

Herbicide policy foolish

If children attending schools under the Halton school board's jurisdiction followed the example set by their trustees they would; drink pop sweetened with cyclamates from 1.5 litre bottles while flying in a DC10 and smoking a cigarette.

All of these things MAY be dangerous to one's health but, apparently the Halton board requires definitive proof before they accept something is dangerous.

Last week the Halton board dumped a motion from Oakville trustee Elsie Hilson calling for a stop to the board's use of the controversial herbicide, 2,4-D until it is proven harmless to humans.

The herbicide recently gained national attention when it was revealed that according to numerous studies 2,4-D has been linked as cancer inducing chemical.

The herbicide is used by many municipalities and school boards and a furor arose across Canada as ratepayers and parents decided it wasn't worth exposing themselves and their children to increased cancer dangers just to kill a few weeds.

Reports that 2,4-D may cause cancer have not gone unchallenged, other reports have been publishing stating the herbicide is not cancer causing.

Certainly, the safety of the herbicide is being questioned in scientific circles, it may indeed help cause cancer or, it may be only as dangerous as other herbicides.

We think the very possibility 2,4-D could be a cancer inducing agent is enough to take every step to ensure Halton children are not exposed to its potentially hazardous effects.

If it is proven the herbicide does contribute to cancer it will be too late to undo damage done to local youngsters exposed to it because of school board spraying programs.

Milton trustee Bill Lawson disagrees with this type of thinking. Although he is not a herbicide expert, in speaking against Ms. Hilson's motion, he termed 2,4-D "reasonably safe".

"Reasonably safe" just isn't good enough when it comes to the health of local youngsters. Ms. Hilson was right when she asked for the herbicide's use to be discontinued until its safety is confirmed. It is incredibly irresponsible for our local school board to risk their student's health until they are certain the herbicide will not be exposing them to the dangers of cancer.

Weren't we taught in school "it's better to be safe than sorry"? It is.



Davis downplays damage of impending oil price hikes



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Although the government continues to protest that it opposes any oil price hike, the document's very existence is implicit acceptance of a situation energy-deficient Ontario can do nothing about.

GOOD RESPONSE
Oil prices will rise, and what the policy paper -- entitled Oil Pricing and Security: A Policy Framework For Canada -- really does is tell us how to minimize the damage.

It makes these points:
-- that oil going to world price will damage the economy, but that we can live with it under certain conditions;
-- price hikes must be phased in, and never exceed American levels (which won't reach world price until 1981);

-- any immediate increase above \$2 a barrel will mean windfall profits for the federal government, the oil-producing provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan) and the oil companies;
-- these windfall dollars must be reinvested across the whole Canadian economy in such a way that the price hike effects are minimized;

-- nor should oil producing provinces and oil companies ever be repaid for loss of these excess revenues.

VERY GOOD
All good, sensible stuff, except for the government's stubborn refusal to acquiesce to world price as a necessary goal, undesirable as it may be.

Canada is a net importer of oil, and we shouldn't subsidize users forever.

What the recommendations do touch on is the point at which damage to the Ontario economy outweighs the obvious need to pay Alberta and Saskatchewan a premium for their irreplaceable resources.

Davis put it another way at his press conference releasing the report.
"You have to ask at some point what this country is all about. Everything cannot be decided on the basis of a balance sheet."

The premier noted that many of our goods would be cheaper if we opted to become Americans, but as Canadians we made the political commitment not to do that with the inevitable economic consequences.

THEM TOO
Alberta and Saskatchewan, too, are going to have to decide whether they are Canadians first.

The wealth flowing west is incredible, \$5 billion sitting relatively idle in western heritage funds.

At the premier's conference, Davis urged some negotiated means of reinvesting that wealth for the benefit of all Canadians.

But if that fails, the oil policy report notes quite clearly that the "federal government is charged with the responsibility and has the legitimate constitutional authority to assert an intolerable economic and social danger."

Recreation report is tantalizing

It's a good thing town council will be unveiling their new proposed master plan on recreation through a series of public meetings - we're sure people will want to see with their own eyes how planned expansion of Halton Hills recreation can be pulled off spending less than in past years.

Certainly the tantalizing outline of the new recreation plan, revealed at last week's planning board meeting sounds interesting enough.

Let's face it, who wouldn't like to see: more playgrounds, hiking trails, outdoor swimming areas complete with beaches, a good soccer field and some outdoor arenas. And the consultants who prepared the report insist the

recreation improvements can be implemented at a cost less than what has been spent by Halton Hills on recreation in the last four years.

Obviously the plan outlined in the report would represent a major departure and expansion of the type of recreation facilities currently offered by the town.

As such, it's very good the proposal will be well scrutinized by the community before it even comes close to implementation. The town saw recently what happens when they pursue changes in recreation policy without consulting Halton Hills users after council endured a storm of controversy when they raised arena rates. It sounds like the public meetings scheduled to discuss the proposal will avoid such an outcry because the public will be given their opportunity for input into the proposals before they come into effect.

We're hoping local recreation groups and users will take advantage of the upcoming public meetings to make solid input into the future recreation policies of the town.

It seems an encouraging aspect of the consultant's report is the acknowledgement of the town's current recreation program.

At last week's planning board meetings the consultants said the town's recreation policies are sadly lacking in many aspects and, during the past five years have not kept pace with Halton Hills, growing population.

While we've only seen the tip of the iceberg, in terms of the report's recommendations, it mentions Halton Hills recreation facilities to do little to beautify the community, attract tourism or, meet the growing needs of the community.

Just the bit of landscaping work done on the War Memorial Monument by the film in crew in the Fairgrounds parks shows the town's facilities can be more than just a patch of green space.

Before coming to grips with the future of local recreation, it's essential that the past be seriously studied. It sounds like the report will do this as well as provide some serious alternatives.

It seems probable that both the council and the public will have some concrete and meaty ideas to ponder in the next few months while consider Halton Hills recreation future. Let's hope it's a fruitful experience.

Ottawa columnist remembers the late John Diefenbaker



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

blankets, and other cherished memorabilia, while this former prime minister smiled, or occasionally snarled, through his various versions of history. Sometimes the chats spilled over to his own home where, feeling lonely, he would call for companionship. "There will be tea," he would say.

Colleagues who knew about these continuing conversations would suggest that, while the Chief's privacy must be respected in life, there would come a time when these classified chats would fill pages of newspapers. Technically, I suppose, that time has come.

Yet, even in death, it doesn't come easily. I remember Diefenbaker pacing his cluttered office, performing a marvelous but unflattering imitation of another contemporary politician, and thinking that, someday, this unknown talent of the former prime minister must be described in detail. Perhaps it should, but somehow it wouldn't seem right. He didn't intend it that way.

Although he publicly chastized Pierre Trudeau at every opportunity, I guess it's harmless enough now to say that he harbored a great admiration for his political opponent. "His 'one-Canada' bears no resemblance to the 'one-Canada' I envisage," Diefenbaker would say, "but I know where he stands. And everyone knows where I stand."

GOY ALONG
Trudeau also like Dief. "He's a great old guy," the Liberal leader once remarked. And I always suspected that their mutual admiration was due to their shared flair for theatrics. In different ways, they were polished stage performers, with impeccable timing for capturing headlines.

"He might make a fool of himself occasionally," said the Chief, "but everyone knows he is there."

Diefenbaker never really left his theatre. With just an audience of one, he read his will aloud one night and the affect was almost Shakespearean. It was as though he was performing before an auditorium packed with his average Canadians.

Halton's History

From our files

HAPPY REUNION
THIRTY YEARS AGO--On a recent trip to the United States, two local ladies had a happy reunion with a sister whom they had not seen for 32 years. It was in 1917 that Mr. and Mrs. Fred Channin, who now make their home at 53 Main Circle, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, left Toronto to make their home there and visited with her sisters, Mrs. William Bulivant and Mrs. George Allen, in Georgetown, on route. All three are natives of Yorkshire, England, who came to Canada in 1904 when their parent emigrated to this country.

Georgetown's new water system will give an adequate supply for years to come. Tests were completed yesterday prior to actual construction operations at the Maple Avenue site which proved the new deep well source to be capable of yielding 715 gallons a minute. This water is pure and of excellent taste and will not need to be chlorinated.

WARD VOTING DISCUSSED
TWENTY YEARS AGO--Georgetown area will be wearing the new look when a \$35,000 remodeling project now underway is completed in October. Hamilton Construction who are handling the job have already amputated the useless west wing of the John Street structure which at one time housed a two-sheet curling rink and a shed that ran the length of the roof at its peak will also go.

Some 65 per cent of Georgetown householders have complied with post office regulations and installed letter box receptacles at their homes, according to an official count made by department authorities on August 13. At least 85 per cent of town residents must comply before postal delivery can be inaugurated, in town.

Ward voting, abandoned several years ago in Georgetown in favor of elections by general vote, was subject for a discussion at Monday's council meeting. Coun. Ern. Hyde recommended that a plebiscite be held, saying it would be dangerous, the way the town is growing, if one section of town were to elect the entire council. Mayor Armstrong said that ward voting tends to cause councillors to be partisan in favor of their ward, it also ensures more equitable representation.

ANOTHER BARN BURNS
TEN YEARS AGO--Four persons were injured and \$5,000 in property damage resulted from three crashes on Guelph Street in the Georgetown Market area on the weekend, 33 hours after the speed limit was raised. The collisions at the Mountview Road and Sinclair intersection and at the plaza entrance were all within a stretch of road on which the speed limit had been raised early Friday morning to 40 miles an hour from 30.

A large empty barn on the former Harry Bessey farm on the 7th Line of Esopus just south of Stewarttown became number seven in the steadily growing list of barn razings when it burned to the ground late Tuesday night. Origin of the fire is unknown. The big 80 by 50-foot barn contained only a small quantity of hay and straw and a small tractor. Mr. and Mrs. Bessey were asleep when it started and weren't aware of the flames until awakened by the approaching Georgetown Fire Department trucks.

Centennial school will operate on shifts when school opens September 2. Grade seven students will attend classes from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and Grade eight students from 12:45 to 5 p.m. Delays in construction have held up the large addition which is currently being built, but principal Howard Allan hopes the staggered classes can be dropped after a month.

ANOTHER FILM HERE
ONE YEAR AGO--An opinion shared by some town councillors that there are already too many government controls being imposed on property owners could bring an end to plans for the creation of an advisory committee on local historical buildings. The town finance and administration committee Monday night refused to endorse a proposal to form a Local Architectural Control Advisory Committee (LACAC) that would suggest to council any Halton Hills buildings that its members feel should be designated historically or architecturally valuable to the community.

Georgetown--the film capital of Halton? For the second time, Georgetown will be the setting for the location filming of scenes in a feature film. In late 1976, scenes from the movie, "Equus" were filmed in Georgetown and now Halton Hills council and Halton regional council are being asked for permission to close several streets in Georgetown for filming, on location of scenes from the movie Running, starring Michael Douglas and Susan Anspach.

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