

Committee shows healthy scepticism

Members of Halton regional council's solid waste committee are on the right track with their comments about a private business proposal to establish a landfill site in rural Burlington.

Rather than jump at this easy solution to the region's thorny problem of solid waste disposal, committee members are approaching the plan with a healthy amount of scepticism.

National Sewer Pipe wants to convert their shale quarry into a landfill site with a capacity for up to 3 million tons of garbage.

While this would help eliminate a major problem facing Halton, especially with the OMB's rejection of the Milton Site F dump, it would also be extremely lucrative for National who, without the dumpsite, would simply be stuck with an empty pit once their quarrying operation is through.

As a number of regional councillors said, the costs of developing the quarry as a landfill site must be borne by National, completely. Too often governments put themselves in a position of begging business for a development that in reality is sufficiently lucrative for the business in the first place. National can't move their hole. If the quarry is not developed as a landfill site it is

basically useless to the company. But as a landfill site it would be a lucrative source of revenue. Certainly the regional and National would negotiate an equitable fee for waste dumping at their site and it would probably take at least a decade for the site to be filled.

So there's no need for the region to give National handouts for site feasibility studies or to help cover the expenses of developing the site. In this supposed free market economy those costs are known as investment capital and it is quite normal for the entrepreneur to bear their brunt alone.

At the same time as the region considers National's proposal they would be wise to listen to concerns expressed by regional councillor Bill Johnson who points out the landfill proposal is still miles away from a serious resource recovery system. Under such a system the region would develop a waste disposal system in which the region's garbage would be turned into marketable products, like newsprint, paperboard etc.

While this is rather a grand scheme, one much easier to talk about than implement, it is another avenue that should seriously be explored as the region wrestles to solve the problem of solid waste disposal.

Halton CAS deserves funds

Halton's Children Aid Society needs more money — and they deserve it.

The local CAS find themselves in a critical situation following the provincial government's slashing of their budget request for 1979. While the CAS had requested a grant of \$2,072,000 for 1979, the government has only agreed to a budget of \$1,635,661.

As a result, the CAS have run up a deficit of \$150,000 already this year. Had they received the requested grant the CAS would be \$50,000 under budget.

When trying to determine whether the CAS budget request is a justified one, it's best to look at where the deficit funds have gone. They've gone to salaries and towards covering the increased demand and costs of institutional care for youngsters.

The increased salary costs are not the result of exorbitant salary hikes. It's simply that the provincial government had wanted the local CAS to layoff staff this year and this salary "savings" was calculated in the government's budget.

The CAS did not go through with the layoffs, with an average caseload of 39 per worker (the provincial average is 27) they could not justify cutting back on staff, if anything they needed more.

Group care costs are up 20 per cent. These are the costs to the society of having children cared for, either in a foster home or some type of group home. Because of recent changes to the child welfare act, more children are now in the custody of the CAS rather than being put in detention centres as was the previous practise. It's probably a good idea but one that costs the local CAS more money to enact.

While the provincial government is reducing the CAS budget request, the society is already acknowledged as one of the most cost-efficient CAS's in the province. Their reward is budget reductions.

The current fiscal crisis presently being endured by the Halton CAS has to strike society staff as unjust.

After all, the provincial government brought in what was supposed to be the definitive child welfare legislation this past summer. There were lengthy tracts designed to help eliminate child abuse, keep trainable children from being locked away and many more laudible bits of legislation destined to put Ontario back on the social services map.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that the provincial government gave the Children's Aid Societies, at least Halton's, the money to enact these highly touted changes.

It's a Year of the Child project without any teeth.

So let's hope the provincial government puts their money where their mouth is and gives the CAS the funding they need to enact new child welfare legislation. It would probably be more meaningful than government's television ads promoting Year of the Child, at least to the kids receiving the services.

SIXTH LINE GAMES 1978 - 1985
Convenor: Hon. James Snow, also favored to win house devaluation and road-building events

Hockey must enact reform or government will intervene



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of the Herald

TORONTO - The key paragraph in a recent speech to the Ontario Hockey Council by Culture and Recreation Minister Reuben Baetz was the final one.

"If organized hockey cannot face up to doing what its own constituency wants, then the government — with complete reluctance and as an extreme last resort — ultimately might have to take some action."

While Baetz waffles a bit in how he says it, the threat is obviously there.

Either minor hockey reforms itself, or government is going to make it do so.

There is even a kind of unofficial deadline for the process: Next March. Baetz has asked the council for a report with recommendations on how to

improve the sport to be ready by then.

TOO VIOLENT

A series of forums, both with the general public and leading hockey officials, are already under way around the province, the last to conclude in November.

The council has already done a survey of hockey parents that indicates the direction they'll likely be looking come report time.

In general the parents expressed worry about hockey violence and wanted more stress on fundamentals, with more emphasis on fun and less on winning.

They also thought the quality of coaching and refereeing needs improving.

As many as 55 per cent of parents with children in the older age groups felt there was too much violence in these leagues.

And more than 60 per cent thought referees do not call enough stick abuse penalties.

RUSSIAN FAIR

In short, what people seem to be seeking is a reduction in goon hockey and a return to the basics, such as (in the words of many parents) "the Russians play."

While the Russians may be the world's best spearing artists, they learn that after they develop their other skills.

and it is on those talents parent opinion seems to centre.

It'll be next spring before we see the council recommendations, but it wouldn't be surprising if hockey's top brass finally called for major changes rather than the minor tinkering with the system such as they have done in the past.

The present decline in good hockey can't be allowed to continue.

COMMITTEE IDEA

MPP Elie Martel (NDP-Sudbury (East)) has complained several times in the past about hockey violence and suggested a legislative committee look into the problem.

So far the government is resisting, preferring to let hockey clean itself up. As Baetz said, "change is always most effective when it comes from the grass roots."

(But at the semi-professional level several hundred assault charges have been laid in the four years since Attorney-General Roy McMurtry launched his campaign against hockey violence.)

Still, if the council doesn't come through with answers the committee stick or something equivalent always remains a potential means of helping salvage a game that is often its own worst enemy.

Mackasey's dumping greeted with enormous satisfaction



Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of the Herald

Joe Clark's Conservative government may have ruffled a few feathers when it unceremoniously dumped Bryce Mackasey as president of Air Canada — actually, I am thinking particularly of Mr. Mackasey's own feathers — but this reaction clearly didn't extend to the prime minister's caucus.

There, the dumping was greeted with an enormous sigh of satisfaction. If there was one specific thing that caucus craves it is an emptying of the Liberal pork barrel that had been stuffed systematically with political appointees by successive Grit governments. And when you consider that we have had Liberal regimes for 33 of the last 44 years, it's only reasonable that a decided imbalance exists.

Actually, the Tories don't seem particularly concerned with lower-level appointments. It's the high-profile personalities — particularly those with political backgrounds — that they are after, and in this respect Bryce Mackasey was the ultimate target. There was no doubt that the former Liberal minister, who was

drawing \$90,000-a-year, plus perks, for the largely ceremonial job at Air Canada, had to get the axe if the Tory troops were to be kept in line. He was, after all, the most blatant political appointee in Pierre Trudeau's 11-year reign as prime minister.

PROUD DEPARTURE

As one Conservative back-bencher boarded an aircraft in Ottawa a few days later, he said the Mackasey firing actually filled him with pride. "I know it's a strange reaction to someone losing his job, but his appointment was so wrong that I am proud to be associated with his departure."

And what was the association? "Well, we screamed in caucus about it. There was no way that Mackasey could stay."

Now that this item has been cleared off the agenda, there are many caucus members who want to see other Liberal heads roll down the lawns of Parliament Hill. "In fact," says one westerner, "there are many of my constituents who feel that Mackasey was not even part of that Liberal establishment. It was just assumed he would go, and now we would get down to the real problem cases."

The problem cases, as some Tories view them, are the deputy ministers and other senior advisors who have, in many cases, spent entire career working at the feet of Liberal ministers. Some are, in fact, former Liberal politicians and cabinet ministers — such as C.M. Drury, chairman of the National Capital Commission, Mitchell Sharp, northern pipeline commissioner, and Pierre Juneau, under-secretary of state.

All are understandably fidgety.

ACTION WANTED

For a time, there were indications that despite earlier Tory suggestions of a high-level housecleaning, that Clark and company would settle for a gentle attrition process. A handful of deputy ministers were moving on to other jobs anyway, former Privy Council Clerk Mitchell Pinfield had been sacked shortly after the May election and the odd senior mandarin quit in protest and one or two others were told to leave.

But this has not relieved the pressure in caucus. And Supply Minister Roch LaSalle may have attracted some self-righteous protests when he said it was time for a Tory turn at the patronage trough, but he was not a lone voice in the wilderness. Many agree with his sentiment that when Liberal appointees are gone "we will replace them with friends of our party." And Clark has been hearing some pointed suggestions from his own back-benchers that these changes should be made sooner, rather than later.

Even if the prime minister would prefer to adopt a more patient approach — and his Ottawa-area MPs would certainly approve of this — it's doubtful whether he can resist party pressures for continuing changes. "What you have to realize," said an Ontario MP, "is that there are hundreds of party supporters in every riding who want government jobs of one kind or another. And the only way they will realize we mean business is if we clean out Liberals at the top. At least that gets into the newspapers."

Halton's History

From our files

LOCAL HOCKEY ALL-STAR THIRTY YEARS AGO — To open the National Hockey season in Toronto next Monday night a special game is planned between the Leafs and an All-Star team selected from other teams in the league. Playing with the All-Stars is a former Leaf who is now a defenceman with the Chicago Black Hawks, Bob Goldham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Goldham of town. Bob has had tough luck for the past two seasons with a broken wrist keeping him out of action for part of the season, but he is feeling fit again and fans anticipate that he will be one of the kingpins of the Hawks this year.

For the next five weeks, Georgetown will be featured on a radio show broadcast each Friday at 1:15 p.m. over Toronto radio station CHUM. This commercial broadcast sponsored by several local retail merchants, is a series of transcriptions which were recorded between shows at the Roxy last Thursday evening. The show, of the quiz type, was emceed by Al Collins, who is featured as Ontario's Good Neighbor man on the broadcast.

Reeve Jack Armstrong will serve as Acting Mayor of Georgetown for the balance of this year. He replaces former Mayor Joseph Gibbons who has resigned in order to accept a position as town assessor. A native of town, the new assessor mayor is local representative for the Mutual Life Assurance Company, and has served for several years as an active member of the hockey club and the Lions Club.

HOME POSTAL DELIVERY TWENTY YEARS AGO — Georgetown ratepayers can express an opinion on a two-year term for councillors when they go to the polls on December 7. Council on Monday decided to have a plebiscite on the question. It did not meet unanimous favor, with councillors Harrison, Elliott and Hyde opposing preparation of a by-law calling for the vote.

Monday morning was history-making in Georgetown when, for the first time in the town's history, postmen began their rounds distributing mail to the householders. Preceding this, an inauguration ceremony was held in front of the post office. Mayor Jack Armstrong, after receiving the first letter to be delivered by Postman Jim Bradley, cut a white ribbon across the doorway, and the eight mail carriers, smart in their new uniforms, filed out and began their new jobs.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed a large barn and a quantity of stock early Tuesday morning on the 8th Line farm of Garnet Sinclair despite the efforts of firemen from Georgetown and Erin. The blaze broke out during the height of a storm and may have been touched off by lightning. However, an investigation failed to determine the cause. Trapped in the blazing structure which collapsed shortly after the brigades arrived were a bull, seven calves, and eleven young pigs and a quantity of hay and straw was also lost.

The Ontario Hockey Association enlightened Georgetown on the brand of competition they'll be facing this year when they confirmed a league suggested earlier comprising Intermediate A and B clubs. The announcement was made at a group meeting in Milton last week. The new Georgetown executive held their own tete a tete last Wednesday night and came up with a manager in the person of Fred (Tut) Harrison, and strengthened their staff of officers with the addition of Seely Patterson.

SACRE COEUR CONSTRUCTION TEN YEARS AGO — The new Sacre Coeur Recreation Hall, presently being built behind the church on Guelph Street, near John Street, will be officially opened the middle of November. The building will serve as a gym, a recreation hall, a banquet hall and in addition will be rented out for various occasions. There will be a complete kitchen, cloakrooms, washrooms and showers.

Four lives were lost in three district motor accidents this week. An elderly woman died in a crash on 17 Sideroad and two men were killed at Hornby on Monday and the fourth victim, an elderly man, died in an accident on Highway 7, six miles east of here Tuesday.

NORVAL NOISES ONE YEAR AGO — Neighbor's complaints about noisy activities already going on at the site of the proposed \$5 million Croation social and cultural centre near Norval have prevented the town planning board from endorsing the project. Concerned citizens jammed the council chambers last Tuesday night for a public hearing on the proposal by a group of Toronto-area Croation-Canadians to establish a 160-acre multi-use centre at the intersection of Winston Churchill Boulevard and the 5th Sideroad south of Norval.

Georgetown's independent cab owners have formed a union and will begin negotiating with Flash Cabs and Glen Taxi by the end of the week, according to a reliable source. They want improved working conditions. The owners operate their own cars, but depend on Flash and Glen to dispatch calls to them, the Herald was told. For this service they pay the company 25 per cent of the fares they earn. The rate also applies to fares who hale the drivers as they pass and do not go through the dispatchers.

Halton region will ask Ontario's new energy minister, James Auld, to have an independent consultant examine possible alternative routes for Ontario Hydro's Bruce to Milton transmission corridor, if a recommendation by the regional planning council committee is accepted today (Wednesday) by council. The committee is hoping Mr. Auld will utilize the time remaining before the January 2 resumption of a pertinent Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing to grant affected landowners the comprehensive study to which they are entitled.

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