

Mayor's gift accomplishes much for town

It's the kind of politics you only see in those idealistic old movies from the '40s: a local mayor gives away his current pay raise to publicly kick off fund-raising campaigns for two major projects which, now more than ever, will symbolize community spirit and municipal progress.

Giving us the best example of his own brand of community spirit, Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy has split his \$2,900 raise for 1980 between the new public subscription fund for the planned Georgetown cultural centre and the two-year old but newly-revived renovation fund for the old Acton town hall.

Making a dramatic move with precedents few and far between, our mayor has, with two personalized cheques, accomplished several things at once:

- garnered important public attention and empathy for the twin fund-raising projects most in the news;

- demonstrated by personal example the need for the general public, organizations, businesses and industries to financially support one fund to refurbish an integral part of Acton's past history and present community identity, and another fund for a facility destined to play an enormous role in Georgetown's future;

- dropped what may someday be referred to as "the hint heard 'round the world" for his colleagues on town council and, perhaps, even those at other levels of government who enjoy the casual "affluence" of automatic, annual pay hikes;

- enhanced his image as a sincere, public-spirited politician acutely aware of how important

such concrete examples and selective diplomacy can be.

Exactly how much of Mayor Pomeroy's bankable gift was motivated by sincerity and how much by election-year diplomacy is a matter of speculation, but the available facts show an elected official living up to his campaign promise of 1978 to reject or give away his annual raises during his first term. The first two years, he had reasoned, should be simply a "learning experience".

Ab Tennant and Rex Heslop, members of the cultural centre's building committee, have calculated that Georgetown residents will have to donate some \$200,000 toward the facility's \$1.7 million cost with the balance coming through provincial government grants and the town itself.

That figure is at the low end of Mayor Pomeroy's estimated projection of several months ago, and appears readily attainable to all concerned. We agree, and recall with civic pride the rapid, single-minded fund-raising drive which saw the community's old arena restored a few years ago.

With budget cutbacks and nationwide austerity programmes continuing, the mayor's donation goes a long way toward boosting public optimism over the future outcome of the Acton and Georgetown projects. Their success appears more than probable, after all, and yes, even the much-maligned Acton town hall project seems back on the right track again.

Our good mayor's set an example: let's all follow suit and lend our dollars to revive Acton's past, and cultivate Georgetown's future.



Liberal prediction accurate: MacEachen in front line



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Last December, just after the Clark government was defeated on that crucial confidence motion, a backbench Liberal MP offered this observation about the looming election: "If we lose this one, Allan MacEachen will never be able to wipe the egg off his face; if we win, he'll be the most powerful man in the country."

Well, the Liberals won. And I don't know whether MacEachen is the most powerful man in the country, but there aren't too many ahead of him. More than one political observer has compared him with C.D. Howe, the glowering kingly of the St. Laurent government who, like MacEachen, sat at the right hand of his prime minister.

It was MacEachen, more than any other MP, who orchestrated the defeat of the Tory government, and the reincarnation of Pierre Trudeau as prime minister of Canada. While Pierre Trudeau seemed to be wearily waiting for his successor to be selected, and while the Commons bickered over the Crosbie budget, it was MacEachen, the consummate politician, who decided it was the opportune time to pull the plug on Parliament and resurrect

a Trudeau government.

It was CONVINCING. It was MacEachen who, following the defeat of the Clark government, convinced Pierre Trudeau he should remain on and take another crack at the prime minister's office. There were other prominent Liberals, some of whom have paid the price, who were convinced the Grits could never regain power with a leader whose main campaign promise was to retire. Leadership hopefuls were already chomping at the bit for a run at the little. It was MacEachen's idea to leave them at the starting gate.

Without the unbridled support of MacEachen, who has been in Parliament for 23 years and in cabinet for 16 years, it is exceedingly doubtful whether Pierre Trudeau would have remained in politics. "MacEachen virtually promised Trudeau a victory," says a high Liberal official. "I've never seen such confidence, and Trudeau has a tremendous respect for his opinions."

MacEachen, who spent untold hours debating the issue with Trudeau finally convinced his leader that instead of slipping out of politics in defeat, he could vindicate himself and, after fighting the Quebec referendum, he could retire with his head held high. Then a Liberal leadership convention could be held without the pressures of an impending election.

Having successfully convinced Trudeau, MacEachen then retreated to his Cape Breton riding to wage his personal campaign for re-election. Apart from occasional consultations, he let others worry about the national campaign.

NO EGG Apart from the party's whitewashing in the West, things turned out pretty well

as MacEachen had predicted. He didn't have to worry about wiping egg off his face.

Now he sits at Trudeau's right hand, minister of finance and deputy prime minister. He probably had a wide choice of portfolios offered him, but he knew the prime minister wanted him in finance. And the veteran minister is, above all, a loyalist. He displayed this clearly back in 1978 when he agreed to give up the cushy external affairs portfolio to return to the thankless task of government house leader.

Now, in addition to his enormous finance responsibilities, MacEachen is serving on all the cabinet committees concerned with key policies. He is vice-chairman to Trudeau on the powerful planning and priorities committee, he's vice-chairman of Treasury Board, he's on the social development and foreign and defence policy committees and he's also a member of the Economic Development committee. His power would be impressive under an up-and-coming prime minister, but under a soon-to-retire leader, it's awesome.

Some say that MacEachen harbors prime ministerial ambitions, and while it's difficult to know how this curiously private person is thinking, I doubt he has any plans to run for the party leadership. If he did, he would surely have taken a more politically profitable portfolio. And I also suspect that French, not Gaelic, would have become his chief language interest.

No, I wouldn't bet on MacEachen becoming a leadership candidate, but I would be inclined to put my money on the candidate who manages to get MacEachen's support. That's what you call clout.

Little support for reforms from Queen's Park leaders



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Electoral reform is the kind of thing we read about in history books, something that began with responsible government, went through universal suffrage and the secret ballot, and ended with women obtaining the vote in 1917 in Ontario (1918 federally).

Since then changes to electoral laws have been slight, the most radical being the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 (in Ontario in 1971).

But now the winds of change are in the air again.

The prime reason, of course, is the desire to do something about the lack of representation from certain parts of the country by one party or the other in the federal parliament.

The Liberals don't exist west of the banks of the Red River in Manitoba, or the NDP east of Oshawa, while the Conservatives have but one seat in Quebec.

Yet all the parties took more than 10 per cent of the popular vote in each of those regions.

The result has been a spate of recommendations for reform, most of them urging some kind of proportional representation (PR) - meaning that a party winning 10 per cent of the vote wins 10 per cent of the seats.

ONTARIO VIEW

The reaction of Ontario political leaders to these reforms for Ontario, and what they think of PR for the provincial level, has been mixed. NDP leader Michael Cassidy loyally

supports federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent's PR suggestion for immediate PR appointments federally, but for now isn't keen on a PR system at the provincial level.

Liberal leader Stuart Smith likes the idea of PR for Ontario, but will only go so far as to say it might bear looking at for the province.

And Premier William Davis is unenthusiastic about it for either level of government, taking the truly conservative approach that what we have now has served us well - so why tinkler?

Actually the hesitation provincially by all three is conservative. The recommendation of PR for Ontario is an attempt to redress the upset many feel over the obvious imbalance between regional seats and regional votes.

NOTHERE

Interestingly, the Ontario legislature has a similar regional disparity in representation, the difference being very few people fell alienated by the result.

For example, Conservative MPPs are a vague memory in the Windsor-Essex area. Liberals barely represented in Metro Toronto and the North and NDP members missing in rural areas.

But those distortions tend to balance out in the end results.

There are 125 seats in the legislature, 63 being a majority.

In the last election, 1977, the Conservatives won 40 per cent of the vote, which would be 50 seats under a PR system. Instead they took 58.

The Liberals, with 32 per cent of the vote, should have had 40 seats, but won only 34, while the NDP, with 28 per cent, should have had 35 and only narrowly missed with 33.

FAR BACK In the current minority situation, those kind of differences are not terribly important. Although the 1975 results mirrored the popular vote even more closely, the same was less representative in earlier years.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - At a dinner meeting of the Retail Merchants Association last Wednesday at Reta's, president James Goodlet was delegated to ask town council to change parking regulations on Main Street.

Several members reported complaints from the shoppers about the parallel parking being tried as an experiment. The merchants are asking for angle parking on Main Street, except for the block between the hotel and Cordaro's, and for the establishment of a one-way street on Mill from the bank to the Legion Hall, with angle parking on one side.

A few months ago the merchants agreed on a 9 p.m. Saturday closing, provided neighboring towns could be persuaded to do the same. So far, Brampton and Hillsburgh have indicated their approval and Acton and Erin have it under consideration. There is no merchant's organization in Milton and it is difficult to get an expression of opinion from that town.

With an easy victory over Wainfleet last Wednesday, Georgetown Raiders took the series in three straight games and advanced to the semi-final round of the Intermediate B hockey playoffs. It was the fourteenth straight win for the Raiders and the fourth team which failed to win a game against Georgetown.

The Roxy features Mighty Joe Young, a picture about a girl who raises a baby gorilla to adulthood. Terry Moore and Ben Johnson star in the picture with the 10 most terrific thrills ever pictured.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - Leighton Ford, evangelist and associate of Billy Graham will appear in Georgetown to speak at a one-night rally on April 12 to be held at St. John's United Church. He will come to Georgetown as part of a preaching tour of central Ontario following a two week evangelistic crusade he will conduct in Renfrew, Ontario.

The local meeting is being sponsored by Georgetown Ministerial Association.

Against opposition of Mayor Ern Hyde, who thinks more industrial land should be allocated, Moore Park subdivision made its first step towards building when council on Monday ordered preparation of a bylaw amending the official plan to designate land use in the industrial, commercial and residential from its present agricultural.

Mayor Hyde claims there is valuable industrial land in the subdivision which will not be zoned as residential and green belt.

A Glen Williams Girl Guide has been credited with saving another youngster from a watery fate in the icy Credit River.

Eleven-year old Joy Haines was on her way from school last Tuesday, March 22 when she noticed Michael Golden, age 6, wading into the river after his mitt near the bridge in the centre of the village. The child had apparently dropped the mitt into the water while playing near there with a playmate Billy Robson.

As the current carried the mitt into deeper water young Michael started to pursue it but was stopped by Joy's shouts. He was standing in water above his waist and having some difficulty in standing when Joy reached him.

A small gang of juveniles ranging in ages from 11 to 14 were apprehended by police in connection with a rash of thefts perpetrated against stores in Georgetown and Brampton.

TEN YEARS AGO - If Joe Martin told you yesterday that he was 104 years old, he wasn't April fooling.

Georgetown's most senior of citizens marked his 104th birthday quietly at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Glassford, 9 Union Street, which has also been his home for the past several years.

While he confines his walking to indoors now, he hasn't lost any of his mental agility.

"The only thing wrong with me is old age," he told one of his visitors with the familiar wry smile.

Some people apparently think April Fool's Day is one date they can exhibit lunny symptoms without being suspect. Into that category belongs the bomb threat callers.

One of them, a girl, according to Georgetown High School vice principal Mac Baxter who took the call, phoned the school at 8:25 a.m. yesterday to say a bomb had been planted in the building.

Classes were suspended while firemen, police and teachers searched.

The Toronto Bantam Marlies used their superior size to advantage as they fashioned a 6-1 victory over the D series champions from Leavack in the finale. Three hours earlier they dominated play in winning their semi-final with Milton Legion. In their first game of the day, the A division final, they swept past another city entry, Toronto Firebirds, 6-1.

Over the tournament schedule, Marlies chalked up eight victories and a tie, the latter against another Metro team, Toronto Red Wings.

A water bill for \$80 was received by Marion Carlson, 54 Sargent Road, last month. She claims she is not in arrears and has paid every bill on time. Until now her highest bill was \$14.50, which was in summer.

According to the bill she used 151,000 gallons of water from the time of the previous reading. The water charge was \$33.54 plus sewer service charge of \$28.77, bringing the total to \$62.31.

A police raid, midnight Tuesday, March 24, on the Norval YMCA property yielded no illicit liquor or drugs. Milton OPP stated, however, there was evidence marijuana had been used. No seizures were made, no charges laid.

Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Goodbye to all that

The average reader may have problems empathizing, but it was a rather poignant moment for myself and other members of The Herald staff when we made our final trip to the newspaper's old Main Street quarters at the end of the moving operation last week.

Despite a couple of false starts, enthusiasm was maintained over the Big Move, the long-awaited switch to a modern building at 45 Guelph Street opposite the Carpet Barn and Silver Creek Towers. There, we knew, would be spacious, clean facilities awaiting our energies and ambitions with an eye to the future.

What we've left behind is a structurally-sound but badly worn two-story office which staff long ago outgrew. Limited renovations, I'm sure, will whip the old building into shape to serve a retail operation below and perhaps, once again, living quarters above.

Also left behind, of course, is the tradition, legacy and heritage that was as obvious to the casual visitor as it was to the seasoned employees therein, as plain as the rickety breathing of the job printing presses still housed in the back shop after nearly a century.

As late as Thursday, those presses still chugged along as they had for decades, cranking out with mechanical, armswinging regularity the last orders of business cards and printed programmes.

Elsewhere in the vacated building, the empty rooms which once bustled with various production operations were quiet, occupied only by leftover odds and ends scattered on the floor or broomed into the corners.

The editorial office, cleared of desks and filing cabinets, took on the appearance of the residential apartment it once was, cleaned out for the benefit of prospective tenants and suddenly (yes, quite abruptly despite our lengthy wait for the move) silent witness to the commotion that gripped the premises each Monday and Tuesday.

Mixed feelings over the move itself, of course, are quickly being edged aside by staff pride and enthusiasm over the new building, carpeted and clean, with the biggest bonus newly housed in the basement: a four-unit press which means, for the first time since its infancy, that The Herald will be printed on its own premises, rather than being shipped off to affiliated operations in Guelph, Cambridge or Orangeville.

All this and more will be on view for the general public during a grand opening celebration later this spring. While friends and customers can, of course, pop in anytime to visit or talk business, a big open house is being planned during which all interested parties, from carriers to contacts, can drop by and watch The Herald launch a new era.

Several weeks ago, I took it upon myself to bring The Herald History up to date with an article on the newspaper's latter years, mentioning by name the various editors and publishers who succeeded Walter Biehn as managers.

In doing so, a name which will be familiar to many Georgetonians was inadvertently omitted, and I'd like to amend my article accordingly here and now. Terry Harley was an integral part of The Herald's development during the later Biehn years, serving many years as editor while Walter was publisher.

The name and the contributions came back to me in a flash recently, leaving me all the more embarrassed about the oversight because Mr. Harley is also a former neighbor of mine with whom I was acquainted years before I ever considered journalism as a career.

A tip of the hat to Mr. Harley; may his returns to Georgetown remain frequent; he certainly has an open invitation to revisit The Herald and I personally hope he'll take a special role in the opening ceremonies a few weeks from now.

the HERALD

A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS

LIMITED

103 MAIN ST. SOUTH, GEORGETOWN, L7G 3E5

WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF

Publisher & General Manager

PAUL DORSEY

Managing Editor

Phone 877-2201

Second Class Mail Registered No. 943

AN AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

1978 Ontario Best All Round Best Sports

1978 Best News & Features

1975 Best Competition & Layout

1975 Best Editorial Page

Advertising is accepted on the condition that the advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that particular advertisement in which the error occurred.

Advertisements in which the error occurred after the last date for the acceptance of ads are not eligible for this award.

There shall be no liability for non-payment of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

National Advertising Offices

1100 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ont.

M5E 1A5

We've moved!
The Herald
is now located
at 45 Guelph St.
Georgetown