

Ice fee changes are too little and too late

Halton Hills arena users can't be blamed for being angry with town council's plans to raise arena rates by 33 per cent this year. It's a startling increase.

And the increase was made all the more startling by the secretive way council brought it in. However, Monday night council tried to make amends at their committee meeting when a revised proposal, three months in the making was passed. The motion came after much debate and two closed meetings with local sports groups.

In the end, council didn't give very much. The only real concession council made to the sports groups was to drop a plan to collect 10 per cent of the gate receipts from teams that charged admission to their events.

Certainly it was a proposal well-dropped. Although not always winners, teams like Acton's Junior B Sabres and Georgetown's Raiders and Geminis help provide local residents, especially families, with an inexpensive and enjoyable night out. It was a safe bet that the less than wealthy teams would have passed on the town's 10 per cent surcharge to the local sports consumer.

Committee also proposed to seek additional arena revenue by selling advertising space in the rinks which sounds like a reasonable idea.

And, in a belated move they will likely avoid a repeat of this year's fiasco after passing a policy which will see them consult with sports groups before future rate hikes.

But the hardest part of the policy for local arena users to swallow appears likely to remain on the books and that's the 33 per cent rate hike.

It's difficult to believe that while the dreaded AIB has only been out of business for a matter of months we are already seeing such high price increases.

Town council's actions are more akin to those of oil company executives than a municipal government pledged to encouraging minor sport.

There has been a major breakdown in the town's budgetary planning if they are now forced to slap arena users with such a colossal hike to come close to covering expenses. It's hard to believe that with an inflation rate of around 10 per cent, the town's arena costs have increased over 30 per cent. It seems more likely that council has simply decided on a major policy switch and will no longer allow the arenas to be a break even or deficit operation.

If that's council's wish, they at least owe local arena users the courtesy and fiscal sanity of easing in the new policy rather than bringing it in with one fell swoop.

And council should have investigated alternate means of increasing revenue, like the proposed advertising sales, before the huge rate increases were brought in. Rate increases should have been a last resort.

It will no doubt take quite a while before the rift opened up by council between them and Halton Hills arena users heals.

Compromise likely in LACAC debate

Since council is adamant that a local architectural conservation advisory committee will not be created in this town it's nice to see that they're at least willing for a compromise committee.

To the surprise of many, including the Herald, last Tuesday night council endorsed a committee recommendation quashing the creation of a LACAC. Marilyn Serjeantson basically abstained from the issue by leaving the meeting before its completion while George Maltby cancelled out John McDonald's vote in favor of the proposal with his 'nay' ballot.

While we do not support the reasons given for opposing the plan, it's encouraging to see hopes of preserving Halton Hills' heritage won't be completely thrown to the wind.

Councillor Roy Booth, a determined opponent of LACAC, has suggested that a watered down version of the committee would likely win council support.

This modified committee would carry out the initial duties of a LACAC, creating an inventory of local buildings that are architecturally and historically significant. The council would then use this list as a guide to help them decide which buildings to have

designated significant by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Coun. Booth does not mention whether or not he would like to see this modified committee operate on a permanent basis. We would like to see this committee maintained on some on-going basis so they could function in a consulting role with council. While the modified committee would not have the admittedly limited teeth of a LACAC, the committee members' expertise would be useful for council to assess local buildings.

We hope that Coun. Booth's comments to the Herald regarding this modified committee are not simply meant to appease disappointed supporters of LACAC. Coun. Booth or some other council member should bring a proposal for a modified LACAC to council at the earliest possible moment so the committee can immediately begin preparing an inventory of the town's historically and architecturally significant buildings.

And we hope the people appointed to the modified committee will speak out strongly and determinedly when they think a building should be preserved despite the fact that the new committee would not have quite the clout of a LACAC. It's at least a step towards preserving local heritage.

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor



Tories learn very quickly view is different from inside



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

After just a few weeks in office there is every indication that the new Conservative government is learning that the view from the inside is vastly different, and far more complex, than the view from the outside.

It was so easy, from the outside, to say that a Tory government would demonstrate Israel's right to exist by moving the Canadian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. And it was easy to promise the "privatization" of Petro Canada, or the end of Loto-Canada. It also seemed a relatively simple matter to chop personal taxes by \$2 billion a year.

The boat-rocking list is a long one. And it remains there as a total party commitment, but Joe Clark's new ministers - not to mention Clark himself - are quickly realizing that some things are easier said than done. The Liberals, in power for 38 of the last 44 years, had unexcelled experience in the complexities of implementing new policies. For the new Tory government, it's a crash course.

And already some Conservative ministers are beginning to display an uncanny likeness to the Liberals they replaced.

SAME STAND
Remember how the Tories used to

poke fun at Liberal cabinet ministers when they went into seclusion at a Gatineau Hills cottage for their think sessions? Well, guess where the Tory cabinet held the second meeting? That's right. The same cottage.

At the cabinet's first meeting, the top item on the agenda was the West Coast longshoreman's strike. And if this were a year ago, there would be opposition demands for immediate government action so the grain industry would not be threatened.

This time, Labor Minister Lincoln Alexander emerged from the cabinet meeting, sounding for all the world like his predecessor. The government, he announced, was keeping an eye on the situation.

And Defence Minister Allan McKinnon emerged from the same meeting to question the proposed move of the veterans affairs department - which he also heads - to Charlottetown. But a short time later, probably after conferring with his bureaucracy, he announced that the Liberal-conceived move would go ahead as scheduled. The Liberals could have said that just as well.

NO ACTION

Earlier McKinnon had asked for a review of the investigation into alleged kickbacks by the Boeing Co. of Seattle in relation to sales in Canada. This first emerged last winter when the RCMP found no grounds for laying charges. This didn't satisfy the Conservative MPs who wondered about a possible cover-up. So when the government changed, McKinnon had Solicitor-General Allan Lawrence go into the matter again.

Once more, Lawrence came out sounding like a predecessor. "I am satisfied as a result of a pretty intensive police investigation that there is no action that requires any sort of prosecution," he said.

Blais couldn't have put it any better. Meanwhile, Finance Minister John Crosbie has been busy wrestling with the country's finances and his party's pledge to cut taxes by \$2 billion, while introducing business incentives and abolishing some capital gains taxes. When the new minister got through describing some of the difficulties being faced, the only commitment for the first Tory budget is that mortgage deductibility plan.

And so far as that Israeli embassy move is concerned, we can quietly forget that. What seemed like such a simple, vote-getting proposition from the outside of government turned out to have horrendous complications when viewed from within. On this issue the Tories are treading water in the finest Liberal tradition.

And how about those persistent reports - many from the inside of the Tory party - that many senior bureaucratic heads would roll under the new administration. Former cabinet minister C.M. Bud Drury, now head of the National Capital Commission, was considered a prime candidate for the axe.

He reports to Public Works Minister Erik Nielsen who now says, "Bud and I have known each other for a good many years and there is no reason why we cannot get along."

As someone once said, the more things change the more they remain the same.

Taxpayers pick up the bill but Tories keep polls secret



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

TORONTO—Everyone realizes that secrecy seems to be a way of life for governments, but probably the most outrageous example is the Conservative's hiding of public opinion polls paid for by tax money.

Tory ministers and senior civil servants know, for example, what the people of Ontario think about the government's censorship, gambling and liquor policies. But the opposition parties don't.

Nor do the taxpayers whose \$45,000 paid for the study.

Yet that kind of information is not only useful for formulating government policies, it is also the kind of background material every politician likes to have handy for partisan use.

What better way to frame policy so it fits with public preconceptions?

By any principle of fairness the polls should either be charged to Conservative Party coffers or else be available to all.

NOT CHICKENFEED
It's no minor matter concerning a few thousand dollars and an odd poll or two. MPP Pat Reid (L-Rainy River) obtained a list from the government of all

public opinion polls taken in the one-year span prior to April 1, 1979.

There were 23, done for 12 ministers costing \$430,000.

Management Board chairman George McCague (PC-Dufferin-Simcoe) told Reid the "polls in question constitute working documents for the development of policy and it is not the practice of the government to release material of this nature."

Which doesn't mean it shouldn't be. One of the priorities of the federal Conservatives on taking office will be passage of a freedom of information act in an attempt to loosen the bonds of secrecy that bind the federal bureaucracy.

BUT NOT HERE
In Ontario, by contrast, we have a commission of inquiry into freedom of information and individual privacy, which has been going for more than two years, and doesn't expect to report for another year.

That means public opinion poll secrecy will last at least that long. One can't disagree there are grey areas involving government where there is a legitimate need for secrecy, and hopefully the commission will delineate those.

But by definition (useful) public opinion polls are neutral.

TORY PROGRAM
Policy documents and recommendations drawn up by ministries based on the polls might be another matter, of course, but that's not what is at stake here.

A \$23,000 survey for the health ministry, for example, "covered the awareness of a ministry media campaign whose topic was the control of health care costs."

One might suspect, since such control is an integral part of the Tory political

program of restraint, and opposed by the opposition, that we're dealing here with what is in essence a political poll.

And that kind of information should be available both to the opposition, who can use it, but more importantly, the public, who pay for it.

the HERALD
A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS COMPANY LTD
103 MAIN ST. SOUTH, GEORGETOWN, L7G 3E5
PUBLISHER & GENERAL MANAGER
WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF
MANAGING EDITOR
MICHAEL HOLLETT
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
LARRY N. MARTIN
PHONE 877-2201
SECOND CLASS MAIL REGISTERED NO. 0943

AN AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER
1978 - Second Best All-Round - Best Sports
1977 - Best News & Features
1975 - Best News & Features
1974 - Best Composition & Layout
1973 - Best Editorial Page

Advertisements accepted on the condition that the advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertising contracts. Payment in advance is required. Any error in advertisement is due to the negligence of the advertiser or otherwise, and the publisher shall be liable for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING OFFICES
Thompson Building
45 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ont.
540 Cathcart St., Montreal, P.Q.

Halton's History

From our files

PERSIAN ACCIDENT
THIRTY YEARS AGO—Word has been received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cummins, that their son BILL, who was seriously burned in an ether explosion a few weeks ago is now out of danger. Bill is injured while at work with an oil company at Bahrain, Arabia, on the Persian Gulf.

In the greatest political triumph in Canada's history, the Liberal party, led by Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent swept back into power and will have a resounding majority when Canada's 21st Parliament convenes this fall in Ottawa. In Halton, veteran Liberal member Hughes Cleaver will return to office for a fourth term.

A grass fire on the farm of John McDonald, Ontario, Street, threatened to get out of control late last Wednesday afternoon and the fire brigade was called to extinguish it. The fire was headed for the barn and the arrival of the brigade averted what could have been a serious fire.

HEROIC LIMEHOUSE EXPLOITS
TWENTY YEARS AGO—Richard F. O'Brien died suddenly on Friday, June 26, as the result of an accident near Brampton. He was killed instantly, and three others hospitalized as the result of a three-vehicle crash on Highway 7, five miles east of Brampton.

Limehouse Guide Leader, Mrs. Jean Findley, made the Buffalo daily papers last week with a heroic exploit that was credited with saving the life of a Buffalo youth, after a stolen car in which he was riding struck a light pole in Bertie Township on the Canadian side. Mrs. Findley rushed the injured youth to Columbus Hospital in Buffalo where hospital attendants said the youth might have died to death had it not been for her quick action. He received an immediate blood transfusion in the hospital and doctors used over 100 stitches to close deep head cuts.

Local TCA captain Don Platt of 13 King Street, was host to eight grade eight students from Harrison Public School, the principal Harold Henry and Rex Heslop who supplied transportation, when they journeyed to Halton on June 13 to tour the airport facilities. The party toured TCA, the main hangars and the pilot training section, north star and super constellation, the flight control centre and the control tower.

Country Calendar, a TV program avidly watched by rural areas and town residents as well as of particular interest last Sunday when it showed the Ken Ella family, Hornby in the various aspects of the daily life on the farm. It also showed Billy Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clare Wilson, in the swimming hole and going into the hay mow. An employee, Lou Harris, was also in the picture.

Eight taggers were so successful in canvassing the town during the two days of selling tags for the Hospital Association on Friday and Saturday June 19 and 20, that the amount grossed surpassed proceeds received from the well-attended 'Gala Day' staged by the association in May. A second tag day has been proposed for Fair Day.

OLLIVIER'S EUROPEAN JAUNT
TEN YEARS AGO—A young Georgetown father was instantly killed early Sunday in a single car crash which plied wreckage into two trees 10 feet apart on Highway 8 west of the 6th Line of Essex, Gary Thomas Briggs 21, was pronounced dead at the scene by coroner Dr. J.H. Chamberlain. The driver was alone at the wheel of his eastbound car when it left the road and slammed into the trees. The force of the impact cut the car in half.

Construction has begun on a \$60,000 addition to Halton County Separate School Board's administrative buildings. The project was approved a month ago in spite of objections by the finance committee. Space in the present building, formerly offices of the old Burlington Separate School board, is too cramped for the larger county-wide staff.

Halton MP Rud Whiting received a unanimous vote of confidence from the executive of the Halton and Halton East Liberal Association earlier. Whiting this week celebrates the first anniversary of his election to parliament.

Mrs. Barbara Brotherton of Limehouse will co-pilot for Mrs. Ruth Bliss when she pilots TAR No. 50 in the All Women's Transcontinental Air Race, set for take-off July 4 from Lindbergh Field, San Diego, California.

The congregation and friends of the Georgetown Alliance Church will welcome their new pastor David J. Phillips and his wife this coming Sunday, June 29. Pastor and Mrs. Phillips recently graduated from the Canadian Bible College in Regina, Saskatchewan.

HALTON POLICE REPORT
ONE YEAR AGO—Halton Regional Police Association present the Halton police commission Thursday with a 70-page report evaluating almost every aspect of the force's operation and making recommendations aimed at improving the existing poor morale on the force. The commission was unhappy to learn that by a unanimous vote of 125 members of the association who had met to discuss the report the night before, the press were to receive copies of the report immediately after the meeting. The commission wanted to have time to study the report before it was made public.

Halton Hills council should buy the vacant 109-year-old Chapel Street school and turn it into a youth recreation centre. That's the suggestion of two Georgetown District High School students who are anxious to save the building from destruction. Linda Mayhew, 14, of Dayfoot Drive, and Adele Hunt of Metcalfe Court, have been circulating a petition since early May.

Halton Hills works committee is still embroiled in the on-again-off-again issue of truck traffic on 17 Sideroad. Monday works committee deferred a discussion of the guidelines for issuing permits to trucks applying to use the road for a further two weeks. The item was deferred at the last committee meeting to allow councillors to submit in writing to the town engineer their comment on what guidelines should be used as the basis for issuing the permits.