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# 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.

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.

outline of the new recreation plan,

revealed at last week's planning

board meeting sounds interesting

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

enough.

Certainly the fantalizing

Let's face it, who wouldn't like

Recreation report

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 hazerdous 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"?

recreation improvements can be

implemented at a cost less than

what has been spent by Halton

Hills on recreation in the last four

the report would represent a major

departure and expansion of the

type of recreation facilities

proposal will be well scrutinized

by the community before it even

As such, it's very good the

currently offered by the town.

Obviously the plan outlined in



# Davis downplays damage of impending oil price hikes



### Queen's Park

By Derek

Queen's Park Bureau

TORONTO - For each \$1 a barrel oil rises in price, home heating and gasoline costs soar \$44 a year in the average

Since the Canadian oil price is set at \$13,50 a barrel, and world price is almost twice that, the Ontario consumer would likely fork out \$565 more next year if we

This doesn't include indirect costs caused by industry raising its prices to meet steeply rising energy bills.

To put it another way, for every \$1 more a barrel of oil costs, an additional \$300 million flows out of the Ontario economy, with the obvious consequences of reduced purchasing power, less disposable income, fewer jobs, and increased inflation.

This explatas Ontario's concern at the recent provincial premier's conference in Quebec, and why Premier William Davis released an oil policy document here just before he headed east.

Although the government continues to profest that it opposes any oil price bike. 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 minumize

It makes these points: - that oil going to world price will

the damage.

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 windfalt 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.

YERY GOOD

see to world price as a necessary goal,

All good, sensible stuff, except for the government's stubborn refusal to acquie-

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 irreplacable 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 conseq-

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

\$5 billion sitting relatively idle in western heritage funds.

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

authority to avert an intolerable economic



Nelson

Of The Herald

Ontario household.

went to world price immediately.

THEM TOO

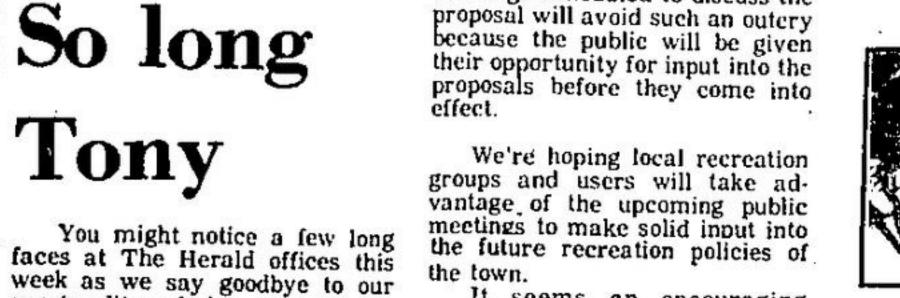
The wealth flowing west is incredible,

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 and social danger."

### comes close to implementation. Ottawa columnist remembers The town saw recently what happens when they pursue changes in recreation policy without consulting Halton Hills users after council endured a storm of conthe late John Diefenbaker troversy when they raised arena rates. It sounds like the public meetings scheduled to discuss the

undesirable as it may be.



years.

sports editor of almost two years, Tony Panacci. Tony will be taking over as sports editor of The Barrie Examiner, a daily newspaper

affiliated with The Herald. One of the highlights of Tony's career at The Herald, for him and the newspaper, had to have been this spring when The Herald's sports pages, under Tony's editorship were named best in Ontario in their class by the On-

Weekly Newspaper Association. Tony also spearheaded the conversion of the Herald's sports pages from their standard broadsheet format to its present "Sports Week" tabloid format. It's a change we and our readers have

tario

been very happy with. Tony and Georgetown resident Dave Kentner put their heads together last year and came up with the popular Halton Hills Athlete of the Year award, an ongoing event which, based on its first two years of existence seems -destined to carry on, even without

-Mr. Panacci at the helm. Certainly Tony will be missed, both by The Herald, and his readers the Halton Hills sports · fans.

We wish Tony the best of luck at his new post, he leaves big shoes for his successor to fill.

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 iceburg, 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 towns 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 Report

> By Stewart MacLeod

Oltawa Bureau Of The Herald

When John Diefenbaker was prime minister, and later when he fought fiercely as leader of the opposition, we journalists would keep flocking to his office with routine regularity, dutifully scribbling every weighty utterance.

But then he was toppled from the leadership, and suddenly Diefenbaker's prose lost its political poignancy. It was his successor, Robert Stanfield, who was making decisions on behalf of the Tories, and it was Lester Pearson, and then Pierre Trudeau, who ruled the country. The Chief, self-exiled from the inner-sanctum, now was just an individual MP with private views.

The journalistic flock, understandably, moved on to greener pastures. Only a tiny group of us - I was then a Canadian Press reporter - continued the routine visits with the former prime minister.

Journalistically, the time was not always well spent, and notebooks frequently remained unmarked as this living legend regated his fistener with perhaps personally polished versions of his pioneer tales from the prairies, or perhaps with a slightly varnished version of his association with the famous, or perhaps even a headlines. mischievious version of the Tory party's performance without his own leadership. Along with an acute awareness of political history, and where he should fit into it. Diefenbaker was a master story-teller.

GREAT STORIES It was fascinating to ait there, surrounded by those books, those primeministerial gifts from more glorious days, those old Union Jacks, the RCMP saddle

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

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 comeeasily. I remember Diefenbaker pacing his cluttered office, performing a marvellous but unflattering imitation of another contemporary politician, and thinking that, someday, this unknown talent of the furmer prime minister must be described in detail. Perhaps it should, but somehow it wouldn't seem right. He didn't intend it

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' Lenvisage", Diefenbaker would say, "but know where he stands. And everyone knows where I stand."

GOTALONG 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

"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.

Sometimes Diefenbaker would make a passing reference to "the kids across the hall," as though he were talking about some nusiance neighbors in the apartment building. But he didn't live in an apartment building, and the only familiar hallway separated his office from that of Robert Stanfield and his aides. "You never know what they'll be up to next," he would add, never volunteering any further identification.

Once, with pencil poised, Lasked him to publicly say who he considered to be the best debater in the Commons. "I wouldn't want to make a judgment

like that," he replied. "But you must have an opinion "

"Of course, I do, I have an opinion on everything." "Well, who is the best debater?"

"I am not going to get into that now, but someday I wouldn't mind people knowing my great admiration for the debating skills of Allan MacEachen (Liberal House Leader ("

That "someday" seems appropriate

MEMORIES LINGERED ....But while Diefenbaker could be magnanimous in private, as well as in public, he could also be unforgiving. And I have one powerful personal reminder of this.

The night Lester Pearson died, ending a 10-year turbulent feud between the two men, I went to the Diefenbaker residence, expecting to hear some warm recollections from the man who has so frequently described Parliament as "a club whose members share an abiding interest in the betterment of Canada."

The fireplace was burning, the Christmas tree was alight, and the setting seemed perfect for recalling an admiration and friendship that must have simme-

red beneath those public political wars. It was not to be, "That man," began The Chief, with blazing eyes, "should not have been given the Nobel Prize." That was only for openers. Even death would not end that war.

Then as I was leaving, his face melted again. "I want you back here tomorrow with the kids. I don't want Christmas to go by without them getting something from our tree."

## 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 en route. All three are natives of Yorkshire, England, who came to Canada in 1904 when their parent emigrated to this

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 arena will be wearing the new look when a \$35,000 remodelling 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

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 plebiseite 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 Mountainview 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

A large empty barn on the former Harry Bessey farm on the 7th Line of Esquesing 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 BERE

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

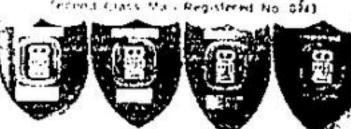
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