

Chamber's bus an impressive positive step

It's good to see the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce taking some affirmative action.

In a move announced by Chamber director Rick West late last week, the local group will be sponsoring an in-town bus service beginning November 1 and running through the month of December.

The bus system is designed to kill two birds with one stone. An in-town bus service has long been advocated by many Georgetown residents but the idea has been shelved away from because of fears about the projects costs as well as uncertainty about ridership potential.

Mr. West says the Chamber hopes the new temporary bus service will serve as a test of the Georgetown transit market and may lead to the implementation of a full time service. A nominal fee of 25 cents for adults will be charged for the bus rides while senior citizens and children are free. Certainly if local residents aren't interested in using a transit system at this price there is simply no market for a bus system in this town.

The transit system is designed

to hit the town's major shopping areas as well as comb the residential districts rather extensively. Not only is this route likely to appeal to the largest number of shoppers it will, as Mr. West says, help keep Georgetown shopping dollars in town.

And that's the second reason for the November-December bus system. The Chamber hopes that with this affirmative action they will make shopping locally easier for Georgetown residents. If anything should help local merchants it has to be easier access to their stores for their customers.

The nicest thing about the Chamber's bus service is that they will cover any deficit the service incurs. At 25 cents per ride, you can be sure the Chamber won't cover their costs with their ticket prices. It's nice to see private business paying for a service like this rather than the municipal government. Let's hope the system gets sufficient ridership to warrant the Chamber's gamble and, hopefully, to lead to the eventual creation of a fulltime bus service in Georgetown.

Non-voters make political statement

It would be easy to look at the low voter turnout in last week's by-election to fill an action seat on council and self-righteously declare that voters don't take their politics seriously.

But you'd be wrong. Certainly a turnout of less than 15 per cent of the eligible voters is nothing to cheer about. But perhaps by their absence from the polls Acton voters were indeed making political statements.

We've said it before, both candidates in the by-election did not particularly address themselves to issues, in fact, at one point the two political hopefuls declared there were no issues in the campaign.

Maybe the voters shared our concern and, deciding there was no real difference between the candidates, opted to stay home last Tuesday night instead of voting.

While one candidate said he would enact the will of something called the majority if elected regarding the Landawn Plaza, he never stated a position on the proposal and thus gave voters no

way to indicate their preference. In fact, of all issues facing Acton voters, based on the success of a recent pro-plaza petition campaign, you couldn't blame Acton voters if they had felt a little frustrated in their desires to express support, through the ballot box, for the plaza.

By abstaining from taking a position on the plaza or any other specific issues, the candidates gave Actonians little reason to go out and vote.

With no issues to differentiate the candidates, Acton voters who didn't personally know either of the candidates had little information to make an educated decision. It seems that rather than make an uninformed vote, many Acton residents decided to skip voting all together.

Still, enough residents did go out and cast their ballot for newcomer Terry Grubbe to win and to Mrs. Grubbe we offer our sincere congratulations. We hope that through her promise to 'stay in touch with Acton' she does indeed reflect the will of her new constituency in the coming year.

Uniform sewer rate promotes region

The cause of regional government was furthered again last week as Halton council, in a close vote, decided in favor of uniform sewer rates throughout the region.

The move will clearly benefit Oakville and the north end of the region, particularly Acton. Uniform rates should go a long way towards cooling the heated objections of many Acton residents to regional government.

For too long some Acton residents have felt regional government brought them plenty of burdens with the new system but few, if any, assets. Often it has been argued that with its one regional council member and, a supposedly sympathetic mayor, Acton's was usually an unheard and unheeded voice in the woods at regional council.

But certainly last week's vote has to go a long way towards erasing these fears.

Rather than having to be appeased with the lofty promises from provincial officials selling regionalism in abstract terms, Acton residents will now see the benefits in cold, hard cash. Sewer rates in the community will decline

by eight per cent in January where they will stay for two years. Now that's how to sell the region.

But the new system is not merely a bribe to once and for all get Actonians to accept regional government, it's simply a natural step for a truly regional government. It seemed from the start that a natural benefit of regional government would be a pooling of resources in terms of providing equal levels of quality and costs for municipal services. This is now beginning to happen.

And certainly Halton Hills residents had to be impressed with regional chairman Jack Raftis. Proving once and for all, he's not a 'homer', Mr. Raftis cast the tie breaking vote in the uniform sewer rates decision. He did this even though it meant voting against the wishes of his former colleagues, the Burlington councillors at the region.

Although uniform sewer rates will not directly benefit Mr. Raftis' home constituency of Burlington, Mr. Raftis voted as a true regional chairman should, for the good of Halton and regional government. It's certainly a step in the right direction.



Mackasey tugs heart strings for sympathy over his firing



Ottawa
Report

By Stewart
MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau
of The Herald

There is something almost pathetic about watching Bryce Mackasey trying desperately to portray himself as a common working man, the victim of a heartless employer, an ordinary family man suddenly thrown on the breadline.

"I am angry because I have fought this kind of case and injustice for many people in my career," he told a national television audience. "I've been in and on the job from nine to five day in and day out."

"I have fought all my life for little people," he reminded the same audience with his oft-repeated claim. "I am in that category at the moment."

He went on: "I think little people who are fired daily for a variety of reasons by insensitive employers can understand what I am saying." And, the way he put it, his demands at the moment are not too great. "I have said simply from the beginning that I am entitled as a private citizen in this country, regardless of what my job is, to know why I was fired... I am entitled to know."

He certainly knows how to tug at the old heart strings. There he was, oozing

sincerity as he described how an insensitive government had fired him out of hand without explanation, forcing him to hire a lawyer and fight for his pension rights. As the long-time friend of the common man put it, "When you're being fired from a pick-and-shovel job, when you are being fired from a railway job, when you're being fired as chairman of Air Canada, it's very wise and prudent to have a lawyer to supervise what is happening."

DIFFERENT NEEDS

It might be wise and prudent for Mr. Mackasey, but somehow I doubt whether the same need exists for the 800,000 unemployed whose circumstances are, to say the least, at variance with this particular odd-jobs man. Most of the unemployed in Canada probably don't have that same burning desire to be told exactly why they lost their jobs.

As jobs go, Mackasey lost a pretty good one alright and he has every reason to feel dejected. He fully expected to continue as the \$90,000-a-year chairman of Air Canada for another seven years, and when he was turfed out by the Tories after only eight months in office, it was obviously a great disappointment to him, especially when his pension is reported to be a measly \$38,000 a year. Furthermore, he will have to pay his lawyer out of this.

And all he wants, poor fellow, is to be told why he was fired.

Well, since it's against the law to fire anyone for his personal political beliefs, there is every likelihood that Mr. Mackasey will never be officially informed of the reasons for his dismissal. And, as he so eloquently put it, other Canadians could think he was fired for incompetency

and therefore will have difficulty getting another job.

REASON CLEAR

Frankly, I don't think Mr. Mackasey's concerns are well founded. Having talked to several dozen average Canadians on the subject, I think I am able to reassure the former Liberal cabinet minister, and unwavering Trudeau supporter, that there is a unanimous feeling he was fired because he was a Grit. Not one person in the survey even mentioned his incompetency, his Catholicism, or his Irish ancestry.

To add weight to these beliefs, most people who expressed views on the subject thought that Mackasey got the job in the first place because he was a Grit. And one of these authorities is Bryce Mackasey himself. "I was offered the choice of jobs that frankly I doubt would have come my way had I not been a member, and member of the cabinet." He also admitted he was offered a Senate seat at the same time, which would have given him absolute security until the age of 75. But he opted for the Air Canada job, which paid about \$60,000-a-year more than the Senate. Not many of our 800,000 unemployed have enjoyed making this difficult choice when they were interviewed at their local Manpower Centre.

But then, not many of these 800,000 have access to patronage jobs.

Sure, Bryce Mackasey has good reason to feel blue — we all would in the circumstances — but just because his timing was bad doesn't qualify him for martyrdom. I am saving my sympathy for better causes.

Failure of CANDU sale may raise Ontario hydro rate



Queen's
Park

By Derek
Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau
of The Herald

Strange as it may seem, the collapse of Canada's negotiations with Argentina on selling that country a second CANDU reactor could mean a jump in Ontario Hydro bills.

There is a rule of thumb in the nuclear industry, which employs 31,000 people, mostly in Ontario, that two CANDU reactors a year have to be sold to keep the business viable.

Ontario Hydro's original building plans for the rest of the century would have absorbed most of that production, but with decreasing energy demands since the OPEC price hikes of 1973 the utility has scaled down its nuclear commitment.

Currently we have eight major (and two smaller) reactors producing power in Ontario. Another 12 are in various stages of development.

A just released policy document from the provincial energy ministry sees no additional reactors being built prior to 1995.

GO AHEAD

With a targeted growth in energy demand of only two per cent, it is likely that no more than four additional reactors will receive the go-ahead in the mid-1980s for completion after 1995.

(Should electrical demand alone

reach four per cent, which is unlikely at the moment, as many as 16 reactors would be required.)

Since other provinces are showing no great interest in nuclear power, the slack in domestic sales has to be taken up overseas.

Now Argentina has put a crimp in that option. That country was our best hope for further CANDU sales abroad.

In fact, if a superior product like CANDU loses out to the untried German heavy water reactor system in Argentine eyes, it is unlikely we'll be able to sell CANDUs to anyone.

(That's true even if bribery played a role in the Argentine decision, and even more true if Argentine took seriously our silly lecturing them on morality — something we didn't do with equally dictatorial buyer Rumania.)

POWER COMMISSION

The end result is a nuclear industry that is going to go through some hard times, which will probably show up both in unemployment figures and on our Hydro bills.

As many as one-third of the industry's 31,000 jobs could disappear by the end of the 1980s, and one of the new truly Canadian enterprises could end up on the rocks.

Dr. Arthur Porter reached some tentative conclusions about the consequences of declining sales in the 1978 interim report on nuclear power he did for the provincial government.

COST RISE

He saw rationalization taking place as some manufacturers left the industry, with the result single suppliers would remain to sell to Ontario Hydro.

"Costs to Ontario Hydro might rise by an estimated 10 per cent if a protected rather than a competitive industry were to

emerge," he said.

That's at best, because Porter added the warning there is no guarantee current sales can even sustain a "full range of component manufacturers for an indefinite period."

We might, in fact, end up importing CANDU station components, which would likely send our hydro bills soaring.

All in all it is a gloomy autumn for nuclear supporters.

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Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—This year's International Plowing Match at Burford created more interest in this district with the announcement that James Eccles, Norval farmer, led the field in the Esso Tractor Special and qualified for a place on the Canadian team which will tour the British Isles in January. Managed by Alex McKinney, Jr., they will have a seven-week, all-expense-paid trip, compete in British plowing matches, study agricultural methods and see a few sights.

In the fire drill at the Roxy Theatre during the Saturday afternoon matinee, more than 300 children and adults left the theatre in orderly fashion in less than one minute. The fire drill was held as a feature of Fire Prevention Week and manager Ernie Crawford says that he intends to continue the practice from time to time as a safety feature.

We sure had a real big rain this week, but on the whole it was another glorious week of weather, which ended up with the most gorgeous display of Northern Lights I have ever seen. I've heard that it is a sign of cold weather and if so, it certainly brought a frost on Saturday night.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—While Georgetown observed Thanksgiving this weekend, thieves concentrated on the take end and made off with over \$4,000 from Loblaws. The theft, which police termed "undoubtedly professional" occurred some time between 10:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon. The thieves gained entry by putting up a ladder to the east canopy and climbing from there to the roof, where they knocked a hole in the entrance to a stairwell. Using methods known only to professional cracksmen, they crippled the dial mechanisms of both the outer and inner safe doors, and extracted the \$4,000 which the store retains after making their weekly deposit. \$15,000 was banked by the store on Saturday.

William McNally and Rex W. Heslop have formed a new heavy construction firm in Georgetown which has been operating for the past month, Rexwill Construction is now busy on three contracts. Mr. Heslop is president and Mr. McNally is vice-president of Rexwill Construction Ltd. Harold Bairdrow is general manager.

After almost a full term of operation, Park Public School will have an official opening possibly in November. The problem school, which was delayed almost two months by poor weather and labor problems, opened in early November last year.

Delrex' offer to deposit \$400 per lot for release of 1,163 lots, subject to exclusion of self-supporting R1 homes and financing of town commitments out of the deposit money, was turned down by council Monday night. But council will next week phrase a counter proposal that has been hammered out at two lengthy sessions of the industrial and town planning committee.

A local clothing store, Cotton Brothers, has been nominated as "Retailer of the Year" by the Menswear Travellers Association of Canada, Ontario branch. The winner will be announced at a luncheon on Tuesday, October 20, in the Prince George Hotel during the MWTA "buy mart".

TEN YEARS AGO—Halton education officials have over-estimated their student enrollment and supply teachers claim they are paying the price of the statistical shortfall. Administration officials with the Halton Board of education have confirmed actual enrollment in county schools this year is 1,240 less than expected.

Halton regional government boundaries decided on by a committee of county reeves recently would consolidate Georgetown and most of Esqueving Township. The boundaries are based on a separate Halton regional government, as opposed to the Halton-Peel metro region proposed by Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough. In the reeves' plan, Burlington remains about the same. Milton extends west to Appleby Line in Burlington, south to the lower base line in Oakville and east to the Peel County Boundary. Oakville would be reduced in size, losing land to Milton, and the Acton-Nassugaweya area would include almost all of the township plus about one third off Esqueving's west side. The Georgetown-Esqueving borough would embrace most of Esqueving, with Highway 401 its southern limit.

A crest, a plaque and a crisp \$20 bill are the rewards for being carrier salesman of the year for Kirk Herrington, 20 Guelph Street, Kirk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Herrington, was chosen top Toronto Star salesman in this district, which includes Georgetown, Acton, Milton and Orangeville.

The Roman-style chariot race in the park Friday afternoon by Georgetown high school students yielded \$1,172.50 for the Ontario Rehabilitation Fund.

ONE YEAR AGO—One of the partners behind Abode 1, the company building the 89-unit River Run project off River Drive, has gone into personal bankruptcy and the company has been signed over to the second mortgage holder, according to a spokesman for Garthdale Investments Ltd.

Members of the Georgetown local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers joined striking union members across the country yesterday after talks in Ottawa Monday night between union officials and Acting Labor Minister Andre Ouellet were broken off.

Halton Hills planning board members are furious over a major mapping error in Halton's region's recently-completed official plan that, in effect, includes Glen Williams within the boundaries of urban Georgetown.

The committee trying to preserve the old Acton town hall is now going to raise money for their cause by presenting a slide show to clubs and community organizations.

The provincial ministry of housing's notification of town council Monday night that a contract has been awarded for the construction of Acton's 52-unit senior citizens' apartments building was greeted with pleasure by Coun. Pat McKenzie, but the Ward 1 councillor promptly bemoaned the long wait for the project to get underway.