

More trapping restrictions are necessary

We are frankly surprised by the number of local residents reacting to town council's recent endorsement of trapping operations on municipal land in Halton Hills. What started out as an almost routine stamp of approval for a practice rarely challenged in Canada has somehow turned into one of the hottest issues of council's current term.

At least, so it would seem, judging from the number of letters The Herald has received concerning the practice of trapping in general and, specifically, the use of leg-hold traps. While clearly divided between those in favor and those opposed, these letters in variably raise many good points, alternately suggesting that council's approval was either a righteous and well-advised move or else a serious blunder which warrants reconsideration.

Elsewhere in this issue, The Herald presents an outline of, pros and cons which we hope will enable readers to draw their own conclusions. We, however, indicate here and now that we have made up our own mind on the issue.

From the emotional "gut-level" reaction to photographs being circulated by the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (elsewhere in this issue), through the leg-hold bans supported by Great Britain, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, West Germany, Rhodesia, the Scandinavian countries and two American states, to the sheer logic of the fact that trappers and trapping cannot be adequately policed, we have been drawn to what we feel is an inevitable conclusion, at least as far as Halton Hills is concerned.

While we are told that trapping is a way of life for many residents of northern Ontario, such is not the case in the populous south, and thus few livelihoods would be seriously affected if the practice were to be banned in this municipality. Clearly, though, to extend a ban north to Hudson's Bay would be an unwarranted infringement upon the rights of many hunters, particularly any native people still partially dependent upon trapping.

Now, an outright ban on trapping in Halton Hills or southern Ontario would be equally irresponsible: several times each season, in numerous locations throughout the area, certain wild animals, particularly the beaver, create dangerous ecological problems in terms of flooding,

erosion and crop depletion. At such times, the province's ministry of natural resources assigns "nuisance trappers" to reduce the population of the offending animal in the carefully-specified area. To advocate a halt to this practice would be to place the welfare of these animals ahead of man's.

An ideal situation, then, would involve routine checks of potential problem areas by ministry or conservation authority officials. Where necessary, a small number of fully-qualified nuisance trappers would be deployed to do a job outlined in great detail by those with the expertise and authority to delineate the task. The entire scenario would be co-ordinated and policed by ministry employees to ensure there is no room for contention among critics of the practice.

Outside a tightly-controlled program operated through the ministry, trapping in any form should be banned outright. Those who wish to trap for pleasure or profit would then be forced to go elsewhere, thus eliminating the possibility of animals being unnecessarily injured.

After all, the bottom line is this: in an area such as Halton Hills where problems created by overpopulation among wild animals can be easily controlled by the appropriate authorities, there is simply no reason to allow other instances of trapping, for as long as there is even a chance that an animal may be left too long to suffer in a leg-hold trap set by some irresponsible hunter, then private trapping cannot be tolerated.

Literature circulated by the anti-trapping lobbyists paints an all-too-gruesome picture of what leg-hold traps can do; experienced trappers point out that it is the exceptions among them who spoil the trade for those responsible enough to check their traps frequently.

The lines are clearly drawn. We maintain that trapping which is not necessitated by environmental problems must be prohibited in areas like Halton Hills, where most trappers are seeking to either catch their day's meal or else augment their regular earnings by cleaning a few pelts.

As long as even one animal could suffer, (and ministry policing, outside occasional spot-checks, is simply impractical) the practice remains deplorable.

definitely don't want to see fall short of its objective.

With a host of non-profit and charitable organizations making reasonable use of the Christmas season to forward their causes - and most are worthwhile - one might hesitate in contributing toward a group whose basis is largely recreation. Why donate to support a ladies' keep-fit class when a child with polio might be aided by Christmas seals?

We believe the most valuable virtues of the YM-YWCA are not readily detectable to the eye. Whereas an infrequent visitor to Y classes sees the superficial benefits of exercise and cultural interests, there is simultaneously nourishment of mind occurring which produces positive growth of a much longer-lasting kind.

And while, individually, preschoolers, young people, adults and senior citizens are growing in many ways through Y programmes, they are together absorbed in a community project unmatched among fund-raising causes.

Let's keep an eye on the big Y thermometer at Guelphview Square and make sure it pops its top before the December 15 deadline.



Grits' potential leaders too busy to comment



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of the Herald

All of those leading Liberals lights now being touted as likely successors to Pierre Trudeau must have had some enormous political preoccupations in the last six months.

Incredibly, no one has time to entertain a passing thought about becoming the new Liberal leader. "I haven't given it any thought," says Vancouver MP Art Phillips, who has been consistently mentioned as a possible Liberal leader since he came to Ottawa in May.

"I haven't thought about running," said MP Lloyd Axworthy, an up-and-coming Winnipeg representative, who must have read, on at least a dozen occasions, that he might be a future leader.

"I haven't had the opportunity to think about what happened," said former finance minister John Turner. And here we all were, assuming that Mr. Turner had spent the last decade thinking of nothing else.

"No, I haven't thought about it," said former treasury board president Robert Andrus.

Liberal finance critic Herb Gray said he now will begin considering the possibility of running - indicating that, until now, the thought hadn't occurred to him.

Even former agriculture minister Eugene Whelan, while saying he hasn't thought about the leadership, now is joining the new thinkers' group.

ALL THINKING

Never have so many Liberals been immersed in separate think tanks. Even former finance minister Donald S. Macdonald, who has been asked about his leadership intentions on a weekly basis for the last two years, is beginning to re-think his earlier thinking. As he put it, "I think it is fair to say that I will have to stop and reflect..."

Other new-confessed thinkers include former finance minister Jean Chretien and one-time trade minister Jean-Luc Pepin. Naturally, they, like all the others, haven't had time to think about the leadership up until now. And the same obviously holds true for Francis Fox, the former solicitor-general, who felt obliged to resign from that law-upholding office after forging a name on an abortion application. But his name keeps cropping up.

The only person who seems to have given the matter a fleeting thought is Liberal House Leader Allan Rock - and he says he has decided not to take a second crack at the leadership.

Basic agreement among parties defuses political 'slug-fest'



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of the Herald

While energy is the main topic of interest in the legislature this session, the opposition parties are having trouble getting their hooks into the government on the issue.

It's true discussion in the House on oil prices has generated quite a bit of publicity, but all three provincial parties agree in opposing rate hikes.

That takes a lot of sting out of the political infighting.

The Liberals and NDP have also tried to capitalize on fears that Ontario could run short of home heating oil supplies this winter.

But so long as the supply situation remains, as the government says, "tight but manageable," any real slugfest in the legislature remains only potential.

One is left with the impression the opposition is having trouble focusing on the issue.

All the ingredients are there, the difficulty is in getting the soup to mix.

The reason is that the opposition, like the government, doesn't really have a co-ordinated policy on how to deal with the key element of the energy crisis - people's use of the automobile.

The two opposition energy critics, MPP Julian Reed (L-Halton-Burlington) and MPP Evelyn Gigantes (NDP-Carleton Place), do have their strong points, mind you.

Reed is an expert on generating electricity from small-scale water-powered plants (the even has one at home) and other forms of renewable energy.

And nobody in the legislature knows as much about the technical side of nuclear power as Gigantes, who actually reads Ontario Hydro documents that no one else understands.

KEY POINT But none of this addresses the oil consumption problem directly, yet that is our only real energy problem. We have access to natural gas, electricity and coal in abundance.

Too much electricity, in fact, according to the opposition who keep complaining about Ontario Hydro's expansion

plans.

If oil is the breaking point then the government's target of stopping increases in per person oil consumption by 1985 is very worthwhile, and the opposition agrees.

But no one is saying how to go about it.

TWO IDEAS

Conservation won't work because, while it has been highly successful in many areas, most of the energy saved so far has been electrical - which is in surplus supply anyway.

True, substitution is being encouraged; natural gas to replace oil for home heating and electricity to replace oil for running some trains, automobiles and transit systems.

There's even hope that smaller cars and improved engine efficiency will mean better miles to the gallon over the next few decades.

But the crunch is now.

And one of the political parties has yet come to grips with the reality that people are going to drive cars and guzzle gasoline (half our oil consumption and increasing yearly) until high prices, lack of fuel, or government mandate forces them to cut back.

No wonder much of the energy debate is so tentative.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-November this year was close to the normal average temperature for the month as the maximum of 41.66 was only one degree below normal and the minimum of 25.30 was only two and a half degrees below normal, even in the morning, when it registered 13 below zero. We are almost a week into December and winter is still with us. Quite different from the start of December last year, as the thermometer was up to 58 degrees during the first week.

In a story featuring short biographies of candidates for municipal office: Mrs. Joe Emmerson, candidate for council in Ward 1, is the first lady ever to contest a seat on council. She is the mother of three children, and her husband is employed at Smith and Stone. She has appeared in several of the Apprentice Productions plays and is an enthusiastic Recreation Commission worker, being a member of the fund-raising committee.

During the past four years, there has been a 72 per cent increase in the number of telephones in Georgetown, Bell Telephone manager W.C. Misener says. There are now 1,470 telephones in use in Georgetown compared with 850 four years ago. Local calls average 4,900 per day against 2,730 then, and long distance calling has reached a daily average of 325, or 150 more than in 1945.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Completing his eighth term as mayor and his thirteenth as a member of town council, Jack Armstrong announced his retirement in a speech at a public meeting which followed nominations Thursday in the auditorium of Wrigglesworth school.

SMOKING A CRIME

"Juveniles who don't get along in school are the first to make themselves feel important by smoking," Magistrate Langdon said today as he reprimanded six Oakville juveniles who pleaded guilty to violations of the Federal Tobacco Restraint Act. The three boys and three girls were convicted of smoking. The act prohibits anyone under the age of 16 from using tobacco in any form. It provides a reprimand for a first offence, a \$1 fine for the second offence, and a \$4 fine for third and subsequent offences.

Five homes were entered and close to \$500 in money and valuables taken some time Friday night when a sneak thief did his Christmas shopping at the expense of homeowners who were out for the evening. One night's pilfering netted the burglar almost \$100 in 50-cent pieces, four rings worth \$300 and some articles of clothing. The break-ins all occurred between 5 and 8 p.m.

An investigation to see if the water main flushing can be stepped up and possibly changed system-wise was the result of a letter to council by G.H. Mundy, claiming the town was responsible for the loss of a number of items of clothing through dirty water. Mr. Mundy in writing said that several batches of laundry had been ruined by the dirty water and the wash is now being sent out to the laundry.

TEN YEARS AGO-A plan which would add two senior officials to the town staff and elevate one part-time position to full-time, was accepted by Georgetown council Monday. The report suggests a chief administrative officer who would be responsible for all staff activities and approve all appointments. Next in line would be a town engineer, a clerk-treasurer, a full-time welfare administrator, full-time building inspector and fire chief.

Darcy McKeough, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs, ruled out Halton as a separate community and made it plain he hasn't relinquished his original idea of a Halton-Peel region when he spoke at a Rotarians' dinner in Milton last week. Nixing the Halton county council proposal for a separate Halton region, he said, "I'm not willing to enact only those reforms that preserve the existing structure of county government."

SURPRISE GUEST

When billiard hall operator Ab Williams arrived home shortly before 11 p.m. last Wednesday night, he got a surprise reception. Standing in the shadows near the front door was a man, masked and armed, who stepped out to confront him as he arrived. Williams was able to bang his foot against the door which caused the would-be hold-up man to take flight.

A salary of \$18,000 a year for members of the Halton legislature has been called fair by Halton East MPP Jim Snow. This raise puts MPPs on the level of their counterparts in Ottawa and Quebec City. Snow said it used to be that the MPP did not spend as much time on government business as the federal members of parliament, but this has changed.

Council has asked Ontario Housing Corporation to make a survey to establish whether there is a need for low rental housing here. OHC has been conducting similar surveys in various parts of the province this year.

ONE YEAR AGO-Dates have been set by the Ontario Labor Relations Board to hear grievances filed last week by members of the Ontario Taxi Association against Glen Taxi owners Denis Devine and Les Markham. The association has alleged that the taxi owners tried to prevent the formation of the union by threatening union members and discriminating against them and also that the union members were denied money owed them because of their organizing activities.

Former regional chairman Ric Morrow and the regional councillors for Georgetown and Esqueping were invited to the Georgetown Area Ratepayers' Association meeting to talk about regional government, but they wound up being quizzed on their views towards the proposed Focal Properties development.

The Education Relations Commission has appointed Martin Teplitzky to act as mediator in the contract dispute between the Halton board of education and its 1,100 secondary school teachers. Mr. Teplitzky was appointed at the request of the board and the Halton Secondary School Teachers' association as negotiations continue in efforts to reach an agreement in the contract for the 1978-79 school year.

The Georgetown YM-YWCA is slightly less than half way toward its 1979 fund-raising goal of \$5,000 with only a week and a half left in the campaign. This is one group we

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