

## Here's to the Mike Brozics and a safe energy future

Across this land, there are thousands of Mike Brozics finding practical applications for new inventions which, to Canada's discredit, are still very much in the experimental stage.

Mike Brozic is the innovative signmaker whose Acton homestead features a power-generating windmill about which The Herald reported last week. Interestingly enough, the story caught the attention of another local wind power pioneer whose promising efforts should make another interesting feature.

Halton Hills also has its share of solar energy experimenters who similarly find practical applications for eye-catching designs and equipment in their day-to-day lives.

Advances in developing alternative energy sources are well documented, as is the moderate attention paid these pilot projects by the provincial and federal governments.

Also well documented are the frightening ramifications of nuclear energy, the potential threat to public health and safety and the apparently insoluble problem of nuclear waste disposal.

Yet the province continues to invest the bulk of its energy development funds into Ontario Hydro's ongoing vision of a safe, clean, nuclear-powered future in the hopes of offsetting rising oil prices. The trickle of wind and

solar energy projects continues with limited public funding.

If surveys are correct, a small majority of Ontario residents endorse this nuclear future, convinced perhaps by the awesome power shows of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, by the reassuringly quiet hum of nuclear facilities, by the unabated flow of fresh electricity into their living rooms that nuclear fission is yet another proper and orderly phase of evolution.

Somehow, to our frank amazement, the public has accepted Hydro's assurances about the safety of nuclear power ("Remember: Three Mile Island can't happen here") as well as the government's prioritization of energy sources. They are content to gamble on split atoms and leave the wind and the sun to dreamers and home handymen.

The practicality of harnessing wind and solar energy, in terms of scale, economics and adaptability, can no longer be challenged. For a government investment of modest size compared to the billions spent on reactors, "fringe" alternatives could be developed for daily use in most homes within a few years.

Let's open our minds to the less dangerous energy sources and press government representatives to re-channel funds for their development. Let's prepare a future that offers safe, as well as abundant energy to our children.



## Tories' federalism in danger as sole Quebec MP undecided



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Watching the various federal politicians thrash around aimlessly on the fringes of the Quebec Referendum, it's difficult to believe they have spent the last four years or so preparing for this debate.

This was one of the chief reasons why Pierre Trudeau decided to cancel his retirement plans and take another crack at the prime ministership. He wanted to take on Quebec Premier Rene Levesque in the referendum campaign - a campaign that he has talked about ever since the Parti Quebecois came to power in 1976. The issue has figured prominently in various Liberal campaigns, as voters were asked to consider what leader was best equipped to keep the country together.

The Conservatives were also prominent in this debate, frequently accusing Trudeau of being too much of a confrontationalist. The Tories, said Party Leader Joe Clark, on several occasions, would demonstrate to Quebecers that they could feel at home within a new, more flexible, federalism. Presumably this new

flexibility would be described in detail before Quebecers were asked to make their choices.

Now, with the referendum just ahead of us, and after the two major political parties have had four years to think about it, one could reasonably expect to hear Ottawa's voice in the debate.

So far, apart from scattered individual efforts, the silence has been thunderous.

### TRUDEAULATE

The impression I had was that Pierre Trudeau, once re-elected prime minister, could scarcely contain himself as he waited to lunge after Levesque. He has been rather scathing in his criticism of Joe Clark's more relaxed approach, and seemed anxious to prove himself an activist in this affair.

Perhaps he will become an active campaigner, but the referendum debate has already begun and I am not sure there is much time to waste. As the "Out" supporters are out collecting money and knocking on doors, the "No" supporters are still squabbling about their organization. And, more to the point, the federal MPs are still trying to decide what, if anything, to do.

Justice Minister Jean Chretien has been actively campaigning, after he and Provincial Leader Claude Ryan, managed to settle their differences for campaign purposes. The fact that these differences still remained at this late stage doesn't say much for the organizing abilities of the "No" supporters.

The role of federal politicians in the over-all federalist cause is still a matter of debate - surprising situation considering the time available to organize the united

campaign. Even Trudeau's battle plan is not yet in place.

### ROLE UNCLEAR

Maurice Dupras, the Liberal MP for Labelle, says that his own constituents are beginning to press him to get out and fight for the federalists. But there seems to be some confusion about what individual MPs should do, or can do, under the laws controlling spending. Even Ryan, who is chief engineer of the federalist campaign, doesn't seem to have a specific plan in mind for federal MPs. "If they feel they have role it's a decision to be taken by them," he says.

Presumably that applies to Pierre Trudeau, who also happens to be prime minister of the entire country.

I would have thought these little snags could have been ironed out long ago. And the Tories can't afford to be too critical about any Liberal disorganization, since they don't seem to have any idea of what their party might do. The Conservatives have only one MP from Quebec - Roch LaSalle - and he isn't even sure he will vote "No" in the referendum. Incredibly, he says his decision will depend on the performance of the Trudeau government in Ottawa.

When a national party has only one MP from Quebec and he is toying with the idea of supporting sovereignty-association, it's probably difficult to mount an effective federalist campaign.

But these are questions that should have been settled months, if not years ago. Even Rene Levesque must be quietly amazed that, at this stage, his federalist opponents still seem to be searching for guidance on the most talked-about issue since the Second World War.



### Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

## When Delrex plotted its secession

When Herald staff writer Lori Taylor pours through the paper's back issues every week to compile Halton's History for this page, she comes up with an occasional gem worthy of special attention.

It was 20 years ago this week, for example, that the newly-formed Delrex Ratepayers Association considered petitioning Georgetown council for a referendum on the subdivision's proposed secession from Georgetown and its incorporation as a separate municipality.

Delrex, for newer residents of Halton Hills, is regarded as the massive subdivision developed on "old Georgetown's" southern boundary during the late 1950s and early '60s by the late Rex Heslop, Sr. (Then came the Moore Park subdivision, tacked onto the northern boundary, but that's another story.)

Some 300 Delrex ratepayers endorsed their Association's petition 20 years ago asking town council to hold a vote on the subdivision's secession. The actual presentation of the petition, however, was delayed when ratepayers decided to investigate costs related to their concerns.

These "secessionists", as The Herald referred to them, were chiefly upset about a \$50,000 surplus in the town's "tax revenue" (sic) which was allegedly being used to subsidize the older areas of Georgetown. Another charge involved an apparent \$16,000 surplus in taxes collected around Delrex.

Association officials pointed out that council included no Delrex representative; in addition, roadwork programs, recreation and council's "negative attitude" toward Delrex and its role in the community also posed problems which residents believed were being ignored by council.

A majority vote among all Georgetown residents to allow Delrex's secession would have taken the question before the Ontario Municipal Board. In effect, secession would have returned Delrex to control by Esquering township.

Youthful Herald staffers will be watching the back issues as they unfold (again) to see what became of the association and why Delrex remained part of Georgetown. Any former Association members who recalls the circumstances would be more than welcome to contact us with the punchline and perhaps some additional perspective on the issues involved.

We all learn much about the future from the past; history's slow revolutions produced similar sentiments of a secessionist nature in Acton more recently, and I dare say the regionalization of Halton County has done much to keep those sentiments alive.

"Hopping right to it", read the caption under the front page color photo in Friday's Toronto Star. There, in an Easter bunny outfit borrowed from one of Alice's friends in Wonderland stood Georgetown's own Nick Lorito, atop Premier Bill Davis' launch the annual Cancer Society campaign.

Nick and Queen's Park press secretary Sally Barnes donned the bunny gear to raise some bucks selling daffodils to MPPs and civil servants. Nick, you'll recall, is the premier's chauffeur, who provided The Herald with some interesting feature material for a story a few months ago. Our congratulations to Nick for catching photographer Boris Spremo's eye and getting really involved in such a worthy cause.

## Jobs as personal property: when privilege becomes 'right'



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

When the NDP complains in the legislature about plant shutdowns they appear to be reflecting a growing change in society's values.

Keeping one's job is becoming increasingly viewed not as a contract between employer and employee, but as a permanent right.

The latest illustration comes with the closing of the Firestone tire plant in Whitby near Toronto.

"What action does the government now intend to take to maintain that plant and protect the 650 jobs which Firestone intends to eliminate?" NDP Leader Michael Cassidy asked in the legislature.

Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman had the standard answer: "We'll try, but the tire industry just has too much capacity."

Cassidy wanted a "public inquiry" where Firestone would be "compelled to justify the closure" so the industry in general would be intimidated into learning "Ontario won't put up with these kinds of closures."

Understandably, Grossman rejected Cassidy's demand as posturing.

### NOT NEEDED

Still, Grossman had to have the facts about the shutdown at his fingertips, and he had to say the government would "review the prospects for the plant."

That kind of knowledge, was not

required of a minister of the Crown a few decades ago.

It is all part of the growing trend in the Western world to treat employment not as a person's own responsibility, but as a permanent right, almost property.

Once property rights were restricted to "real" property like land, "personal" property like money, and "intangible" property like patents.

Now jobs are easing into the same category, with inalienable rights, as the NDP approach makes so plain, to lifetime employment that cannot be ended by a company without compensation.

### NEW LAWS

This "no expropriation without compensation" (to use the old term applied to land) means no company closures without the owners being responsible for retraining, new jobs or early pensions.

In this regard it was instructive to note that the second questioner on Firestone in the House, MPP Mike Breaugh (NDP-Oshawa), focused on early retirement pensions for older employees - even though it isn't in their union contract.

In the somewhat different context of bankruptcies and liquidations, the U.S. already gives employees' pensions first claim after taxes on the employer's assets, a protection traditionally reserved for creditors ("property").

Such a system is not yet law in Ontario, but plans for it are in the works. In Europe, the extreme has been reached in countries like Belgium where a redundant employee receives his lifetime salary upon severance.

### DRUCKER VIEW

Ontario lags, but then it was only a decade ago that laws were passed here requiring companies to give hefty advance notice of closures where large numbers of employees were affected. Firestone, for example, is 16 weeks. American social analyst Peter

Drucker suggests that as late as the Second World War ownership of "real" property (land, companies) gave access to "economic effectiveness and with it to social standing and political power."

But that isn't true anymore, jobs replacing lands as "means of access to social status, to personal opportunity, to achievement and to power."

This evolution of jobs into a kind of property, he adds, has increasingly made it a right. And "right" is the modern definition for anything that is sacred or unquestionable.

## Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-Sybil Bennett, KC, partner in the local legal firm of Dale and Bennett is the first president of a newly-formed national organization of Progressive Conservative women. She was elected to this office at the annual Conservative meeting being held in Ottawa this week. Miss Bennett has been prominent in the party for several years and is one of its most able public speakers.

Georgetown Skating Club presented its first annual Ice Revue last Friday under auspices of and with active support from Toronto Skating Club. It was a fine show from the opening "Mistress Mary" number by the junior members of the club to the finale when the whole cast appeared on the ice to take their bow. The skating highlight of the show was the appearance of Peter Firstbrook, the 1950 junior champion of Canada.

Much to the chagrin of a number of the Raiders' fans, the tickets allotted Georgetown for tomorrow (Thursday) night's game, were sold almost immediately. It is expected over 200 fans will make the trip to Bracebridge, including many who are taking a chance on obtaining tickets when they get there.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Avian Industries' experimental gyroplane crashed after an unscheduled takeoff at the Waterloo-Wellington Airport Friday, injuring the pilot, Emil Zuber of 74 Delrex Blvd. Mr. Zuber is in Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital with a severely fractured left ankle and possible back injuries. The two-seater aircraft which combines the principals of the helicopter and autogyro was undergoing taxing tests when it unexpectedly became airborne. It reached a height of 90 or 100 feet and then dropped to the ground. The aircraft had never been airborne before and was not intended to fly on the taxing tests.

Results received recently at the high school from the department of education place Georgetown High School in the 86th percentile in English and in the 79th percentile in Mathematics following recently administered Scholastic Aptitude Tests.

Renewing a request for negotiating a land release deal for remaining Delrex residential properties, council on Monday received a letter from the legal firm representing the Delrex developers, asking that negotiations be re-opened within 14 days. Mayor Ern Hyde denied that the town has broken off negotiations, and said the town has dealt with this request at least three times, and "all we can do is to write and refer back to our previous letter pointing out that release of more land is dependent on industrial development."

W.O. Brownridge has an egg in his house that is 33 years old. But his College Street neighbors need not worry. The egg is of the Smiles' or Chuckles Easter variety and has been kept as a souvenir all these years by Mr. Brownridge, who is not allowed to eat sweets. Two inches across by three inches, he reports the chocolate is as good as the day it was made.

TEN YEARS AGO-At the conference of counties and regions in Toronto last Wednesday, municipal affairs minister Darcy McKeough said he would not consider a Halton-only region. Halton county council recently endorsed a resolution calling for immediate action to establish a Halton-only region. Answering a question at Wednesday's conference, McKeough said he would not give regional government for this area any more consideration until after May 1. In any event, he would not even consider a Halton-only region.

Two UAW picketers have been arrested as the result of trouble on the picket line at Smith and Stone Ltd. Wednesday morning. The two pickets, both women, were arrested and charged with impeding after a Smith and Stone official, Pat Sedilia attempted to drive his car on to the plant property through the company's entrance on Ontario Street. When he was stopped, company officials called police and a Georgetown constable escorted the car through the picket lines.

A plan has been drafted for the co-ordination of all police departments in Halton county in the event of regional government. The report is the result of a series of meetings of Halton police department officials.

March was one of the highest months for births at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital since it opened ten years ago. Figures on the hospital's operation in March show 42 births during the month, compared to 30 for the same month in 1969. It brought the number to 91 births there this year.

Inability to find a suitable water source in the Glen Williams area has resulted in the Ontario Water Resources Commission asking Georgetown to reconsider its stand on refusing to supply water to that portion of Esquering Township. There was no comment when the letter was read at Monday's council meeting.

ONE YEAR AGO-The expansion of Acton's sewage treatment plant last year has been blamed for a 47 per cent increase in the community's mill rate for 1979, part of a \$36.7 million budget approved by Halton regional council last week. The cost of expanding the sewage plant, for which funds were debentured, as well as its operating costs for the past year, have been tacked on to Acton's region tax bill for 1979.

The furor that has arisen over town council's decision to increase ice rental rates at Halton Hills' three arenas is being transformed into an organized protest, that could call into question the entire spectrum of municipal spending. All sports and recreational groups affected by the recent decision to boost rental rates next September are expected to be represented by a joint delegation that will confront council to officially protest the move.

The Halton Regional Police Commission plans to replace the patrol van which figured prominently in the so-called "sweetbox trial" which took place earlier this year, but only after consultation with experts on specifications for the vehicle which would prevent a repeat of the incident, where several prisoners complained of extreme heat in the rear of a prisoner transport van.

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