

Maximizing those 'conflicts of interest'

Magnus Paulson, consultant to area developers seeking to turn the old Chapel Street school into a private rest home...

Little did he realize how hampering the wrench would be. "Have a look at the Municipal Conflicts of Interest Act..."

The immediate result of the consultant's covert warning was a cautious declaration of conflict by Mayor Pete Pomeroy...

Last week, the guarded advice of town solicitor Ray Steele helped council push the confusion and concern over possible conflicts to new heights...

Council's worries over the possibility that any affiliation with local boards and committees might constitute a conflict of interest...

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

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

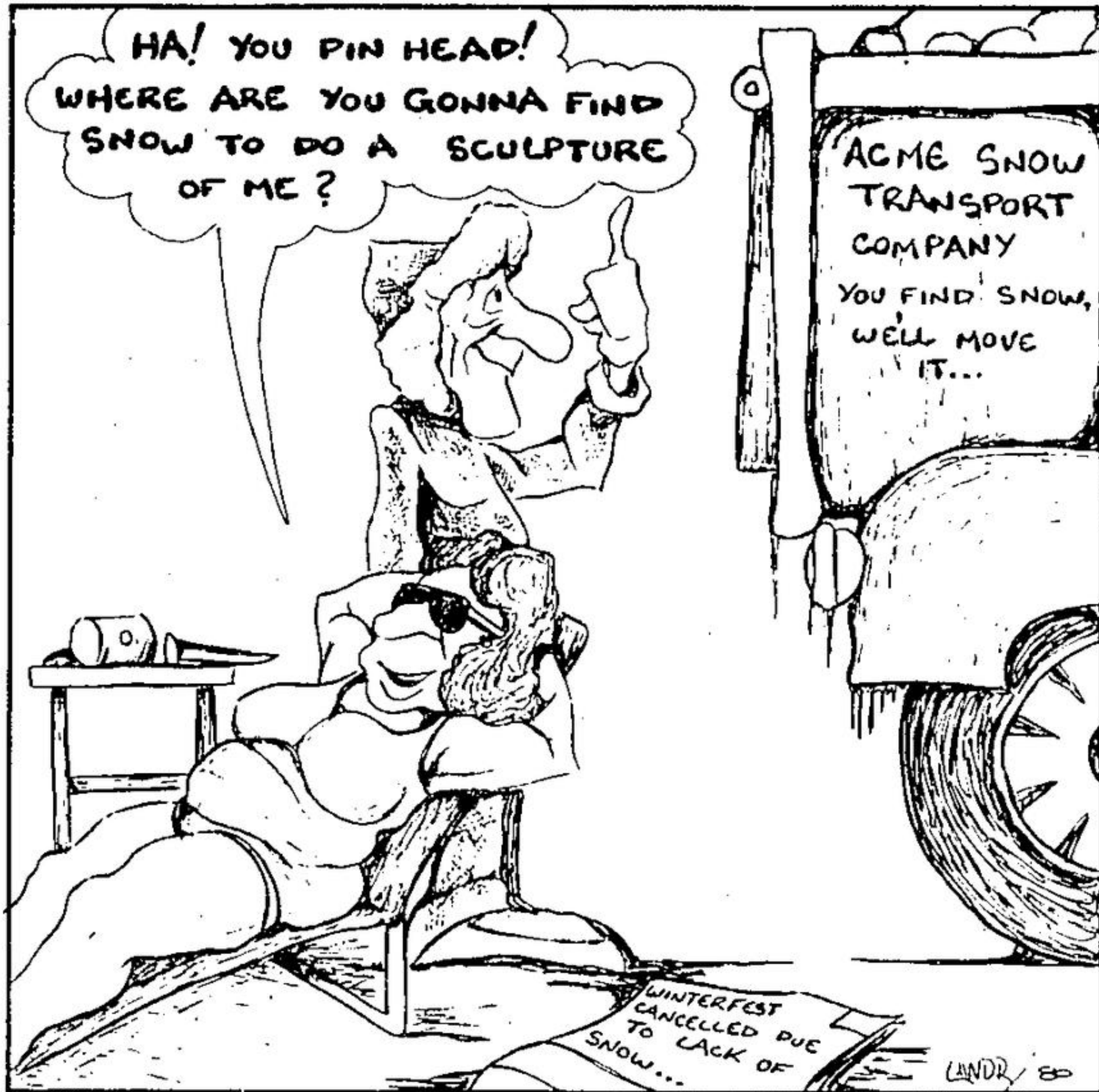
Similar restrictions face councillors who are also members of the town's two chambers of commerce; several other instances were cited.

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.

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...

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 job done quickly, efficiently and, to all appearances, in the best interest of their ward and community.



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.

Douglas Gowdy, a former resident of Limehouse and a graduate of Georgetown High School, has been appointed business manager of Maclean's Magazine.

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 two 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.

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...

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.

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.

TEN YEARS AGO-Halton County Health Unit approved the sewage and water system to be installed at the Golden Horseshoe Driveway, lot 29 Concession 6 and okayed the issuing of a building permit for the control tower and two buildings to house the sanitary facilities.

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 Whitlaker 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.

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.

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.

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 "publicly 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?

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

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.

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 mistake?

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.

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.

youth towards the military, we have trained ours towards the "good life". While the communist and 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 Afghan 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 anything 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.

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

...returns next week

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.

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 financially and has to suffer bankruptcy 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.

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

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.

tax dollars can be poured in a futile attempt to make the company competitive.

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.

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

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 days.

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

A timely poem about Canada

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 contributed the following poem, one of about 35 she has written under the pen-name Blake Davidson, drawn from the names of her two ancestral families. We feel the poem reprinted here is a timely reminder during the current election campaign of the kind of virtues and spirit which led to Confederation and continue to act in support of our national unity.

CANADA, MY HOME

By BLAKE DAVIDSON We call ourselves Canadians What does it mean to you - A land of freedom, open spaces, Wildlife and maples changing hue.

The first people of this vast country Are pushed to corners small, The Indian and the Inuit, Their cultures stand tall.

We never really understood The early methods employed By the natives of "Kanata". The name the Indian supplied.

There in the far freezing North, We see our Inuit brother, We ignore his rigorous life style, His art work only recently discovered.

Still, in a short span of years We settled two old world cultures, The British with their protocol, The French with practical structures.

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-

pourri, Remained a complacent solo.

Ethnic groups did spring up Across this great Dominion, They brought their skills and dreams, Learned our language, settled by streams.

Now the time to look anew At Canada, our country, With many cultures, diverse and varied, Differences volatile, will we remain free.

Oh the smugness of it all, Complacency in business power, Knowledge rose to shake a Province, Building another language tower.

There is space across this land To respect two majestic fortresses; To understand linguistic foundations, Construct bridges to link Canada's possessions.

Force, together with hostile attitudes, Will only break a nation. Instead, build spirit to understand The desires of others, build good relations.

Leaders many look beyond The money, authority, and future votes, Think of a country broad and tall, Mesh together your peoples hopes.

Canadians cast forth your arms, Embrace the exciting challenge raw, Erect a stronghold of might, Mold the cultures into a mosaic light.

Let us all join together, Stalwart and firm in one accord, May wisdom, tolerance, be our motto, Keep Canada one, we shout aloud.

Advertisement for the HERALD newspaper, including contact information for William Evdokimoff, Paul Dorsey, and Bob Walker, and a list of awards won by the paper.