

# Hydro members should be freely elected

The jury's still out on the proposed restructuring of Halton's hydro system but at least one aspect of the plan being considered is cause for concern.

Under a proposal currently being considered by local governments as well as the provincial government the number of bodies serving Halton hydro users would be reduced from seven to four. Currently rural areas of Halton Hills are directly served by Ontario Hydro while six other hydro commissions administer hydro in the region's other areas.

It seems logical to reduce the number of bodies charged with administering hydro service in Halton, as long as this move towards efficiency does not lead to the new bodies becoming distanced from hydro consumers.

There are many areas of the proposed change still to be considered but one idea currently being bantied about is the appointment rather than election of members to the new hydro commissions.

It's an idea that should be scrapped. Provincial legislation gives local municipalities the option of appointing hydro commission members or having them elected at the same time as the annual municipal elections.

Despite some of Ontario Hydro's actions in the past, the utility is public and, theoretically owned by the citizens of Ontario. As such the management and

managers of the utility should be accountable to the public. A step towards this accountability, although it's no guarantee, is the direct election of hydro commission members. Certainly we'd feel the public's interests are being better served by hydro commission members who have had to convince voters to elect them to the commission rather than by members who simply had to get the okay from a handful of councillors.

One shouldn't have to defend the principal of elected public officials. Opponents of the direct election of hydro commissioners may argue that these elections do not always arouse rabid public sentiment. While this is true and yes, in some municipalities hydro commissioners are elected by acclamation, at least the voters are given the opportunity to have a democratic say in the selection of hydro commissioners.

Certainly in a community like Halton Hills it's safe to say hydro is a highly contentious issue. We wouldn't be surprised to see a healthy number of hopefuls put themselves forward for a commission post if given the opportunity. And in places like North York, hydro interest is so high that there are often four times the number of candidates as commission seats available with thousands of votes cast.

Why not give Halton Hills voters the chance to demonstrate a similarly keen interest in hydro business?

# Here's hoping council reverses

It's our hope that as you read this Halton Hills council has already overturned a general committee decision made last week that would see a proposal for a local architecture preservation committee go down to defeat for the second time.

Committee voted by a narrow one vote margin last Monday night to again throw out a proposal for the creation of a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC).

Chances are that council overturned this decision at last night's meeting which took place after our deadline. While the original decision narrowly passed

Coun. John McDonald, a confirmed supporter of the proposal was in the chair for the meeting and therefore unable to vote. At the same time neither George Malby nor Marilyn Serjeantson were at the meeting and Coun. Serjeantson at least could be considered likely to vote for the plan.

We've made it clear in the past that we think the committee should come into existence. One of the main reasons for supporting the plan is that the LACAC would serve as an advisory committee empowered simply to recommend buildings that should be preserved in town. Should a LACAC come into existence, Halton Hills will not find itself saddled with a powerful group of conservationist dictators. Instead the town would be fortunate to have a committee of architectural and historical watchdogs whose job would be to alert town council to buildings deserving a place in this community's heritage.

In opposing the proposal Coun. Roy Booth argued that the LACAC would become "just another method for saying 'no' to a development proposal."

It's a little disturbing to hear comments like this coming from Coun. Booth considering he chairs the Halton region's planning committee and is Halton Hills' representative on the Niagara Escarpment Commission. This remark, along with other comments made by Coun. Booth including those during the debate about pylon signs on Guelph St. make us wonder whether the councillor really should be in a planning capacity.

Surely NEC and the region's planning committee are responsible for 'holding up' development until it is determined whether or not a proposal will be in the best interests of the community. It would seem this concept of scrutinizing development goes against Coun. Booth's political grain. Could we have a development wolf in a planner's sheep's clothing?

Let's hope there were sufficient numbers of council members at last night's council meeting who think LACAC deserves a chance.



# They're getting serious as MPPs call each other liars



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau  
Of the Herald  
TORONTO—You could sense it in the quietness of the members and in the absence of interjections and wisecracks. This was serious.

MPP Bob Nixon (L-Brant-Oxford Norfolk), former party leader, was demanding that MPP Elia Martel (NDP-Sudbury East; withdrew from the record his charge that Nixon was a liar.

To the world outside it was a minor matter - one politician accusing another of lying. It happens all the time, doesn't it? Not in the legislature.

Standing rule 10 says no member can charge another with "uttering a deliberate falsehood."

To accuse is not only to slur a member's character, but branches a necessary parliamentary assumption that all MPPs are honorable gentlemen performing their duties in a civilized manner.

Martel, in fact, apologized for making "everyone feel uncomfortable" because he had "broken the great rules this place operates by."

Normally, when the Speaker draws attention to a member's breaking that rule, the person in question retracts the use of the offending word.

But not this time. Martel maintaining the truth was more important. Nixon had accused the NDP (and Tories) of voting to postpone an item before a legislative committee, which stung an exasperated Martel to interject he was "tired of this guy's lies."

(Actually, as in many political disagreements, a reading of the record indicates a case could be made for both, the Nixon and Martel views of what transpired at the committee.)

Martel hung tough on his accusation, even after Liberal warnings they weren't taking the matter lightly, his last words being that "I would prefer to be kicked out every day than to withdraw."

Yet exactly an hour later, while the House was on another topic, he rose briefly to repeat that while Nixon's comments were "inaccurate and I think wrong, out of consideration for all my colleagues in the House I want to withdraw the use of the word liar."

Martel and Nixon are, along with Conservative deputy premier Bob Welch,

House Leaders for their respective parties.

They are in charge of ordering the day-to-day business of the legislature, making sure things run as efficiently as possible.

Usually it works quite well, but usually one of the three isn't calling another a liar.

Nixon warned publicly that it would be "extremely difficult for us in this House to carry on with business as we should" if the word wasn't taken back.

And if the work of the legislature slowed down, that could have thrown a monkey wrench into plans for a June 22 recess and the passage beforehand of important legislation such as rent control.

Re-inforcing the threat, Nixon apparently told Welch privately he was resigning as Liberal House Leader, and the implication was plain no other Liberal was likely to volunteer to work with Martel either.

That may have been the lever Welch, a superb politician, needed to convince Martel, privately, to later withdraw the word liar.

For a man of Martel's pride, that must have been hard, and does him credit.

Yet he should clearly understand his position was wrong. The principle is glaringly obvious. If law-makers won't obey their own rules, why should the general public?

# Appointment of defeated MP is a controversial move



Ottawa Report  
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau  
Of the Herald  
The fact that Robert Rene de Cotret is our minister of industry, trade and commerce, along with being minister of state for economic development, may not send shock waves from one end of Canada to the other, but the appointment seems to be rattling Ottawa.

With the possible exception of the uproar over the promised relocation of our embassy in Israel, the de Cotret promotion was undoubtedly the most controversial development during Joe Clark's first few days as prime minister. Apart from de Cotret, and probably his immediate family, it is difficult to find anyone outside the Clark household who favors the appointment.

The 34-year-old economist entered Parliament last October, after easily winning the Ottawa Centre riding in a byelection. To do this, he had merely to knock off former Liberal cabinet minister Bryce Mackasey, who had parachuted into the constituency from Montreal, expecting to breeze back into Parliament on the basis of his past glories. Mackasey ran an ineffectual campaign, and de Cotret, who seems to enjoy being billed as "one of Canada's top economists", became a freshman MP.

Prior to entering politics, de Cotret had headed the Conference Board in Canada, an independent economics-forecasting organization that generally has a solid reputation. In fact de Cotret had dabbled in economic forecasting all over the place, including a stint as an advisor to former U.S. president Richard Nixon. Clark and

other Tories regarded his acquisition as a great coup.

Unlike other new MPs, de Cotret never did occupy a back row seat in the Commons. He entered the House just one row behind Clark, while everyone around him predicted he would likely become finance minister in any Tory government.

Without being unkind, it would seem fair to say that de Cotret seldom rose above the ordinary during his brief stint in the Commons. And his proposals for a "stimulative deficit" did little to make life easier for fellow Tories during the election campaign. It should also be pointed out that a majority of Conservative MPs have a healthy skepticism for economists who are long on theories and short on hard-headed business experience. This skepticism goes right back to the Diefenbaker era.

But as an elected MP, de Cotret was given full rein in caucus to expound his economic viewpoints - which he did with some relish.

Then came the general election. And since de Cotret had knocked off Mackasey so easily, and since his new opponent - John Evans - was noted mainly for his unfamiliarity, it was assumed that a Tory victory was a mere formality. Even his supporters acknowledged that de Cotret ran a lacklustre campaign, and as a result he was soundly defeated.

Now there are all sorts of precedents for appointing non-elected representatives to cabinet, but it has invariably been a stop-gap measure until the candidate can be tested at the polls. Appointing someone who has just been rejected by the voters is quite another matter.

But Clark decided that "the outstanding ability" of de Cotret should not be lost to the government. So, he made him a senator and gave him two major economic portfolios, thus angering a large element of the Ottawa electorate, not to mention all those Ontario MPs who considered themselves highly eligible for a cabinet appointment. As a senator, de Cotret won't even be subjected to questioning in the Commons.

And although Clark has indicated that his economic whiz kid may later seek a Commons seat, de Cotret is under no obligation to leave the comfort of the Senate where he can remain until he is 75 and accumulate wages of more than \$1 million.

Not bad for a defeated candidate. Instead of going over the heads of Ottawa Centre voters, I think Clark would have been better advised to appoint de Cotret to an economic post in the prime minister's office, and let him earn his way into cabinet by winning a subsequent election. I suspect the country would survive while we waited.

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# Halton's History

From our files

VOTER'S LIST  
THIRTY YEARS AGO - There are close to 2,200 qualified voters in Georgetown eligible to vote in next Monday's election. The preliminary lists, prepared and printed some weeks ago, list 2,152 names.

The average temperatures on this week's weather summary are both very high. The maximum is twelve degrees above normal for June, and the minimum is 14 degrees above normal. The rain tried hard to come several times, but only one day was there enough to record, and that was just one-hundredth of an inch. The average maximum temperature was 85.71 degrees, while the average minimum was 65.57 degrees.

Georgetown council was notified by the Ontario Provincial Police headquarters that the new contract which will come up in January will be at a new scale of rates. At present, the town pays \$1,750 per man. Under new system, the town would pay \$2,590 per man but would receive a 25 per cent grant on those salaries as well as on mileage, telephone, and office supplies. Police chairman Davidson said this would be an increase of \$500 to \$600 over the present cost.

An advertisement from Richardson Hardware: \$5 buys a new CCM bicycle, the perfect gift for passing exams.

QUEEN'S TELEGRAM  
TWENTY YEARS AGO - Appropriate ceremonies marked the end of a \$125,000 mortgage when shareholders of North Halton Golf and Country Club gathered for a party Saturday to mark completion of the final mortgage payment.

Greetings by telegram from Queen Elizabeth and letters from Prime Minister Diefenbaker and MP Sandy Best were received by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bradford 28 Queen Street, when they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary Saturday. Mr. Bradford and the former Elsie Youngs were married in the little church at Nepal in the late of Ely, Cambridgeshire, which was Mr. Bradford's birthplace. His wife comes from the neighboring village of Sutton.

If all goes well for the Road Acres Car Club they will be holding police-supervised Drag races in the industrial section of the Delrex subdivision by the 15th of July, it was announced on Sunday.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has fired another salvo in its fight to halt "the needless slaughter" of trees along roadsides and in new subdivisions. At its regular meeting at the Terra Cotta headquarters Thursday, the Authority resolved to ask again that the Department of Planning and Development initiate preventative legislation.

A familiar landmark is rapidly disappearing with the wrecking of the old high school which since the 1880's has been an impressive part of the highway scene. Lostracco Construction, which has the contract for building the large addition which will replace the building, is in the midst of demolition operations.

Two new rooms recently added to the Glen Williams home of Norm Logan were gutted by fire early Tuesday afternoon. Damage estimated at close to \$2,000 resulted from the blaze which fire chief Jack Harlow believes started from a family electrical appliance in the kitchen.

COPPER CABLE THEFT  
TEN YEARS AGO - Ontario Hydro is offering a substantial reward in connection with theft of an amount of copper cable from its distribution centre in north of Georgetown. A 1,500 pound reel of this valuable material has been taken from the centre at 22 Sideroad and the 8th Line.

Drivers who have long objected to the 30-mile-an-hour speed limit on Highway 7 will soon have some relief. On Monday council took action which will lead to a 40-mile limit from near Mountview Road to the present limits.

The proposed \$1 billion futuristic city near Norval got one step farther last week as planning board gave approval for preliminary discussions. The plan was unveiled May 12 at a Chinguacousy council meeting by owners of the 2,200 acre site. A self-supporting town housing 47,000 people will be established in the western sector if final approval is given.

A Georgetown youth was treated for lacerations to his nose and face, a broken jaw and injured left hand at South Peel Hospital Saturday after falling from a moving train near Streetsville. The youth, aged 17, and two friends, also visiting from Georgetown, were visiting a friend in Streetsville when they decided to board a train stopped at the Streetsville siding.

A total of 375 dogs and 125 cats were inoculated with anti-rabies serum at the free rabies clinic held Wednesday in the municipal garage on Maple Avenue East.

With Mayor Emmerson in opposition, council on Monday sold a parcel of land fronting on Princess Ann Drive for \$40,000. The purchaser, Eden Mills Enterprises, already owns land behind this and wanted to acquire the property so it would have frontage on the street for a future subdivision.

Georgetown was one of the eight cities and towns in the area served by the Hamilton Auto Club, (Halton, Brant, Haldimand and Wentworth counties) to be honored by the Canadian Automobile Association for their achievements in the field of pedestrian safety. Georgetown received a Special Citation award for its pedestrian casualty record in the division for towns between 10,000 and 25,000 in population.

SCALLEN FOUND GUILTY  
ONE YEAR AGO - Denis Edward Scallen, who turns 58 on Friday was found guilty of all three counts of fraud following 10 hours of deliberation by a 12-member jury at Milton county court. The decision ended a complicated nine-day trial before Judge Alan Sprague during which Mr. Scallen defended his validity as a Roman Catholic Priest and his religious activities at an RRI Limehouse, industrial shed where he continues to supervise a monastic order known as the Benedictines of Mary Immaculate.

Halton Hills council has agreed to a library board request to see if there is any town-owned land for a new library building in Georgetown. And if there is a site, would the town deed it to the library board? Trustee Douglas Magwood asked council Monday night.