

# Letters to the Editor

## Leg-hold trap approval still concerns readers

To the editor of The Herald:  
We were most surprised to learn that the town council agreed to allow trapping so close to other homes.

Due to the number of accidental trap catches of family pets and even danger to young children many cities and municipalities have passed by-laws prohibiting trapping in built up areas. Both Toronto and Ottawa have recently enacted such by-laws.

We know of no reason why Halton Hills could not ban the use of cruel traps within the municipality.

There are no humane traps yet available on the market. The main trap used is the leg-hold trap well known for its cruelty. The Conibear trap and the snare are also used and both of these traps are also most cruel though sometimes (rarely) they do kill the animals rather than holding them alive.

The Ontario government regulations allow almost any kind of trap no matter how cruel it may be. Indeed I doubt

if a trap is even defined.

We truly hope council will reconsider. If muskrats or raccoons are causing a problem surely a box or cage trap can be used to relocate these animals. There is no need to subject our animals to such cruelty. The Ontario government doesn't even require trappers to check the live

animals in their traps at any regulated time. The trappers themselves decide when to return to check their traps and this may be days and days of suffering for the animals. B.C. has legislation requiring 24 hour trap checks on private property and three days on the long trapline. Ontario seems not to care. The municipality

of Halton Hills we hope will show some compassion.

The animals can't speak for themselves. We ask your readers to help.

Yours truly,  
George V. Clements,  
Association for the Protection  
Of Fur-bearing Animals,  
1316 E. 12th Ave. Vancouver,  
B.C.

## Seeks research aid

To the editor of the Herald:

I am writing to request the assistance of your readers in researching the subject of trapping in this area. Both sides of this issue have been expressed in recent local papers.

As always, the stories come out of "chewed off limbs" and catching of birds and now fur-bearers as a reason for banning traps and/or trapping. In several years of trapping I have not witnessed a case of a chewed off leg. The only ani-

mals which I have caught which I did not want were released and in no case was the skin or bone broken. I have not heard of a legitimate case of a bird being caught by accident.

The whole concept of trapping has changed over the past few decades. To cite cases of overtrapping or poor wildlife management that occurred 40 or 50 years ago is pointless.

I would like to hear from any of your readers who can give me concrete evidence of any cases of the extreme suffering

claimed to result from trapping in this area in recent years.

I would require names of witnesses, name of the person responsible for setting the trap, type of trap and set used and which authority the incident was reported to.

I would also be interested in hearing facts and figures from trappers. For example number and type of animals caught, incidences of damage to the animal, etc.

Art Hawes,  
R.R.1, Linchouse.

### VIEWPOINT

# Columnist still no fan of Joe Clark's Tories

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Those of you who followed this column during the May election are well aware that I'm not a "Joe Who" supporter. In all honesty, I can say that nothing the PM has done since coming to office has changed my mind. However, at the same time, I tend to feel sorry for the guy because he leaves himself so wide open for criticism, both fair and unfair.

These past ten years have been a series of one crisis after another. It calls for decisive government and strong leadership. If you asked me if I was still a Trudeau supporter, I'd have to say yes, because of the strength and the intellectual ability of the man.

Some people are speaking of the division between the peoples of Canada as the end of the Liberal party; personally, I don't see it that way.

I believe from division, a stronger government will emerge, eventually; no promise for how soon eventually will be. However, I do believe that the outcome will present a more unified Liberal party.

I very much admire Mr. Broadbent, the leader of the NDP, but I have a fear of what too much socialism can do to a country. Mr. Trudeau warned that the individual premiers were seeking and anyone who has listened to Loughheed or Davis lately can see the power plays in action.

Sometimes politics hits too far below the belt when assessing the opposition, regardless of who is in power. When Trudeau was PM, the jokes over Maggie T. were fast and furious. Now, poor old Joe

Clark is sure getting his share. Here's a few of the zanier ones:

There are two men in Santa Claus outfits outside a department store. How can you tell which one is Joe Clark? He's the one giving out the Easter eggs. That comes to you courtesy of Ed Broadbent.

Did you hear the one about Joe Clark walking down the street with a duck under his arm and a guy says "How's the turkey?" Clark replies, "That's not a turkey, that's a duck." To which the guy retorts "I was talking to the duck." Boooooo.

How about the one about the guy bumping into a man on Parliament Hill:

"Have you heard the latest Joe Clark joke?"

"I am Joe Clark."

"Oh, then I'll try to tell it slowly."

When Trudeau was in power a lot of people used to say they didn't want him, but what was the alternative? Now, the same folks have just changed names and are still asking "What's the alternative?"

Low shots and jokes aside,

our country faces some pretty rough times ahead and without unity I doubt very much whether it will pull through. If you have ever belonged to a group and observed how it functions, you would find that it operates very differently than the individuals composing it. If left to a consensus, nothing would be resolved and the entire group would just go round and round in circles getting nowhere at an unbelievable pace.

Not only is leadership necessary, but strong leadership in the case of differences of opinion and priorities.

In the past decade, world leaders seem to be on the downswing; this is probably due in part to the pressure of continual crisis.

Comparing pictures of US President Jimmy Carter before his election and now, one can readily see the kind of strain these men are under. From that point of view, I don't like to see anyone go overboard knocking Joe Clark, because the load he is carrying is definitely a great one. Then again, in my opinion he was not the man for the job in the first place; for that matter,

neither was Carter.

At any rate, Canadians will get a chance to do their own grumbling when John Crosbie, minister of finance, hands down his budget on December 11. It ought to be a pip.

Poor Mr. Trudeau warned and warned of voluntary belt-tightening, but not for your average Canadian citizen. No sir, they voted in a government that was notorious for sticking it to the working man and bracing up the middle classes and now that same government is about to show you just how that system works.

P.S. I don't mind stating here and now in big bold print "I TOLD YOU SO."

Political promises are a dime a dozen. If you want to refund mortgage money and to do it, you cut off family allowances, make people beg for unemployment, and cut student grants and then hand over the big mortgage interest refunds - can the people of Canada really be that gullible?

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