Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

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# Maximizing those 'conflicts of interest'

Magnus Paulson, consultant to area developers seeking to turn the old Chapel Street school into a private rest home, probably knew he was throwing a wrench into the works last month when he dropped a weighted hint in the laps of town councillors.

Little did he realize how hampering the wrench would be. "Have a look at the Municipal Conflicts of Interest Act," Mr. Paulson told council mysteriously when it became clear the politicians had no intention of approving the rest home.

The immediate result of the consultant's covert warning was a cautious declaration of conflict by Mayor Pete Pomeroy, followed soon after by similar announcement from councillors Roy Booth and Marilyn Serjeantson. three are council's representatives on the Georgetown Hospital Board, which continues to work on plans for a nursing home of its own.

Last week, the guarded advice of town solicitor Ray Steele helped council push the confusion and concern over possible conflicts to new heights by which even Magnus Paulson must be surprised.

Council's worries over the possibility that any affiliation with local boards and committeees might constitute a conflict of interest when related items come before council represent a classic example of rules and regulations tying up the job they were intended to expedite.

While stressing that they were about speaking largely "technicalities", Mr. Steele told councillors last week that it could be construed as a conflict, for

EDITOR'S NOTE: Georgetown

resident Enid Williams, who is

administrator of the Nornic Studio

for Performing Arts and compiles

The Herald's weekly Halton Hills

Arts Council column, has con-

tributed the following poem, one of

about 35 she has written under the

pen-name Blake Davidson, drawn

from the names of her two an-

cestral families. We feel the poem

reprinted here is a timely reminder

during the current election cam-

paign of the kind of virtues and

spirit which led to Confederation

and continue to act in support of

CANADA, MY HOME

By BLAKE DAVIDSON

A land of freedom, open spaces,

Wildlife and maples changing hue.

The first people of this vast country

Are pushed to corners small,

We never really understood

The early methods employed

By the natives of "Kanata",

We see our Inuit brother,

discovered.

The name the Indian supplied.

There in the far freezing North,

We ignore his rigorous life style,

His art work only recently

We settled two old world cultures,

The French with practical

The British with their protocol,

Still, in a short span of years

The Indian and the Inuit,

Their cultures stand tall.

We call ourselves Canadians

What does it mean to you -

our national unity.

A timely poem

about Lanada

example, when a council member who is also a Legionnaire votes on a proposed parade route through town.

Similar restrictions face councillors who are also members of the town's two chambers of commerce; several other instances were cited.

The absurdity of the situation did not go unobserved. Councillors acknowledged that they would be unable to follow through on much of the work before them if they had to take into account each and every outside affiliation. The Municipal Act is so allencompassing, it turns out, that it appears to have a section guarding against any and all posssible contraventions of law and fair

Council, of course, cannot be expected to take any further action on the conflicts of interest problem. Mr. Steele's assigned report on the apparent inequities will be submitted to Queen's Park and probably ignored by those who pass such legislation.

After that, councillors would be well-advised to keep Mr. Steele's warnings in mind when items of substantial importance come before them in future, but for the most part, their reaction to any restrictions imposed by municipal conflicts legislation should be simply guided by discretion.

Few voters and ratepayers would complain, for example, if councillors risked marginal public concern and possibly some personal criticism over an apparent conflict in the interest of getting their jcb done quickly, efficiently and, to all appearances, in the best interest of their ward and community.

Remained a complacent solo.

Ethnic groups did spring up

Across this great Dominion,

Now the time to look anew

Oh the smugness of it all,

At Canada, our country,

dreams.

streams.

varied,

remain free.

Province.

tresses;

titudes.

relations.

votes.

tight.

motto.

possessions.

They brought their skills and

Learned our language, settled by

With many cultures, diverse and

Differences volatile, will we

Complacence in business power,

Knowledge rose to shake a

Building another language tower.

There is space across this land

To respect two majestic for-

To understand linguistic foun-

Construct bridges to link Canada's

Force, together with hostile at-

Instead, build spirit to understand

The desires of others, build good

The money, authority, and future

Think of a country broad and tall,

Canadians cast forth your arms,

Embrace the exciting challenge

Mold the cultures into a mosaic

Stalwart and firm in one accord,

May wisdom, tolerance, be our

Keep Canada one, we shout aloud.

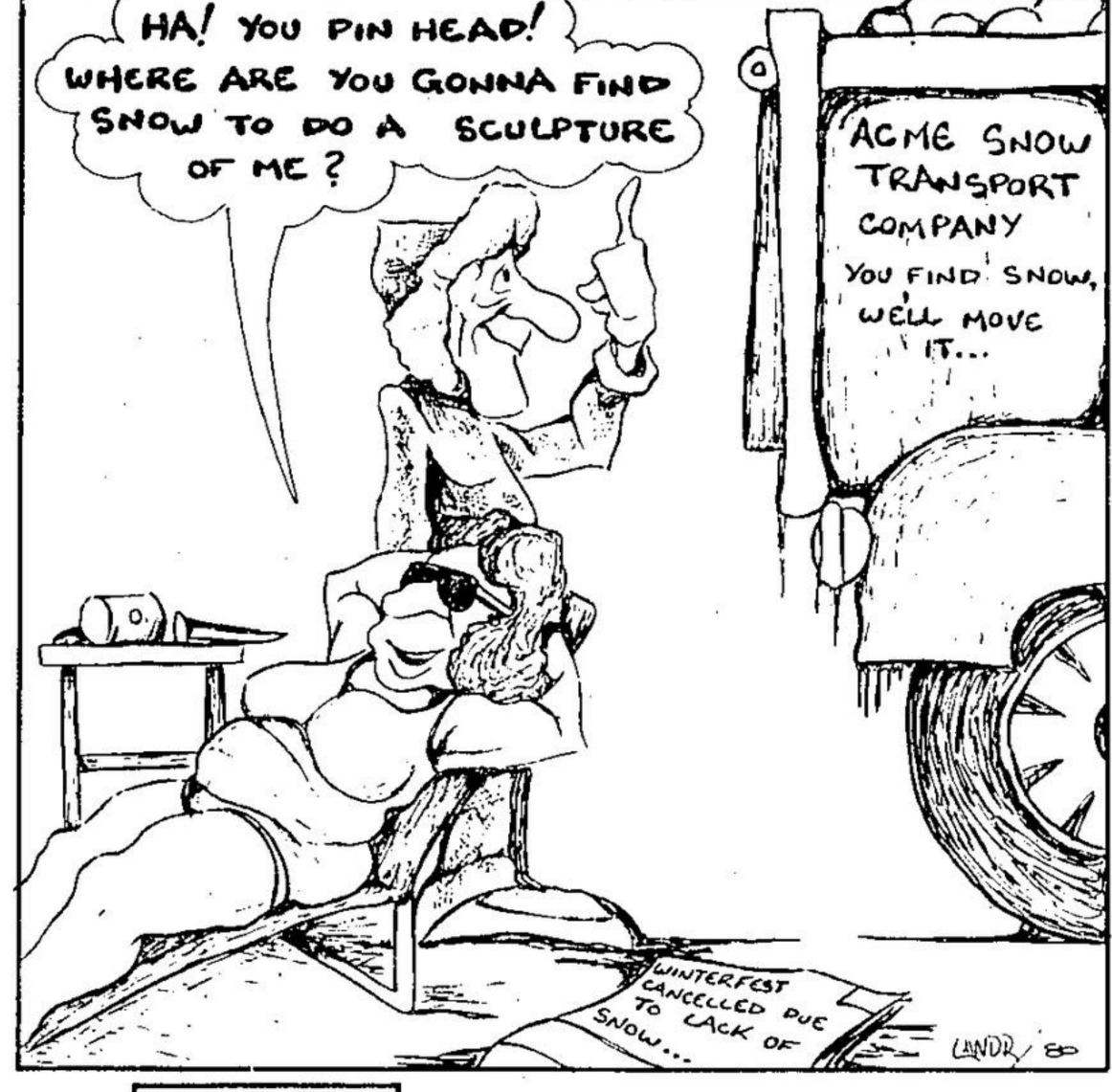
Erect a stronghold of might,

Let us all join together.

. Mesh together your peoples hopes.

Will only break a nation,

Leaders many look beyond



VIEWPOINT

## Soviet invasion recalls Hitler: the time to cry 'wolf' is now

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH We have begun a period of unprecedented crisis; when the dust settles, the face of our world will never be the same.

Canadians are found to be a "publically indifferent" nation. No matter what our views seldom do we take issue so strongly with anything that it interferes with our social lives.

A small example would be our political views. How many of us would consider avoiding a neighbor because he or she is NDP, Conservative, Liberal or anything else for that matter? We have an unspoken 'live and let live' policy - I mind my business; you mind yours.

Yet, despite any aggressiveness on our part, we are still as nationalistic and proud of our heritage as any other national-

If we had to choose a single word, we would choose "complacent" yet it would be a grave error to believe that our complacency is formed of true indifference.

ANTI-NAM In the United States of America, a theme of the Sixties was anti-Nam, "Hell no, we won't go" as young people lost all taste for a war so far away against an aggressor they couldn't even identify. Canadian youth was never really a part of that war. Today, the aggressor is easily identified and affects our nation as dramatically as the United States

and the rest of the "free"

The aggressor can be seen stepping out from behind the Iron Curtain pushing a war machine before him as Hitler did when he first moved into Poland. The nations of the world did not react to the beginning of the madman's march; shall history condemn us again for the same mis-

take?

Those who believe that Afghanistan is another long-term VietNam are sadly mistaken. No matter how fierce the tribal alliances of the Afghan people, they will be no match against the technology of the Russian military machine, Already, Russia has decontamination trucks in Afghanistan, raising the possibility of chemical warfare.

You can bet your bottom dollar that any NATO agreement or any other agreement on how the war should be fought will not be honored, just as all agreements and treaties have been ignored in time of war throughout history.

Russia's overall policy has not changed since Marx first mentioned it in 1867 - "world domination is a fixed star".

The American counter-attack of cutting off wheat supplies or any other trade embargo has all the effect of wet spaghetti on Russian policy. We in the west fear war, the loss of our people, the horror war brings and most of all, the nuclear holocaust.

While the communist nations of the world have trained their

youth towards the military, we have trained ours towards the "good life". While the communist ant has been diligently storing military harvest, we, the idle grasshoppers of the west, have played on our fiddle of unrealistic dreams.

As Canadians, we along with many other nations have left our defence to the might of America, as though one nation alone could fight our battles while our youth is protected from the reality of communist regimes. Now, we face a time of truth.

FREEDOM TO SURVIVE If freedom is to survive, we

must quickly take a stand. If the world at large merely looks distastefully at the Afghanistan invasion as just another political incident, we will soon watch helplessly as nation after nation falls to a communist government.

Afghanistan is the beginning of a war machine that will continue to roll with or without opposition.

What can we do? I believe that winning any-

thing begins with an attitude.

People throughout history have gone up and won, against the greatest possible odds.

Winning begins with taking a stand, first on the personal level, next on the national level. What wins is the "mind" of the winners; it becomes set in an attitude that will not accept defeat, no matter what the odds, no matter what the price. Idealistic it may be, but the time to cry "wolf" is now . not after the flock has been devoured.

There is an old adage about the uselessness of a bow and arrow against a tank, but a tank is merely a machine, driven by a man, and a man can be killed just as effectively with a bow and arrow as any other weapon. What makes the bow and arrow effective is the "mind" of the man wielding it The fight against suppression of the mind, which is the ultimate communist weapon, is worth any price, any challenge. Without freedom of thought, you kill the human spirit and you ultimately kill humanity.

The time of the 'wolf' is now.



**Ottawa** Report

> By Stewart MacLeod

next week

...returns

# Government aid to ski resorts insurance against bad weather



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

.Ski resorts in Ontario are crying the financial blues these days, so naturally they've turned to the government for aid. It's the "in" fashion.

The theory seems to be that private enterprise is great so long as one makes money, but government is better during the hard times.

Mild weather and lack of snow are blamed by the operators for their cash problems and resulting need for provincial aid.

The government response is unfortunately non-committal, when the resorts should have just been told point-blank that tax money was out of the question.

hnagine the rush to climb aboard the taxpayer gravy train if the government ever said yes.

If resort operators are to benefit because Mother Nature was light on snow this year, why not hotel and chalet owners, restauranteurs, bus lines or ski shop suppliers?

KAIN TOO What the government would be doing is insuring the tourist industry against the

weather, and if snow triggers financial help then why not rain or cold weather for summer resort operators?

One shudders to think of the consequences.

There are incidental concerns as well. To aid the three-quarters of the ski resorts that complain of a bad season is to discriminate against the one-quarter reporting "fairly good" ski conditions.

It would mean 75 per cent would receive a government subsidy to compete against the other 25 per cent.

If a resort has over-extended itself fmanerally and has to suffer bankruptey what of it?

The most famous ski resort in Ontario, Blue Mountain at Collingwood, was founded by a man who went bankrupt three times in the process.

RISKS TOO

Why shouldn't his corporate successors take the risks along with the profits? That's what private enterprise is all

It's especially noticeable that the complaining resorts have not gone so far as to refund money paid to them by season ticket-holders who have not been able to use the snowless slopes. The area is one the government is

well-advised to stay far away from. Not that one can blame the resort operators for trying. Everyone seems to be lining up for a share of tax dollars these

CHRYSLER TOO

At least the resort owners only want money for this year. In all liklihood the weather will revert to normal next winter. But Chrysler Corporation, for example, is likely to be a bottomless pit into which

tax dollars can be poured in a futile attempt to make the company competi-

Any time the government is inclined to give money to a losing proposition in the private sector it should think of Minaki Lodge in North-western Ontario.

That tourist resort needed a miserly few hundred thousand for the private operators to put it on its feet. It's \$20 million later and the government owns a lodge that still isn't open.

#### theHERALD

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### Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-A Halton County farmer, Harvey Nurse of Georgetown, ended up a winner at the Provincial Tractor Driving Championship held at the Coliseum in Toronto January 19. Mr. Nurse gained fourth place among the 60 contestants from 32 counties in Ontario who entered this Junior Farmer Equipment Project. For his skill in handling farm equipment machinery, he was presented with an Airfoam Tractor Seat and a prize-money cheque.

Douglas Gowdy, a former resident of Limehouse and a graduate of Georgetown High School, has been appointed business manager of Maclean's Magazine. Son of the late William Gowdy who lived for many years at Limehouse before moving to Acton, he has been manager of the Financial Post since 1942.

Grade 9 students at Georgetown High School will soon have the advantage of shop work and home economics training. The decision to have students go to Milton Iwo half-days weekly for these courses was made at a meeting of the North Halton High School District board on Monday

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Telephone and hydro poles came tumbling down like so many wooden soldiers at Ashgrove Friday when a tractor trailer owned by Burns Transport tangled with wires hanging low across the seventh line under their most recent coating of ice. The truck was just past the Ashgrove corners when it engaged the wires about the grill height. By the time the driver brought the truck to a hall, seven poles on each side of the road had been pulled down.

Georgetown's reeve, Doug Sargent, was elected Halton County warden when county council chose its 1960 presiding officer. The office was last held in Georgetown by Stan Allen, now su, .ntendent of Halton Centennial Manor.

A Junior Chamber of Commerce is a possibility if a minimum of 20 young Georgetown businessmen show interest-Formation of a Jaycee organization was discussed at a director's meeting of the Chamber of Commerce last week.

The Moore subdivision was on the agenda at Georgetown council Monday night as land surveyor William Carr showed a map outlining the new land use, explaining that the map showed only the intent of future development and that definite zoning comes later. Questioned as to why more industrial land is not contained in the subdivision, Harold Fobert explained that the government said there is enough industrial land in . town at present to serve a city of 175,000 and it will not sanction too much more such zoning.

Don Cheeseman is transferring his rug and upholstery cleaning business from Toronto to Georgetown. He has been conducting his business in Toronto, Rexdale, Malton and Weston districts for the past three years. While Queen Elizabeth was in Canada this summer, Mr. Cheeseman was called in to DeHavilland to clean the rugs and upholstery in the plane that was used for the Royal party's trip to the north.

TEN YEARS AGO--Halton County Health Unit approved the sewage and water system to be installed at the Golden Horseshoe Dragway, lot 29 Concession 6 and okayed the issuing of a building permit for the control tower and two builings to house the sanitary facilities, a letter informed Esquesing council Monday night. A special meeting of council will be held Friday night at which both supporters and opponents of the dragway would attend and no other business would be handled.

After 37 years as caretaker of Georgetown Cemetery, Harry Savings retired at the beginning of the year. For all but the last eight years, he was solely responsible for everything connected with the cemetery, including cutting the 15 acres of grass, grave digging and laying the foundations for monuments.

Beds in the corridor and an overtaxed emergency area were symptoms of overcrowding at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital this year. Commenting on the year-end report released this week, hospital administrator Fred Whittaker said "We keep pressing the government for the expansion which was approved in 1967 by the OHSC, but to date, no further approval has been received."

ONE YEAR AGO. The battle between the Ontario Taxi Association and the owners of Georgetown's Glen Taxi ended Monday with the verbal certification of Ontario's very first taxi union. Union members met Sunday to unanimously ratify a two-year contract which took effect Monday. The contract, which covers drivers, owners, owner-operators, and dispatchers, Includes a number of items such as wages, holiday and working hours.

About 75 Actonians packed the Trafalgar Road municipal centre last Tuesday as if to verify by their number the result of a recent survey which showed that 96 per cent of Acton shoppers believe Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd. should be permitted to follow through with its proposal to build a 100,000 square foot commercial plaza on the community's eastern boundary.

A planned two-storey addition to the Murray Memorial YMCA in Acton will stimulate use of the Y and add a much needed recreational facility to Acton, Keith Robbins, president of the Murray Memorial YMCA, said at the Y's annual meeting Wednesday. Mr. Robbins said the addition is only in the planning stages at present, but fairly tentalive dates for completion and type of facility have been determined.

The Halton Regional Police Commission has received the report by the Ontario Police Commission (OPC) on the Halton force last week, but the contents of the report won't be made public until after the local commissioners have met with the OPC to discuss the report some time before the end of the month.

Once again we misunderstood

The worth and contribution That each could make to Canada,

And build a bilingual nation. Instead, we often lived apart Within our cultural ghetto, Refrained from becoming a pot-