

Privatization of town arenas not the answer

Despite the well-intentioned desires of a group of Acton residents, it's good the town does not hand over the Acton arena to be administered by the group.

In the heat of Halton Hills council's bungling of the recent 33 per cent hike in arena rental rates, a group of Acton residents, with Brian Cargill as their spokesman, offered to take over administration of the arena in Acton.

In an effort to diffuse Acton residents anger about the fee hike, town council recently voted to commission a study by the town clerk about the legalities of turning over the arena's operations to the citizens' group.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy wisely convinced council to abandon this idea, apparently realizing it was primarily a ploy to get Acton residents off council's back. The mayor told last week's council meeting there was no point in using a town employee's time to conduct a study that council was unlikely to enact.

While it's obviously important that users of Halton Hills sports facilities be more involved in the development of the town's recreation policies, turning over one of the town's arenas to private citizens is not the answer.

Theoretically, one of the reasons municipal governments become involved in the construction and administration of recreation facilities is that as democratically elected bodies, a town council will ensure a facility is used to the greater good of the community as a whole. At the same time the council is accountable to the community, at the very least, every two years at the ballot box for their decisions. If the arena were to be administered independently by an arbitrarily appointed group of citizens, there

would be no guarantee the facility would necessarily be used for the good of the general community.

At the same time, the private-citizens arena group would have no accountability to the community at large. Council would have abdicated any accountability in the arena's operation by turning its management over to the group. And because they wouldn't be elected by the general public, there would be no means by which the arena group could be held accountable for their actions.

No matter how well intentioned a group might be, council should never give complete control of a public facility to a group who, unlike themselves, are not accountable to the electors.

The Acton group's suggestion, along with the entire ice rates fiasco clearly points out the failings of the town's recreation policy making. While many of us are starting to feel a little 'over-committed', it would be worthwhile for council to set up some form of user committee for the town's recreation facilities. Communities like Orangeville and Cambridge have successfully created Leisure Advisory Committees consisting of users of these communities' recreation facilities as well as members of the municipalities' councils. The groups meet throughout the year and, while having no binding power, play a major role in charting the direction of the communities' recreation policies.

Considering the recent example of Halton Hills council's being out of touch with the local recreation community, such a committee would seem to have a major role to play. But certainly, 'privitization' of the town's arena is not the answer to Halton Hills recreation woes.

Movie's production should help town

For the third time in less than two years, Georgetown has been chosen as a location in a feature film, but in the latest venture "Never Trust an Honest Thief", the town has its first starring role.

In "Equus" and the yet to be released "Running", the town makes brief appearances in the films, Georgetown will be the major location in the upcoming mystery-comedy, and that's great for Georgetown.

The immediate benefit to be felt locally because of the movie shoot will be revenue generated to maintain the cast and crew during the production period.

Local residents will also have a shot at roles as extras in the film, and area tradespeople and the like will be kept busy during the filming.

But the after affects to be felt once the film is released will be of

even greater benefit to the town. Moviegoers around the world will get a good look at Georgetown, to be known as Madison in the movie, and this screen unveiling of the town should, at the very least, perk an interest in the community that should result in a few more tourists passing through Georgetown.

It never hurts to have one's community showcased to a world audience in good ole technicolor so it's good to see the positive reception the film's producers have received from municipal officials, the business community and Georgetown residents in general.

The producers of "Never Trust An Honest Thief" are now busy searching the Georgetown area to come up with locations for the film, we'd like to welcome them to town and look forward to the arrival of the entire crew of the movie in early August.

Region gives hostel vote of confidence

It's nice to see that regional council is willing to stand behind the region's fledgling Women's Place hostel.

Despite the advice of the region's chief administrative officer, Ernie Reid, Halton councillors went out on a bit of a limb and agreed to rent the building currently housing the Milton detachment of the regional police to be the site of the new hostel for battered wives and their children. The building is being rented to the group for the token fee of one dollar per year on the condition they purchase the building from the region in 1980. Mr. Reid argued that the group might have difficulty in arranging the funding necessary to purchase the building.

He wanted the building put up for sale on the open market.

Fortunately, more compassionate heads prevailed and council decided to give the hostel a much needed and deserved vote of confidence. The region's decision demonstrates their faith in the organizers of the project and should help the Women's Place committee convince other potential donors to the project that they're for real. Having a site already arranged will also help the hostel committee arrange for a mortgage, necessary to purchase the building.

"We're glad to see the much needed Halton's Women's Place move yet another step closer to reality.



Davis' dislike of Liberal Smith turns into ugly confrontation



Queen's
Park
By Derek
Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau
Of The Herald
TORONTO—Premier William Davis' distaste for opposition leader Stuart Smith is being pushed too far.

The tone of the House is suffering, sometimes degenerating into farce or ugly confrontation.

Davis never was much at answering questions in the legislature, showing almost an instinctive preference for ducking and weaving.

But with Smith he goes far beyond that. Contempt fairly drips from his voice.

Take this recent incident in the House, where Davis' dislike reached a new peak.

Smith asked a very reasonable question about a statement made by the counsel to the government's inquiry into food store kickbacks.

It was of such a nature that he thought the counsel should resign.

HEAVY SARCASM
Davis totally ignored the question, which is fair enough, but then he went on in this fashion:

"Mr. Speaker, I don't know (counsel), and I am really not as prompt to express personal views about people as is the Leader of the Opposition, without having had the benefit of some discussion, some knowledge, and some insights—that I am sure he has had."

But Smith had said nothing about counsel's personality, only the man's point of view.

But Davis went on lighting into Smith, the sarcasm deepening with each sentence.

"I would say one of the great shortcomings of the Leader of the Opposition is that he is too prone to make personal judgments about people.

"I know he has discussed this with (counsel) at great length, and is satisfied, in his view, that (counsel) is incompetent."

NEW TRICK
The NDP's Donald MacDonald jumped in to repeat Smith's basic question about counsel's opinion and to ask Davis for an answer.

But rather than respond, Davis continued his attack on Smith, accusing him of playing for an Emmy Award, and then adding:

"I realize I am not as knowledgeable or as expert in all fields as he purports to be. I confess to that. I don't pretend to have his absolute knowledge or the arrogance that goes with it."

The effect of all this on Smith is dramatic. The man visibly stiffens in his fury at the Davis assaults, and responds angrily with waving finger and interjections.

NOT GOOD
Whether that in fact is Davis' aim is an open question. As a political tactic it's rather successful, often diverting attention from the point Smith was trying to make.

And it may be that Davis just enjoyed getting under Smith's skin.

But one also gets the impression that Davis means every word of what he says, or, more importantly, the tone in which he says it.

If so it is too bad.
That kind of personal assault is two-edged, and if anything it demeans Davis, who in fact is acting as though Smith is successfully getting to him.

Trudeau is eager for new role but his future seems grim



Ottawa
Report
By Stewart
MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald
In all his public proclamations, Liberal Leader Pierre Trudeau gives the impression he is just itching for the forthcoming parliamentary battles as he begins an entirely new career as Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

He will stay on, he has declared, despite the fact that he led his party to defeat in the May 22 general election and that the results indicated has reached a pinnacle of unprecedented unpopularity in Western Canada. He has appealed for his Liberal followers to rally around him in defeat as they did in victory.

Liberals, by tradition, tend to do this. Unlike the Tories, they don't subject their leaders to public executions, preferring instead to quietly shut the door, settle their little difficulties without an outcry and then emerge with arms around each other. They did this at their first post-election caucus of MPs, many of whom privately held Trudeau personally responsible for the government's defeat.

Senator Al Graham, the party's president, emerged from that closed meeting to say, "We had a brief post-mortem on the election and basically we didn't get as many votes as the government, even though we got half a million more votes in the last election. No one blames Trudeau at all."

The former prime minister actually received a rousing standing ovation when he entered this caucus. Surrounded by clapping MPs, he appeared to be parading in a winner's circle.

FEARS HIDDEN
But despite the back-slapping, the

starry statements of admiration and assorted oaths of allegiance to the defeated prime minister, there are not that many Liberal MPs who privately relish the thoughts of another general election campaign under Pierre Trudeau. Nothing short of a miracle can revive the Trudeau-led Liberals in Western Canada.

But these same MPs desperately want Trudeau around for the forthcoming referendum battle in Quebec, and the former prime minister just as desperately wants to fight that battle while still enjoying the prestige of the party leadership. He has made it clear since the election of a separatist government in Quebec in 1976 that his public mandate will not be fulfilled until he tackles Rene Levesque in the battle of Confederation.

He had, of course, hoped to do this as prime minister. While it's now too late for this, Trudeau will nonetheless wield enormous influence as the party leader whose tough federalist campaigns have won consistent and overwhelming support in Quebec. In fact, there are many who feel that Trudeau will be even more effective without the partisan trappings of the prime ministership.

TIMING CRUCIAL
So the idyllic Liberal scenario would be for Trudeau to emerge victorious from a classic confrontation with Levesque—although Quebec Liberal Leader Claude Ryan may want his fair share of the credit—and then announce that his personal goal had been achieved and he would therefore call a leadership convention. Then the rejuvenated Liberals would go into the next election with a fresh leader.

But if were only that simple. Just as Premier Levesque was able to time his referendum to suit his own partisan purposes, so can a prime minister call an election to best serve his own cause. And if Prime Minister Joe Clark lacks expertise in this area, he can always consult Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford.

By next spring, before the Liberals will have had time to select a successor

following the referendum campaign, Clark could decide to seek a majority government. By then we will be hearing the normal minority-government refrain about opposition obstruction. And on the heels of the Quebec referendum—regardless of the outcome—there will be a government cry for a strong majority to either face the separatist threat, or alternatively, to renew federalism.

Unless that miracle occurs, the Liberal party could find itself in a rather unenviable position. And despite those standing ovations and cries of confidence, most Liberal MPs know it.

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Halton's History

From our files

HIGH SCHOOL PLAN
THIRTY YEARS AGO—The department of education will sanction no decision on the location of a central high school for North Halton until after Georgetown has joined the district in January. G.L. Duffin, executive assistant in the department told council and school board representatives at a meeting Thursday night that the department favored locating a central school in or adjacent to the largest centre of population in an area, although if there was a substantial majority on the board favoring another site, the department should be willing to approve it.

While work was in progress on the building of an addition to Glen Williams Public School on Monday, part of the present building collapsed. An excavation had been dug beside the senior room by the Acton contracting firm which had undertaken the contract. Two workmen were on the scene at the time when, without warning, the bricks tore loose from the structure and the whole room collapsed in a pile of rubble. The workmen were able to jump clear and no injuries were reported.

DELREX MARKET OPENS
TWENTY YEARS AGO—A third shopping area in Georgetown will make its debut next Thursday when Delrex Market Centre becomes a part of the local merchant community. On that day, the large Loblaw's store will make its debut.

The gas price war spread from the city to reach Georgetown last Friday. Most local services stations are advertising gas at 32.9 and 37.9 cents a gallon, a 12-cent drop per gallon.

The John Bingham farm has been chosen as the site of a new golf and country club. The farm is located on the 10th Line, east of town, with the Credit River forming the west boundary of the property. One of America's foremost designers is preparing plans to transform the 175-acre property into a championship 18-hole course.

Last week lightning struck and set fire to the barn on the property of Austin Corner, Belfountain. The Erin fire brigade was summoned to the scene and prevented the blaze from spreading into the adjoining buildings. The barn, valued at \$15,000, was completely destroyed, along with ninety tons of hay, quarry equipment and some farm machinery. In all, the loss was estimated at \$18,000.

Reginald Thibodeau, 28, of Milton, owes his life to a Kitchener nurse who applied artificial respiration for 20 minutes Saturday to revive him after his body plunged fully clothed into the Credit River to rescue him. Three hundred people attended the annual picnic of the employees of the Ontario Steel Company of Milton, held at Terra Cotta, and watched John Mills, 32, of Burlington, bring opt Thibodeau to shore after he became exhausted in the water.

HARLEM VISITORS
TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown District High School has six Ontario scholars this year. For obtaining over 80 per cent in their final year, they each get a government award of \$150. Douglas Stephens, Mary Pedverse, James Henderson, Ronald Dubien, Linda Carey and Richard Fogal were the students achieving the honor.

Thirty-five children from New York's Harlem are halfway through a holiday here, which they are spending with families of the Christian Reformed Church. The youngsters, all in the 8 to 14 age group, are having a fine time during their visit to a Canadian small town.

When the Moore Park plaza on Main Street north is completed, it will have 22 units and parking space for 220 cars, a spokesman said Tuesday. Phase two, on the south side, of the first stage, is currently under construction, and should be ready for occupancy in three weeks.

Students in Halton County who are convicted of drug offences in future will face automatic prison terms, county judge Alan B. Sprague said in a stern warning from the bench this week. Judge Sprague was sentencing four youths on charges of possessing and trafficking in drugs.

Halton County may get its first authentic middle school comprised of grade 6, 7 and 8, by September, 1970. A pilot project, the school could be followed up by more if successful, trustees of the Halton board of education learned last week. At present, several senior public schools in the county provide accommodation for Grade 6 pupils, but do not incorporate an integrated Grade 6 through the middle school program.

SCALLEN SENTENCED
ONE YEAR AGO—Denis Edward Scallen, 56, of Limehouse, was sentenced Monday to six months in jail for defrauding three Oakville residents and two residents of Brantford of more than \$4,000 by impersonating a Roman Catholic priest. Dressed in the garb of a priest, Scallen told County Court Judge Alan Sprague that the charges laid against him leaned on whether, according to Canon Law, he is a Roman Catholic priest.

The committee to save the old Acton town hall has applied to Wintario for a \$32,000 grant towards the project. The sum will cover half the cost of restoring the exterior of the 97-year-old brick building, which a feasibility study prepared for the group last week estimated at \$104,000.

The new plaza under construction adjacent to the Alcott Arena on Guelph Street will feature three movie theatres with a seating capacity of 1,000 people. Jerry Sprackman, public relations officer for Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd. of Toronto, the company building the plaza, told the Herald the theatres will be opening at the same time as the rest of the plaza some time in February or March next year.

After a study of town-owned land in the Georgetown area, Halton Hills council has concluded that there is no suitable land available for a new library. Library board member Betty Flaher, who opposed the building of a new library on the Cedarvale site, said the decision is not really a surprise to the board or the Save Our Parkland committee, since both groups knew what land was available before the Ontario Municipal Board hearing on the library building was held last spring.