for the first time in the final eight weeks before the vote; this time the period has been set aside for recapping what has been stated and restated over the previous 12 months.

We now have too much time to study policies, look for imperfections and ask questions. And that means our political

leaders similarly have too much time to re-explain their policies, create more imperfections and beg still more questions.

TOO BUSY

We in the press, in previous campaigns, used to be so busy churning out new promises and programs that there was no time to get bogged down with grubby little details. Prime Minister Trudeau could announce an \$88 million urban transportation program, which he did in 1974, and we didn't have time to worry about implementation dates and incidental details like that. We were too busy checking the other battlefronts to see how the New Democrats were doing in their war on corporate welfare burns, or how the Tories were going to implement the third stage of their proposed price and wage controls.

There was a new platform plank being hammered into place every day, it seemed. We didn't even have time to think about a television debate between the leaders.

But this time, with so much expensive time to kill between even a changed nomenclature, we have begun the greatest contradiction hunt in Canadian history. If a politician just adds one pregnant pause to a previous speech, there is obviously a whole new emphasis to the campaign.

When Prime Minister Trudeau went into Maple Leaf Gardens and said his government would unilaterally patriate the constitution, he was repeating a year-old statement and that was the highlight in the speech, so we heard all

about the number of free tickets given out for the event, the number of popcorn salesmen, details about the warm-up rock stars and even an estimate on the number of successive days Trudeau had worn the same suit.

FLYING FLUFF

The next day, the biggest news was that an engine failed on Tory leader Joe Clark's airplane. And we heard how he jokingly blamed a Toronto Sun reporter for bringing the bad luck and how, in turn, the Toronto Sun reporter blamed the Toronto Star reporters. It was heavy stuff.

And speaking about newspapers, can you recall any other campaign in which we took such an abiding interest in which parties the major papers would support? When the Toronto Star decided to throw its lot in with the New Democrats, the CBC decided this should be the lead-off item on its national newscast. You would think the Martians had landed.

The Star's publisher was even questioned about how he intended to vote personally.

And no one can complain about any shortage of economic statistics this time around. No comparison has been left untouched as various parties tell us we have the fastest-growing labor force in any malaria-free country, or the slowest-growing tannery trade in any partially-metric state. If there is one thing we don't need it's additional growth indicators.

In fact, I would be hardpressed to cite any other details we do need this time around. What we do need is less time to dwell on the details we already have.

Sense of marking time hangs over the legislature



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald

TORONTO — There's a curious sense of marking time hanging over the legislature these days.

Not that all the actors in the daily political drama aren't playing their parts. They are, and some of them quite well.

It's like the words and costumes for good theatre are there, but the spark that makes for great performances is missing.

Partly, it's probably a result of the federal election, which takes the spotlight off the provincial stage until May 22.

But down deep it appears to be more than that.

The Tories appear happy, confident, even cocky, as though they are in control of the House. As in fact they are.

The opposition are spinning their wheels, going nowhere.

Which is strange when you consider the number of good issues they've hammered the government with in past weeks.

NDP RIGHT

The New Democratic Party have a solid issue in their claim that doctors opting out of OHIP and health care budget restraints are going to wreck medicare.

"It's partly nonsense, of course, since health care budgets are increasing, not being cut back.

But there is perception that medicare is hurting, and people will react very negatively to that.

NDP leader Michael Cassidy goes so far as to say the Conservatives are "creating the kind of anger that gets government thrown out of office."

The Liberals, too, have a believable issue in their continual assaults on Ontario Hydro, particularly in the wake of the Three Island nuclear accident in the United States?

DAVIS TO GO?

And both opposition parties have rightly raked the Tories over the coals for their almost total failure to train the industrial work force we need in this province.

Apprenticeship training is a first-class disaster area.

But somehow none of this has really clicked with the public in terms of hostility towards the government.

If anything the Conservatives seem more confident than at any time since the 1971 election.

MUCH CHANGE

One might suspect, in fact, that if the current opposition malaise continues, Premier Bill Davis, might well be looking for an issue with which to go to the people this fall.

He did say a year ago that he intended to serve out a full term, meaning until 1981 or so.

But if the Conservatives scent a majority they're just liable to junk that kind of promise.

The Davis image has undergone a remarkable transformation in the space of four years.

In 1975 the electorate felt about him the way they do about Pierre Trudeau. No longer.

And if Davis can translate that change into votes for a majority Tory administration he'll likely do just that.

the HERALD
A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS COMPANY LTD
103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G-3E3
WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF
Publisher & General Manager
MICHAEL HOLLETT
Managing Editor
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Phone 877-2201
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Halton's History

From our files

McGIBBON MERCHANT MEET
THIRTY YEARS AGO — A number of local merchants met for dinner in the McGibbon House last Wednesday to discuss plans for forming a Retail Merchants Association in town. Deputy-Rieve James Goodlet acted as chairman for the meeting, and after dinner, an informal discussion took place, with several of those present airing their views on what could be accomplished by such an organization.

The Federal Department of Health has made a large grant to the Halton County Health Unit. This grant will allow the health unit to institute an extensive dental public health program. The federal funds will cover the entire cost of this project. The program will be entirely preventive in character and treatment will not be provided. Each school child in the county will be examined each year, and recommendations for treatment will be made.

Last week the temperature started off to be well in the 80's and then we had a cooler-offer. At least we can say we have had the dust laid a little bit this week with two or three sprinkles. They could hardly be called rains as the total of .30 inches for the week was not much more than a good shower.

NEW GEORGETOWN FACTORY
TWENTY YEARS AGO — Georgetown will have a new industry which expects to be in production within the next two months. A signed lease was received this morning by Delrex Developments, following negotiations for location as a new highway factory beside Sykes Tool Co., empty since it was built by the company last year.

Bruce Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Brown, R.R.1, Norval, had an interesting experience last Friday, when he found a balloon with a letter attached, on his father's farm about six miles from town. The letter states that it came from V-1, one of the balloons sent aloft by the Delhi balloon club. It was requested that the finder return the V-1 with answers as to where it was found, how much gas was left in the balloon and when it was found. The letter enclosed stamps to cover postage for returning the balloon and letter.

Optimism that the Credit River should be fit to swim in this summer generally, in most areas, is voiced by R.H. Parker of Acton, chairman of the CVCA's Flood and Pollution Control Advisory Board. Mr. Parker said that on the basis of last year's pollution tests, the river should be fit for swimming. Now that spring flooding is at an end, tests will again be carried out on a regular basis by the CVCA in co-operation with the Ontario Water Resources Commission, and Health Units of the participating counties of Peel, Dufferin, Wellington and Halton.

A "river of gold" from coast to coast will greet 1960, the Golden Jubilee year of Girl Guiding in Canada next spring, with thousands of golden tulips planted by 6,500 Guide companies and Brownie packs in their own communities, it has been announced by a Canadian headquarters in Toronto. Planned to mark the 50th anniversary, the tulips will be planted in front of the buildings where Guides and Brownies meet, and larger gardens are planned for public parks in larger cities.

As a memento of the visit to Town of Governor-General Vincent Massey, a picture of His Excellency will hang in the town municipal building. Shortly after his visit last week, Mayor Armstrong received an autographed photo in the mail, which suggested that the town might wish this placed in a public spot so citizens would remember the visit which Mr. Massey made in the name of the Queen.

MASS RESIGNATION DISCUSSED
TEN YEARS AGO — The county's Catholic teachers are contemplating mass resignation if the Halton Separate School Board remains adamant on its 1969 salary offer. About 180 of the county's 320 Catholic teachers voted Thursday night in favor of rejecting the board's offer and turned over salary negotiations to the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association. The teachers claim the salaries are not competitive with those of public school teachers in the county or with teachers in the separate school system elsewhere in Ontario.

Rattlesnakes have been discovered in Limehouse Saturday. Jim Ireland killed two Massasauga rattlers with a rake near his home at the south end of the village after one of them had frightened the Ireland children and a playmate, Linda Hate, while they were playing. Linda's father, Frank, who has seen Massasaugas before, positively identified the snakes.

They measured 38 and 36½ inches long. One had a large rattle at the end of its tail, while the other's rattle was just developing.

A housing development planned to add 167 new homes in the village of Hillsburgh got underway yesterday when bulldozers went to work on the former Currie property. Georgetown's P.A. Carney Real Estate firm is exclusive sales agent for the subdivision and an initial 43 houses will be built by Tall Oaks Construction. A Georgetown firm, Glendevon Enterprises Ltd., is the developer.

GROWING GARBAGE CRISIS
ONE YEAR AGO — Halton regional council has acted irresponsibly toward the growing garbage crisis in the region, says regional chairman Ric Morrow. Mr. Morrow, dejected and disappointed, made the charge after Wednesday's meeting when council voted 12-8 not to allow drillings on possible landfill sites in Oakville and Burlington. The action could have been used to relieve pressure on existing sites which have recently had dumping bans imposed on industrial and commercial haulers.

A Georgetown lawyer would like to see Canadians carry legal fees insurance in a manner similar to hospital insurance but she does not feel Ontario could afford such a scheme. "No one would be happier than the lawyers if the province took care of our bills," said Johan McMillan of Nelson, Baines, Bellegem and Steele. "People are reluctant to talk about what a lawyer's fees are and discussing money seems rather tacky when people come in with a problem. It seems as if all you're worried about is how he can pay for your services, not the problem he wants you to sort out for him."