

## Contributions earn locals apt rewards

Scanning the entertainment pages of a daily newspaper, we were speculating on the overabundance of "award shows" these days. Currently, for example, the Golden Globe awards for cinematic achievements seem to attract as much attention and hold as much significance as the long established Oscars, and that's only the beginning.

In terms of show-biz it all seems a bit much; in terms of smaller-scale community achievement, though, it's an entirely different story.

Last week's announcement by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce that the business or business person of the year will be recognized with a new award, beginning this year, February 6, at a special ceremony at the North Halton Golf and Country Club, strikes us as very good news indeed.

Halton Hills is in the practice of recognizing its outstanding athletes and recreational accomplishments each year through a special series of awards presented by the town itself and a community-minded group of volunteers. The Athlete of the Year, the Sports Builder of the Year and the Hockey Heritage Council awards all go to deserving exemplifiers of community spirit.

For many years, the Georgetown Lions Club and the Acton Rotary Club have honored citizens of the year in their respective communities for outstanding contributions.

And so it should be with the business or business person who demonstrated commendable ethics and contributed toward the community's "economic and social well-being" during a given calendar year. In this case, recognition by one's peers will certainly draw the attention of the public as a whole and many will benefit from the annual presentation.

The only flaw in the idea we

perceive, in fact, involves the continuing reluctance or unwillingness of the Acton and Georgetown Chambers of Commerce to consolidate themselves in the intended spirit of a regionalized Halton Hills. Thus, only Georgetown businesses are eligible for the local Chamber's new award: it remains to be seen whether the Acton Chamber follows suit, but even that still leaves business people in Esquevating out in the cold, as it were.

The concept of consolidating the two existing chambers has, of course, been considered, but remains on the shelf indefinitely, with relations between the two organizations reduced to occasional mutual offers of co-operation. Apart from this, it seems the twain shall never meet.

Regardless, the Georgetown Chamber is to be commended for its decision to single out a member who has helped the community in which he operates with an award and a collective pat on the back.

As an added thought, we feel there is even more room for awards and recognition elsewhere in the community: last week, the city of Oakville honored its Senior Citizen of the Year at a special banquet which similarly represented the public's appreciation for a job well done. With lives full of accomplishment and activities, senior citizens are all too frequently neglected once they pass the age of retirement.

Perhaps a local service club or other community organization in search of a cause could consider seeking a worthy recipient of honors among the several seniors' residences in town, not to mention among the many leading even more independent lives elsewhere.

Now if we can just talk the Georgetown Little Theatre into launching a major, annual entertainment awards spectacular from the stage of Sacre Coeur Hall.



## Quebec right-winger's merger could give Clark strong base



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

This proposed merger of all right-wing political groups in Quebec has intriguing possibilities, particularly for the federal Tories who need all the help they can get in that province. With a little luck, they might even emerge with a provincial party, something they have never had before.

The "merger" — an up-beat expression that sounds better than any reference to the death of the once-proud Union Nationale Party — is being proposed by UN leader Rodrigue Biron, who had a few months of glory following the 1976 provincial election, but who has now been squeezed into relative obscurity between the forces of separatism and federalism.

His proposed merger would give him an opportunity to bail out with some dignity. But, more important, it also provides the federal Conservatives with a golden opportunity to pick up a ready-made provincial organization for next month's UN general election. It's true that the UN

organization may not be the envy of every political fence-mender but it's better than nothing — which is roughly what the Tories now have in Quebec.

Any party that can elect only two MPs in 75 ridings, as the Conservatives did last May, can't really lay claim to any province-wide structure.

### WANTS IN

Senator Lowell Murray, the man who orchestrated Joe Clark's successful election campaign, has already advocated a provincial organization in Quebec and now that a new party will be formed he says, "I want to see our people get into that process." The founding convention won't come until after the long-awaited referendum next spring, which will give the federal Tories all the time they need to orchestrate their scenario.

One of the major problems will be ensuring that they don't throw their lot in with disaffected separatists who have fallen out of favor with the Parti Quebecois. There is an odd assortment of philosophies among the right-wing splinter groups in Quebec. And one of those involved in the current negotiations is Rodrigue Tremblay, a former PQ cabinet minister, who quit the party after a blow-up with Premier Lesvesque.

Tremblay sees the new party as a vehicle for offering Quebecers a "third option" — presumably something different than the PQ's "sovereignty-association" and the Liberals' "renewed federalism." But since we are still having trouble sorting out the two existing options, it's

difficult to know what Tremblay is talking about. The federal Tories certainly can't afford to get saddled with any policies smacking of separatism — particularly when Quebec Liberals have carefully staked their claims to the federalist turf in the province.

But if the federal Tories and the surviving Union Nationale delegates can fend off the separatists and the ultra-nationalists to the point where the Clark government can embrace the new party's constitutional policies, it could be a historic landmark for Conservatives in the province.

### HELPED BEFORE

The federal party, which has never had a Quebec wing, traditionally received help from the Union Nationale — and back in the days of Maurice Duplessis, this help was not to be sneezed at. In 1957, the federal Tories under John Diefenbaker won only nine Quebec seats as it formed a minority government, but the following year, when Duplessis decided it would be prudent to help the federal Tories, they swept 50 seats in the province.

Mind you, the present-day UN Party bears little resemblance to the massive machine of the 1950's, but nonetheless, it managed to win more than 18 per cent of the popular vote in 1976 as more than 600,000 UN supporters turned out to elect 11 candidates. The basic organization is still in place, and if it became the foundation for the next Tory campaign in the province, that party could pull a few surprises next time around.

True, there are a good many "ifs," but certainly the potential is there.

## No apparent solution available to 'one per cent Hydro problem'



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald

You might call it the one per cent problem. If people ten years into the future use one per cent more — or less — electricity than experts today say they will, then all kinds of difficulties ensue.

That's what lies behind a majority report from the legislature's Hydro Affairs committee here that calls for a halt to the letting of contracts for Darlington nuclear station near Oshawa.

Darlington is the last committed power station in Ontario Hydro's massive building program, with a completion date of 1990.

But the Hydro Affairs' committee majority of Liberals and New Democrats say it won't be needed by then, that 1990 or even later is a more reasonable target date.

The Conservative minority on the committee, like Ontario Hydro, disagrees. And it is all because of that one per cent difference in predictions.

The Tory members stress the uncer-

tainty of future energy demand, and feel it more prudent to speak of growth in a broad two to four per cent range.

The committee majority prefers a two to three per cent growth figure.

The consequences arising for that one per cent are enormous.

### VERY UNCERTAIN

With four per cent growth in energy demand we would need not only Darlington with its four reactors, but three more stations of the same size by the year 2000.

That's at \$5 billion and 10 years building time a station.

With three per cent, however, Darlington and only one other station are required.

And at two per cent, the bottom figure used by both government and opposition MPPs on the committee, only Darlington would be needed, and it not until 2004.

### ONE PER CENT

At least one committee member, MPP Evelyn Gigantes (NDP-Carleton East), thinks even that figure is too high. She talks in terms of one per cent growth.

If she is correct we won't need Darlington until 2040, by which time many people hope we'll have passed through the nuclear fission age into something better.

Be that as it may, these one per cent differences mean billions of dollars, thousands of jobs, and years of labor.

Ontario Hydro today produces one-fifth more power than the province requires, the result of over-estimating a decade ago what demand would be today.

### NO BLAME

And who could blame the utility? Very few people foresaw the OPEC oil cartel and the dampening effect it has had on Western economic growth.

Yet, because it takes so long to build the plants to produce the electricity, the

decisions have to be taken 15 years ahead.

The elements that comprise energy planning include population and labor force growth, economic performance, the type of industry we have, how effective conservation is, and whether electricity will be substituted in large amounts for other energy.

Balancing all these factors is not an easy task, and that's why we have a one per cent problem.

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## Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown's new liquor store opened last Saturday. The store is located on Mill Street, in part of the Tom Hewson building. Attractively painted in two tones of green, with natural wood finish, mastic tile floor and fluorescent lighting, it is one of the most attractive stores in town. The new store will serve a wide area between Guelph and Toronto, being the only liquor outlet

between these two cities. One of the worst fires in recent years occurred last Saturday morning at the height of a wind storm when the huge barn on "Cleaveholm", the farm of Mayor Harold Cleave, burst into flame and was completely destroyed.

To add to the confusion, a hydro black-out had occurred shortly before the fire and it was impossible to sound the siren, which is electrically controlled from the telephone office. The girls at the office worked valiantly phoning firemen individually. Luckily the barn was roofed with sheet metal, because the 70-mile-an-hour gale tore chunks of burning metal from the roof and threw them across fields hundreds of yards away.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—"It is possible and probable that we will have a slight tax increase this year," warned Mayor Eric Hyde in his inaugural address to council Monday. "We must lighten the purse strings wherever we can." The mayor said it is his hope to end 1960 without a deficit.

The Hornby hunters have been out each Saturday this year, but have had little luck. They have gotten an occasional rabbit and seen a few foxes but they were not lucky enough to shoot them. On Saturday afternoon, west of Hornby, the fellows saw nineteen deer in a section. It was quite a spectacle, practically in their own back yards.

Georgetown will have two-thirds of a page in the recently published edition of the Social Register of Canada, the same amount as in the first edition. However, the number of local citizens recognized by the Society's Blue Book is fewer by twenty names.

Halton County has been granted \$45,000 for a 139-bed addition to the Halton Centennial Manor at Milton, in one of the five grants to homes for the aged announced last week by Welfare Minister Cecilie.

For the second year, members of the Acton Student Council, instead of giving each other Christmas presents, collected and donated \$52 to the Sunshine School for Retarded Children in Milton. Due to this and other financial help, the Retarded Children's Association is now looking for a building site to build a new centrally located school which will serve Georgetown, Acton, Milton and the surrounding areas.

Operating one of the five stores tied for leadership in the 1959 IGA Sales Stakes, Bob Caldwell and Bruce Williamson, co-owners of the Georgetown store, have won a cash prize in the contest. The local store just missed out on an all-expense ten-day trip to Florida which was first prize, when it was awarded to Fenelon Falls, as having shown the greatest sales increase.

TEN YEARS AGO—Little Shona Steele is alive today because her school chum just wouldn't let her go, and because a Norval man was in the right place at the right time. Shona, 8, was on her way home from Norval Public School Tuesday afternoon, with two friends, Janis Pomeroy and Mary Kranendonk, and they took a little side trip into the ice of the Credit River. Shona fell through the ice, and would have been swept away, but Janis grabbed her hand. Local resident Bert Carney heard the girls screaming for help and managed to pull them out of danger with a long stick.

Lorne McDonald, Q.C., has become associated with the law firm of Helson, Baines and Langdon. Mr. McDonald served as general counsel to the Hydro-electric Power Commission of Ontario for 13 years. Prior to that, he was deputy minister to Ontario Premier Leslie Frost and secretary to the cabinet.

Reconstruction of Highway 7 between Georgetown and Acton is getting closer. Halton MPP Jim Snow told the Herald Monday that the Department of Highways is calling tenders this week for clearing and fencing in preparation for the work. The reconstruction will follow the route of the present road, deviating only to round off the dangerous corners.

Ed Van Alphen of Park Motors has won a trip to Japan and Expo '70 for selling cars. Park Motors was second in the Ontario Toyota contest which started May 1, worth an all-expense paid trip to Japan for Ed and his wife.

ONE YEAR AGO—Members and supporters of Arts Plus, an umbrella organization for Halton Hills' performing arts groups, filled the town council chambers to overflowing Monday night in a successful bid to persuade the town's general committee to take immediate action on proposals that could ultimately lead to the construction of a multi-use theatre and arts complex.

Two men escaped injury Friday morning when fire swept through a three-apartment home at the corner of John and Guelph Streets. The blaze, which forced the closing of Highway 7 for about five hours, gutted the inside of the building, leaving three families homeless and destroyed most of their possessions.

The Halton Board of education agreed, reluctantly in some cases, to support an agreement proposed by provincial mediator Martin Teplitzky to settle the four-month-long contract dispute with its secondary school teachers. The one-year agreement grants the region's teachers a salary increase of six per cent across the board, with the resulting salaries, including benefits, costing the board \$30 million.