

BIA improvements face area's realities

It's nice to see the affirmative action being taken by Georgetown's downtown merchants to help bolster the town's downtown area. Workers are now busy finishing off construction of three decorative islands spread along Main Street. The pleasantly designed islands will consist of two, hopefully large trees set in wooden frames that will also include a bench and flower pots.

The entire renovation is expected to cost close to \$20,000 but Halton Hills taxpayers won't be stuck with the bill. The tab for the work is being picked up by Georgetown's Business Improvement Area, a group of downtown merchants who have agreed to pay a self-imposed 'tax' to be used for projects like this one, to help rejuvenate the downtown core.

In opting for the islands, the

downtown merchants have demonstrated impressive foresight. In many small towns coming to grips with the potential of a declining downtown much of the discussion centres around a lack of parking that makes it difficult for downtowns to compete with malls.

While parking is a valid concern, Georgetown's downtown merchants seem to have realized that you first have to create the kind of downtown people are interested in parking in before parking is a problem. A town with no shoppers have no parking problems.

The BIA have had the sense to sacrifice a few parking spaces in the interest of beautifying the downtown area.

We'll look forward to future improvements to the downtown yet to be unveiled by the merchants.

Renaissance urges return to dark ages

It seems those guardians of the public morality, Halton's chapter of Renaissance, are back in action. Renaissance has been a stone around the neck of local educators for years as they have advocated the banning of literature they considered destructive to the moral fibre of local students and argued in defense of the likes of Anita Bryant.

Recently, a number of Oakville high school students were told they would be suspended for part of the next school year because of their part in the publication of an underground newspaper called "Rag-Laf-Art". According to the principal of the students' school, the newspaper depicts teachers in various sexual acts, has obscene graphics and viciously attacks teachers.

Renaissance have come out of their closet to defend the students as victims of an inadequate and permissive education system. They demand that Halton's director of education himself be suspended for his role in creating the present education system. Renaissance seems to think the high school students were 'driven' to creating the newspaper because they are forced to read books like the classic *The Diviners*.

Renaissance's leader, Reverend Ken Campbell and his supporters seem to be delighting in the Oakville students' newspaper. They seem convinced the appearance of the publication proves what they have believed for so

long, that permissiveness in education is leading to the decay of students' moral fibre.

Let's hope our local school board are not greatly influenced by the latest trade from Renaissance.

Certainly, if there's any lesson educators should have learned during recent years, it's that you don't win respect from students by demanding it through tougher discipline and you don't really teach by isolating students from the world around them.

A return to the dark ages of education, as advocated by Renaissance, will only lead to a more rebellious attitude among students and more "Rag-Laf-Arts". If students are confronted with stern authority, simply for authority's sake, they, like most human beings, will try to rebel. And if educators try to pretend foul language and sex don't exist, students simply won't take such a system seriously.

By making information available to students about the realities of their society, they learn to come to grips with these realities rather than fear them. And by earning students respect rather than heavy-handedly demanding it, teachers and principals win a much deeper and meaningful respect from their students.

The publication of a trashy newspaper like "Rag-Laf-Art" is indicative of a problem, but it's a problem that won't be solved by taking Renaissance's advice and returning the hard hand of authority to the schools.



Liberal's Jean-Luc Pepin is party's new man to watch



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau
Of the Herald

As the Liberal party prepares for its new role in opposition, and wonders its long-term prospects under the leadership of Pierre Trudeau, the man to watch will be Jean-Luc Pepin.

Next to Trudeau, he will be most influential member of caucus in the coming months—not because he outranks such stalwarts as Allan MacEachen, Jean Chretien or Robert Andras, but because he is rejoining the battered party as a respected, refreshed outsider, owing political debts to no one. He has openly, but discreetly, disagreed with Trudeau on a number of issues. Furthermore, he has taken a somewhat un-Liberal approach by suggesting, in public, that the party leader must shape up or ship out.

Whenever the party does change leaders, you can bet that Jean-Luc Pepin will be right up there in the front row—if not on the podium.

The long-time university professor now is 54, and an enthusiastic MP for the sprawling riding of Ottawa-Carleton, a seat he surprisingly wrested away from popular Tory Jean Piggott while most other Liberals in the area are being

clobbered. After being out of politics since 1972, the ebullient Pepin was given little chance of taking the seat, once held by former finance minister John Turner. Party officials had suggested he could be fixed up with an easier riding.

NO HELP

But Pepin didn't want any help, or any debts. "I enjoy a good challenge," he said. "If I can win the seat, it will be by my own hard work."

It was, too. But it is significant that he was able to regroup the old Turner organization, which had fallen into disarray after the former finance minister suddenly quit the cabinet in September, 1975. Since Pepin tends to be so discreet about such matters, he is not about to say what he thinks about Turner as a possible future leader, nor is Turner about to say what he thinks of Pepin.

But the two men are friends, and have been since Pepin was the Pearson-Trudeau cabinets from 1965 to 1972.

Since 1972, Pepin has kept himself busy as chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board and co-chairman of the Task Force on National Unity. In helping to prepare the task force's report, Pepin suggested that language rights be left to the provinces—a recommendation that sharply disagrees with the views of Trudeau. Considering the import of the current constitutional debate, this represents a rather fundamental difference. If Pepin were just another new MP, his disagreement with Trudeau wouldn't matter too much. But when it comes to the constitution and national unity, his credentials rival Trudeau. Furthermore, he is viewed as less-partisan.

I don't think Pepin is the type of person to cause any unnecessary problems for Trudeau—the two men get along just fine—but it's obvious he expects a sterling performance from his leader. He does not have the blind loyalty of someone who has been following a leader in the political trenches for the last seven years.

Pepin was quite candid about the leadership issue in a television interview:

"The prime minister and the party have to be very aggressive, very dynamic. In some ways Mr. Trudeau has to do better than what Mr. Clark has done in these areas, that is to reorganize the party and all the structures and so on, a tremendous job and a very important job."

He went on to say that the Liberal leader "has to demonstrate that he is able, willing, eager to fight the battles that the party says need to be fought. If he performs well, and I have no reason to believe he won't...he'll deserve support."

Pepin wouldn't even discuss the possibility of Trudeau not performing well, but he did throw in this key comment: "I know one thing about these jobs—that they are given conditionally and they're held conditionally in the sense that nobody has the God-given right to be the leader of any party in Canada."

And that, coming from Pepin, is about the clearest warning that Trudeau is likely to get as he sets out on a new career as opposition leader. We'll be carefully monitoring progress reports from the powerful Pepin.

Summer leads to speculation about Ontario cabinet shuffles



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau
Of the Herald

TORONTO—When the summer doldrums hit Queen's Park one of the favorite activities is predicting who'll be what in the next cabinet shuffle.

Premier William Davis likes to shift his people in late summer to give them time to learn their new portfolios before they have to face the House in the autumn.

The latest flurry of speculation was set off by an article in a Toronto newspaper that said Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister Frank Drea wants to switch jobs.

He'd like a new challenge now that revisions to rent control and landlord-tenant relations have passed the legislature.

The suggestion was that he's been looked at for energy minister.

While only Davis knows for sure, the whole scenario sounds highly unlikely.

AULD'S PAST

First, Drea vehemently denies he's been shopping around for a new ministry. He said he likes it where he is. And he believes him.

It's true, of course, that energy is open.

Jim Auld holds the post now, but he's

also in charge of natural resources, which he apparently much prefers to head.

His appointment in energy was in the manner of a rescue mission to get the ministry out of the line of fire of constant opposition criticism in the legislature.

Auld, who some say invented the word smooth, did just that to the point where energy, while troubled, did not appear as the flaming focal point it was in earlier sessions.

NEW MAN

The logical candidate to replace Auld is George Ashe, the former Pickering mayor who was made parliamentary assistant for energy earlier this year.

Apparently he's done a competent job of mastering the material these past few months, and in one sense is already de facto minister.

The other half of being minister is handling the portfolio in the House, and some say Ashe is too abrasive, but that can't be predicted beforehand.

It is reasonable to assume Ashe will be appointed energy minister in August and get his chance before the legislature in the fall.

OTHERS HITS

Other than Auld one other minister has a dual responsibility in cabinet, that being Roy McMurtry, who is both attorney general and solicitor-general.

He'd doubtless like to shuck one of these, or perhaps both, and move to another portfolio.

In any case there should open a space for one of the promising contenders in the wings like Bruce McCaffrey or Norm Sterling.

Other ministries that might see shifts in their current incumbents include environ-

ment (Harry Parrott), correctional services (Gord Walker) and community and social services (Keith Norton).

But Davis makes the final decision, which is why the guessing game is fun for the quiet times here, but no more than that.

the HERALD

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Halton's History

From our files

LBC STORE SOUGHT
THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown Council, at the request of a petition from local merchants, has asked the Liquor Control Board of Ontario to establish a liquor store in the municipality. A petition, presented at Monday's council meeting by Al Norton on behalf of the merchants, bore 99 per cent of the local businessmen's signatures, said Mr. Norton. At present, the closest stores for this district are in Guelph, Oakville, Hamilton and Toronto.

The board of Esqueping School Area 1 which administers the affairs of Glen Williams Public School has decided to abandon the present building and proceed with the building of a complete new school. The decision was made by the board after half of the present building collapsed during excavations for the construction of a third room on the school.

One of the most important problems ever facing county council will be decided tonight at a special meeting in Milton, when the question of whether to continue to maintain a joint Home for the Aged with Peel County or break away and establish a separate home in Halton will come up for final discussion.

BEAUMONT PARTNER DIES
TWENTY YEARS AGO—Partner with Sam Penrice and Gordon Graham of the Beaumont Knitting Co. Ltd., Francis William Grew lost his life on Sunday near Bancroft. The accident took place before the eyes of hundreds of swimmers at MacKenzie Lake, 30 miles northwest of Bancroft.

A Langston Crescent housewife had the good fortune recently to win an RCA-Victor television set. Mrs. J. Harris entered the "Smiling Jug" contest, promoted by General Foods for its Kool-Aid product, and her entry was judged a winner. She made her purchase at the Brampton Loblaw's store.

While picnickers stood in a quiet semi-circle, doctors and firemen worked over the limp body of a five-year-old lad at Acton Park a week ago Sunday afternoon. The boy, missing for hours, was discovered in six feet of water. Artificial respiration was begun at once and continued for an hour and a half, when the boy was pronounced dead, shortly after 7 p.m.

The huge Orenda Engines Ltd. plant at Malton, almost idle since "Black Friday", February 20, when Arrow production was cancelled, received a shot in the arm last week. An Ottawa announcement that the Orenda plant was "most suitable for production of the J-79 engine" brought high hopes of employment for several thousands for three to four years.

RECORD TEMPERATURE
TEN YEARS—The Maximum temperature of 94 on July 15th established a new record for the date, breaking the former marks of 92, set only last year. The previous record at that time was 89, recorded in 1934.

Rev. Al J. VandenPol is the vice-chairman of an executive committee of an organization of Dutch-Canadians planning to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Holland by the Allied forces. The celebration has been motivated by the desire of the Canadians of Dutch origin to express their appreciation for the sacrifice made by Canada. More Canadian soldiers died in the struggle for the liberation of the Netherlands than American, British and Polish casualties combined.

Georgetown Cable TV Ltd., has reaffirmed plans to telecast programmes of interest to Georgetown residents via their exclusive Channel 5. Cable casting was a main theme at the recent convention of the National Cable Television Association in San Francisco. While attending the convention, John E. Ollivier, manager of Georgetown Cable TV, delved deeply into aspects of programming and investigated the wide range of equipment available.

Friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hickling were sorry to hear of their tragic loss when fire gutted their barn and implement shed on Saturday night at approximately 11:30 p.m. Five of their horses were in the barn when the fire started, but they managed to chase them all out.

Zorge Construction, a local contracting firm operated by Fred Zorge, will be building the town's new senior citizens' apartment. The building, which will be erected on Hyde Park Drive, near the hospital, will cost \$193,902.

Halton County Health Unit, with a history of staff shortages, angry nurses' disputes and buckering over medical officers again faces the difficult task of finding a new director. Medical Officer of Health Dr. L.M. Stuart, 74, has announced that he will retire from that position August 31.

WALTER GRAY DIES
ONE YEAR AGO—Walter Gray, Georgetown's 1978 Citizen of the Year died Thursday at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. He was 89.

Members of 150 Speyside area families last week presented planning board with a petition representing firm opposition to a proposal for the establishment of a gravel pit in their vicinity. Jim Sheldon, on behalf of the Speyside ratepayers, cited increased truck traffic as the residents' chief concern over the proposal by Standard Aggregates Ltd. to mine sand and gravel at a 6-acre site near Highway 25 south of Speyside.

Halton Cable Systems Ltd. has won federal approval to increase its rates as a means of helping to finance improvements to its service. The CRTC has granted the company permission to increase its installation charge to \$25 from \$15, and its monthly subscription fee by \$1 to \$7.