

Feds should ban bottles immediately

The federal government should ban 1.5 litre soft drink bottles immediately before even one more person is seriously injured by an exploding soft drink container.

The Federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Allan Lawrence was initially reluctant to ban the dangerous bottles but finally announced last week the bottles will be banned by the end of the summer.

Unfortunately that means the dangerous bottles will remain on store shelves throughout the hot summer months when soft drink consumption is at its peak.

Most supermarkets are hurrying to get the lethal bottles off their shelves before explosions that have led to severed veins and blinding are repeated. Not only can an entire supermarket chain's image be seriously blackened by a soft drink bottle explosion, victims of these explosions are already suing the chain stores that sold the bottles. The chain stores will avoid further law suits and damage to their image by removing the bottles.

However, as former Liberal cabinet Minister Herb Gray said when he urged the bottle ban, the smaller, corner stores will continue to keep the bottles on their shelves.

Mr. Gray's claim is borne out by the Herald's survey of local variety stores, almost all of which still carry the bottles despite the warnings.

Young Kim, owner of Georgetown's Quick Pik variety store says he's well aware of the bottles' danger and thinks they should be banned. However, because of the highly competitive nature of his business, he says he can't afford to remove the bottles from the shelves unless his competition does too. And local merchants have already told The Herald they intend to carry the bottles as long as it's legal.

This is one time the government cannot wait for the private sector to regulate itself. If Halton Hills stores continue to sell the dangerous 1.5 litre bottles, we're sure the situation is being repeated across Canada. And government warnings are not enough. A three-year-old boy in Toronto is now blind because of an exploding bottle, we doubt a warning would have done him much good.

So before further tragedies, Canada should ban the bottles immediately taking its lead from Israel which banned the bottles earlier this week after a woman was killed by an exploding bottle.

Ministry's record grows darker still

The fact that the ministry of environment is under fire again from conservationists lends credence to speculation about Queen's Park's inability - or is the word 'unwillingness'? - to carry out its mandate in the best interest of safety and the general public.

The ministry and Halton region are currently "on trial" alongside area truckers who collect sewage sludge from the region's pollution control plants and haul it to designated rural fields. In compliance with the landowners' wishes, the sludge is spread over the fields as an "alternative" to fertilizer.

Last week, however, Murray Stephen of the Halton Region Conservation Authority blew the lid on allegedly questionable ministry procedures for licensing and supervising the spreading operations.

Appropriate weather

It was probably fitting that rain deluged Canada Day celebrations locally - after all, when an accounting is taken of this country's pluses, the weather is one few will cheer about.

Our winters are too cold and our summers are too hot and humid so it just wouldn't have seemed right to have nice, sunny weather to honor this country's birthday.

But despite the showers, Halton Hills residents did their determined best to have a good time during this past holiday weekend, especially during the Canada Day celebrations.

Certainly the biggest local birthday party for Canada is held in Glen Williams. Although showers plagued the festivities all day Saturday, the jam-packed program managed to draw a determined group of revellers. As usual, it was a good show and one that those who dared to brave the rain obviously enjoyed thoroughly.

And other local communities including Acton, Limehouse and Ballinacree all put on impressive displays in honor of this nation's 112 birthday.

Many happy returns, everyone.

Instead of being stored in special facilities for the winter, Mr. Stephen told Halton region officials and the press, the sludge is being spread throughout the year with little or no attention being given to surface run-off and seepage.

The result has been the contamination of nearby streams and rivers.

The Conservation Authority is righteously incensed over yet another example of the ministry of environment failing to live up to the promise of its name. Harry Parrott, who landed atop the environment portfolio during Premier Davis' most recent shuffle, has responded to complaints with a whitewash version of an incident in Burlington late in February which saw the Bronte and Sheldon Creeks polluted by sludge.

Two of Mr. Parrott's predecessors in the ministry, George Kerr and George McCague, were similarly the subject of many accusations involving their apparently upside-down lists of priorities. There were times when corporate and commercial interests were placed blatantly ahead of public safety and environmental interests, perhaps the most controversial incident involving the mercury poisoning of fish in two northern Ontario rivers last year.

That insufficient precautions and improper practices are continuing to jeopardize the delicate environmental balance and possibly human life in Halton is at once depressing and incendiary.

In its superficial effects, the failure of the province to honor its contracts and protect their land is eroding the confidence of farmers who offer their properties as sludge disposal sites.

From that "small beginning", the rest of Ontario's voters will gradually take on and cultivate one of two possible attitudes towards a government with one of the darkest records in Canadian history. Those who find accusations of further ministry atrocities depressing will become resigned to the sound of meshing of gears within the Big Blue Conservative Machine and help propagate the 30-year old status quo.

Those who find the accusations incendiary, however, will find a way to develop a government that is responsible to their needs and concerns.



AND FURTHERMORE...

Why is Joe Clark adamant on his Jerusalem stand?



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

I think it's fair to say that if Joe Clark were planning his election campaign again, he would not include an announcement to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to the disputed city of Jerusalem. It was an entirely unnecessary gesture designed to win Jewish support in the May 22 election.

SURPRISE REACTION
One of the chief architects of the policy was Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey - "I and others have had substantial input into the question" - whose riding is about 25 per cent Jewish. But in accepting this recommendation, Clark was obviously unaware of the intense hostility the policy would create in the Arab world.

It was Clark's view, when he first announced this policy, that it was time Canada went beyond the rhetoric to demonstrate its support for Israel's right to exist. There was no reason, he said, why Canada should not be a leader instead of a follower.

At this point he might have stopped to wonder why no other country has set up an embassy in Jerusalem since the Israeli's laid claim to the entire city in 1967. Other future cabinet ministers certainly asked themselves this question, and they included Flora MacDonald who now is Clark's minister of external affairs. There is a great deal of discomfort in the cabinet over this issue, as hostilities harden on both sides. Resolutions, letters and telegrams are pouring into Ottawa from assorted friends of the Israelis and the Arabs. Internal conflicts are developing. One of Clark's new MPs is a Presbyterian minister who is also a member of the Canadian Council of Churches which opposes the embassy move.

The government has been trying - so far rather unsuccessfully - to defuse the issue through the well-used process of political procrastination. Roughly translated, that means we are dealing with an unyielding commitment that we won't see implemented.

As the external affairs minister put it, after reassuring us that the government's policy remains unchanged: "We shall be influenced in the timing and manner of our move by our regard for the peace process."

DELAY TACTICS
Or as Atkey put it, after telling us the move was an important matter of principle: "The embassy is not going to be moved tomorrow; it's not going to be moved next week. It will be done over a reasonable course of time as circumstances permit."

If his ministers were to end this furious fudging, I suspect that Clark would find a very understanding Canadian audience if he were to candidly admit that, upon reflection, he thinks the proposed embassy move would be premature until the status of Jerusalem is finally settled. Even the Israeli ambassador in Ottawa has said it isn't necessary for Canada to move the embassy to demonstrate its friendship to his country.

Such an admission would be preferable to the latest Clark hint of time-killing - that we might send a fact-finding mission to Arab countries. If it's necessary to spend more money trying to unearth new facts on this particular issue, perhaps the fact-finding mission could better be used examining the government's own research facilities. At least it wouldn't be laughed at.

Soaring health care costs seems an unsolvable problem



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

voices (mainly the NDP) cried out against the system.

A basic assumption behind medicare was that people receiving equal and early medical treatment would be healthier in the long run, and thus use the health-care system less, which would reduce costs.

It didn't turn out that way. Curing people today allows them to get ill tomorrow, and the longer they stay alive the more change they have of developing some serious, disabling ailment requiring expensive treatment.

So costs skyrocketed and the rate of growth indicated provincial bankruptcy if it continued.

TAKE CARE
The province decided the only hope was a shift to preventive medicine. As Timbrell said, "most of us equate good health with a lack of disease symptoms."

"Very few recognize that good health is a matter of physical well-being that requires constant attention, not from doctors, but from ourselves."

So the aim is to shift emphasis to self-care and public health, community programs, and home care.

TOUGH LIFE
Some hospital active treatment beds (as in the Windsor dispute), the most expensive way to treat illness, will be phased out, to be replaced with less costly methods.

It's a nice try, and worth the effort, but it likely won't stop escalating health costs any more than anything else does. That's partly because health-care is "free," and by definition that means it is over-used.

But more important many of our medical problems are a result of poor

nutrition, lack of exercise, increasing alcohol consumption and other behavior patterns.

Combine our lack of self-discipline in that regard with the disease of old age and you have an insolvable problem.

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Halton's History

From our files

RECORD
THIRTY YEARS AGO - June, 1949, is a month that will be long remembered. The highest June temperature on record is 96, and the lowest is 30. June this year was within four degrees in each case, with 92 and 34 respectively. There were 24 days in the month with a temperature of over 80. July looks to be starting out in a big way, with temperatures ranging from 90 to 98 in the first three days.

First and second readings were given to a by-law at Esquimes Council Monday to borrow money for the building of an addition at Glen Williams Public School, which will create a third room at the school.

Georgetown Council heard a complaint from Alf Sykes that parking of farm equipment on the roadway around his home on Young Street had become a nuisance and that he wanted something done about it. Mayor Joseph Gibbons said that he had discussed it with those responsible and the machinery had been moved.

TV FEATURE
TWENTY YEARS AGO - Unable to agree on wage scales and a closed shop, town and Local 73 of the National Union of Public Service Employees have submitted the matter to conciliation, it was learned at Monday's council meeting.

The CBC-TV program Tabloid was particularly interesting to local viewers one evening last week when they saw Bob Souther interviewed with a group of inventor-members of the Canadian Research and Development Association. Mr. Souther, who with his wife and family lived until recently in Wildwood, demonstrated his Iron Mole, an underground drilling machine which he had used successfully in Etobicoke Township for installing waterlines. Displaying another side of his inventiveness, he had an opportunity to tell about the children's stories he writes about Flit the Butterfly, some of which he has recorded.

Mayor John T. Armstrong told council Monday he would like to apply for permission to install traffic lights at the corner of John Street and Highway 7 from the Department of Highways, because he is concerned about the safety of children crossing to get to the swimming pool.

From "Controversial Corner," a Herald column by Ian Cass: If the liquor laws of Ontario achieved anything they might be worthwhile. If the many rules and regulations governing the consumption of alcoholic beverages were successful in reducing the number of drunks and alcoholics, or the number of impaired drivers, if these laws helped us to prevent the abuse of alcohol, we could congratulate ourselves on our wise legislators. Unfortunately, this is not the case. When Prince Philip asked M.P. Harry Allen what was going to be done about changing the obsolete and old-fashioned liquor laws, he posed a good question.

From The Herald classified advertisements: Two apartments to rent. One small three-room, \$55, one large three-room, \$65. Both newly decorated with stove and fridge.

Delrex Boulevard joined other Delrex roads which will be surfaced this summer, when a decision was made at the June 29th council meeting to carry tenders for grading ditches and applying prime chip and tar to the travelled portion of the road.

On sale at Steinberg's this week: Watermelons, an average weight of 18 lbs., 60 cents. Salad dressing a 32-ounce jar for 49 cents. Maxwell House instant coffee, a six-ounce jar for 99 cents.

JUDGE'S ANNIVERSARY
TEN YEARS AGO - An eighteen-year-old Gaelgh girl pleaded guilty to a charge of vagrancy when she appeared in court this week. She had been picked up in Georgetown Saturday and told police that she had hitchhiked from Gaelgh and had no money. She was held here in protective custody over the weekend and in court she was remanded in custody of her sister after the court was told her mother was contacted and didn't want her back.

Halton's senior provincial magistrate Kenneth M. Langdon of Georgetown recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of his appointment to the bench. Judge Langdon has served all 25 years in Halton. He was originally a county magistrate, but last year became a provincial judge.

This weekend, six Lorne Scots and their wives will embark on a flight to Hong Kong, that will see them take part in the Trooping of the Colours by the 4th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Esquimes council has decided to fight back in an attempt to do something about the huge increase in the cost of education this year. At Monday's township council meeting, the clerk was authorized to wire opposition leader Robert Nixon, endorsing his stand on the subject and backing him in his bringing it to the floor yesterday. Using various examples, Clerk K.C. Lindsay showed staggering increases in taxes with one farm jumping 59.18 per cent.

LIGHT PLANE CRASH
ONE YEAR AGO - Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital has been awarded full accreditation status, indicating a high standard of efficient health care, by the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation, hospital board secretary A.E. Morris announced Thursday.

Poor weather conditions and inadequate preflight planning were among the factors, which caused a light plane to crash near Speyside last November, the federal ministry of transport says in its report on the crash. The aircraft accident investigation branch of the ministry completed its report into the crash of the American-built 1946 Howard floatplane, owned by Thomas Walker, 42, of Chesley. The crash took place November 11 near the Niagara Escarpment, and Mr. Walker crawled through 2 1/2 miles of dense bush before being picked up and taken to hospital.

Damage is expected to run as high as \$170,000 in the fire which destroyed the CN Warehouse in Acton Friday. Firefighters from Georgetown and Acton responded to the fire, which threatened nearby houses and industries.

Babies born in Halton region may be tested by public health nurses soon after birth for signs of mental retardation and other learning problems of a program proposed last Tuesday by several involved individuals wins the support of regional council.