

Real problems in Halton region

The Great Two-Week Mini-Debate sparked by Ward 2 Coun. Pat Patterson at a recent town council meeting came and went without generating much interest among either the public or those council members who were not directly involved in the brief discussion.

All of which belies the scale and importance of the real issues behind Coun. Patterson's charge that Halton region officials are spending money like "drunken sailors".

To be sure, the town councillors who sat back and wisely waited for this flurry of angry words to pass by were given little on which to focus their attention.

Coun. Patterson's complaints concerning the region's reconstruction of Trafalgar Road outside the municipal offices were characteristic of the frequent, conservative, rhetorical and somewhat off-base challenges he likes to launch from time to time against regional government and a kind of urban conspiracy he seems to think is threatening to shred the fabric of rural life.

His "opponent" in the "drunken sailors debate," Mayor Pete Pomeroy, mollified the Ward 2 councillor to a certain extent a week later with an equally off-base display of how regional council has spared Halton Hills taxpayers this year in its annual mill rate kick-off.

It seems to us there are two distinct issues at hand here, connected only by a fine line called financing: one involves regional services and the suggestion that certain communities, and particularly the rural areas, are receiving less now than they were under the old county system; the other is the related topic of rural roads, a political can of worms for any council.

Regarding the latter problem, a phone call to The Herald last week indicated that at least one Ward 2 ratepayer feels Coun. Patterson backed down too soon when he reloaded his guns and pointed them toward Queen's Park, rather than regional headquarters in Oakville.

The caller's big complaint about rural roads involved the allegedly poor surveying and construction of ditches and

culverts by either regional or town works crews. Poor drainage is causing plenty of Ward 2 landowners problems, she charged, and in many areas has weakened road foundations.

"I thought he had more guts," she complained about her elected representative.

Coun. Patterson, to his credit, finally acknowledged that regional government, for better or worse, is a creation of the Davis government and not something that bred overnight in south Halton. The inherent problems of the system came into sharp focus last week, however, not at town council, but at regional council.

Faced with the headache of trying to justify a 31 per cent education tax hike for 1980 and a 31.8 per cent regional tax hike against a one per cent municipal tax hike, Milton town council is now planning to petition Queen's Park to let the municipality secede from Halton region.

An angry Milton Mayor Don Gordon announced this latest challenge to regionalization last week, pointing out that the town entered the regional system, against its will like everyone else, with a balanced budget. Now, because of equalized cost-sharing across Halton and a growing Milton population, his municipality gets a kick in the wallet about 23 per cent harder than the light tap received by northern neighbors in Halton Hills.

Clearly, questions must be answered, and hopefully the answers will come from those who held the shotgun at Halton region's wedding in 1974. As relieved as we in Halton Hills can afford to be this year, our Milton colleagues deserve our support at least as far as resolving their long-outstanding complaints concerning rising mill rates.

Meanwhile, town council meetings here will continue to provide a forum for Coun. Patterson's repetitive but mindful jibes about regional government versus "the poor farmer". We hope he or someone else from Ward 2 provides a recognizable voice for Esqueping's genuine problems soon: budget figures from Mayor Pomeroy will act as a sandbag dam to the rising tide for only so long.



MPP's Olympic boycott endorsement prompts wrath against Soviets tyranny



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Listening as the Legislature endorsed a Canadian boycott of the Moscow Olympics, one had a feeling of sheer awe for what most of the participants were saying.

Such anti-Soviet rhetoric has been out of fashion for so long that it has become in trendy circles a kind of locker room joke, never mentioned in polite company without embarrassment.

For those who believe detente was merely a mirage and that the Cold War has actually intensified in the past decade, the debate was music to the ears.

True, the Legislature has no power in the matter, but the purpose of the resolution calling for a boycott was to send a signal to the federal government.

The vote was 57-16 (52 absent), with 31 Conservatives, 17 Liberals and nine NDP against four Liberals and 12 NDP, in favor of shunning Moscow.

The Soviet Empire, for once, was denounced for what it is, the most powerful, successful (and bloodiest) tyranny the world has ever seen, made more threatening today by being the world's number one military power as well.

HECK BY THE TIME I GET ACROSS THE HIGHWAY THIS HEALTH CLUB WILL BE APPROVED, BUILT AND OPERATING...

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

HEALTH CLUB PLANNED FOR HIGHWAY 7 AND DUNDAS ARCA

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - April is gone and the following is a comparison of the month's averages with the normal averages. Average maximum temperature was 48 degrees, three degrees below normal. Average minimum temperature was 26 degrees, five degrees below normal. Total rainfall was 2.64 inches which was half an inch above normal. Total snowfall six inches, double the normal average. Now you can make your own comment upon April, 1950.

A salary schedule for teachers in Georgetown, Acton and Milton high schools was adopted by North Halton District Board at its meeting Monday in Georgetown. The new schedule provides a salary of \$2,100 to \$3,500 for non-specialists and \$2,200 to \$3,600 for specialists of the staff, with an annual increment of \$100 until the maximum is reached. A new teacher coming on staff can benefit to the extent of \$500 for experience.

Halton Presbytery of the United Church at a meeting at Lowville last week, condemned the progressive commercialization of Sunday, which they feel is a symptom of paganism and ultimately a greater threat than even Communism. Christians must oppose this pressure and should be encouraged to make recreation a family matter, but not to patronize professional sports that draw huge crowds of spectators on Sundays.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - The average Georgetown taxpayers will face an extra \$15 to \$25 in his tax bill this year. Georgetown's new tax rate, set at Monday's council meeting, is 65 mills for residential properties, 69 mills for industrial and commercial. Uncollected taxes and contingencies pushed the mill rate up four mills this year.

Assistance in a location for lacrosse, either in the park or the arena was sought by a group of sportsmen when they interviewed council Monday. Herb Robinson and Red Asseltine were spokesmen for the men who last year started a boys' league Mr. Robinson explained that they had operated in the arena but thought that this year's council might assist them in getting a lacrosse box in the park.

Fire of unknown origin levelled a barn owned by Harold Brown of R.R.4, Georgetown last week. Mr. Brown and neighbors sawing wood near the farm home noticed the fire about 4 p.m. and sent a call to Georgetown Fire Department who rushed to the scene. The fire had gained headway and firemen were only able to prevent nearby buildings from igniting. Lost in the blaze were several pieces of equipment and a quantity of straw and hay, as well as seed grain for spring planting. All stock was removed from the building in the nick of time and taken to neighboring farms.

The Lorne Scots will be seen and heard on Channel 11 TV Sunday. Final scheduling of the program was announced this week by CHCH-TV's Dave Rogers, who said the units pipes and drums would be featured on the Jane Gray show at 11 a.m. April 28. The only Canadian band participating in the massed Military Bands Tattoo at the Edinburgh festival this August, the Lorne Scots' pipes and drums have brought honor to all of Canada and are attracting nation-wide publicity.

TEN YEARS AGO - After a lively battle Monday, council decided to go ahead with the hiring of a recreational director. The vote was 6 to 3 with Mayor Emmerson, Reeve Hunter and Coun. Ern Hyde opposed. Reeve W.F. Hunter warned of the mounting costs and urged council to wait till the budget was struck.

A reunion with a father she thought dead was the happy experience of Mrs. Jeanne Bourque three weeks ago. Mrs. Bourque lost track of her father, Pat Rodway, ten years ago when he moved from his about-to-be demolished home in London, England. In the move, he lost her address and that of her sister, Mrs. Joan Landry, Quebec. After trying to locate him for three years, Mrs. Bourque concluded her father was dead. Just recently, Mr. Rodway found her address in an old trunk and immediately wrote her. Upon receiving the letter and seeing the familiar handwriting, Mrs. Bourque dropped two bags of groceries.

The town is paying \$5,300 a month interest on borrowed money which was used to finance the Main Street bridge, because they have not received the grants due them from the Board of Transport and the CNR, Roads chairman W. Smith told council Monday night. MP Rod Whiting has already been contacted and has promised to try to expedite matters.

A second separate school for Georgetown has been given top priority by the Ontario Department of Education, said board chairman Peter Walters last week. The board has possession of the property needed for the school and Ontario Municipal Board approval of the project is all that is needed to get the project going.

ONE YEAR AGO - The \$1 million cultural and recreational complex proposed for development near Naval by Toronto-area Croatian-Canadians has been narrowly endorsed by the town planning board. A 5-5 vote last night from Coun. Mike Armstrong chairing the board meeting, to cast the deciding vote on a recommendation authorizing the preparation of a development agreement for the project.

Public mistrust of business is something business people are continuously working against, but according to Dr. and Mrs. Al Mikalachki, there are steps businesses can take to reduce that mistrust. Dr. and Mrs. Mikalachki, guest speakers at the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner meeting, have completed a study of children's attitude towards business, which indicates attitudes towards business have become very negative.

It will cost Halton region more than \$1 million to bring Acton's existing water distribution and sewage systems up to "an acceptable standard," consultants hired by the region have estimated. In the same report, the firm gives various estimates for the respective costs of expanding and improving the water and sewer systems to meet future needs.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

'I'm alright, Jack'

A conversation I had last week with a Georgetown resident who is personally involved with the problems of urbanizing farmland served to point out an important side issue to The Herald's April 23 editorial.

As the writer of that editorial, which found fault with a town consultant's recommendation to consider high-density housing when the time comes to redevelop the Dominion Seed House lands, I was somewhat surprised to meet with disagreement from this ruraly-oriented, fellow opponent of rampant urbanization.

My gut reaction is to answer "no-let's block housing altogether, leaving the Seed House lands as well as the fringe properties as they are".

Enter the problem of "elitism", or perhaps "isolationism" is a better word. Is it ethically right for a community to tell would-be developers and home buyers to simply look elsewhere, particularly in view of the currently enormous demand for homes?

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Tom Cossitt, the 57-year-old member of Parliament from Leeds, might be called a free-spirited Tory since he has always tended to do his own thing. And for the same reason, Hal Herbert, who is also 57 and the MP from Montreal-Vedoueil, might be called a free-spirited Liberal.

Cossitt achieved fame by his persistent questioning about expenditures made on behalf of Prime Minister Trudeau, with particular attention to that famous swimming pool at 24 Sussex Drive. And Herbert has popped up in the headlines from time to time as he levelled some considered criticism at his own party and its leadership.

Both men have, at times, annoyed their own colleagues.

But it was thought that Cossitt and Herbert, for different reasons, might be a bit more mellow in the new Parliament. For the first time, Cossitt has been appointed an opposition critic. Not only that, he recently remarried and, in the normal course of events, would be spending more time away from his parliamentary office.

And with the Quebec referendum campaign preoccupying Hal Herbert it was assumed he wouldn't have time to toss darts from the Liberal back-benches. We should have known better.

QUESTIONS GALORE When the new Parliament met this week, Herbert was ready to fire 215 complicated questions at the Liberal government he supports. And lest anyone think that added parliamentary responsibilities had zapped the zest of Cossitt, he came to Ottawa armed with 158 questions. It will be months before cabinet ministers and their staffs can formulate answers. And Heaven alone knows the cost.

Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Under parliamentary rules, MPs can ask the government pretty well any question that comes to mind. They are submitted in writing, and are published on the Commons order paper. Some deal with weighty affairs of state, others deal with trivia. The government, and that means any government, tends to look upon written questions as a nuisance. The authors of the questions invariably regard them as being next to the Beatitudes in terms of importance.

In any event, both Cossitt and Herbert have given the government enough research projects to keep a good many summer students employed.

TIME CONSUMING Even simple-looking inquiries can take time. Cossitt, for instance, wants to know who pays for those lappel flowers worn by the prime minister. It doesn't look like much of a question, but I talked to three people in Trudeau's office who didn't know.

And how about this simple inquiry: "What 10 constituencies have the highest percentage of senior citizens?" Or: "Are there any public servants receiving higher salaries than members of Parliament and, if so, how many?" Or: "Is it an established fact that caffeine can often cause cardiac arrhythmias?" Or: "Does the government have any plans for the two Cadillacs formerly used by the prime minister...what is the average miles obtained per gallon in the case of each vehicle?"

Some of Herbert's questions will require even more research. "What percentage of sporting goods used in

Canada are processed and manufactured in Canada?" he asks. "What is the present portion of the imported supply of wide flange steel beams as a percentage of total Canadian production?" Another one: "Does the government recognize dance, opera, music, theatre, literature, the visual arts, film and photography as art forms of federal interest?" And: "What percentage of all persons employed are in part-time jobs?"

In view of the fact that, on the second day of this new Parliament, there were already 568 questions on the order paper, it would be interesting if some free-spirited MP would ask how much the answers are costing us, the taxpayers.

the HERALD Home Newspaper of Halton Hills

A DIVISION OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS COMPANY LTD

45 GUELPH STREET, GEORGETOWN L7G 3Z6

WILLIAM EVDOKIMOFF, Publisher & General Manager

PAUL DORSEY, Managing Editor

DAVID BEATTIE, Advertising Manager

Phone 877-2201

Second Class Mail Registered No. 0743

AN AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

1979: Second Best All Round, Best Front Page, Best Competition & Layout, Best Photography, Best News & Features, Best Agricultural Story, Best Sports

1978: Best News & Features, Best News & Features, Best Competition & Layout, 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 the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Liability for such error is due to the negligence of the advertiser or otherwise and there shall be no liability for non-acceptation of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

National Advertising Offices: The Queen's Building, 45 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ont. M5H 1M2. Tel. 593-1111.