

Region travesties one after other - sewer rates next?

Imagine the discouragement, the sense of defeat and loss that might permeate municipal government in Halton if the region's most brilliantly shining example of collective and co-operative effort is suddenly trashed less than a year after its implementation.

We fail to see how any Oakville or Burlington regional councillor could derive satisfaction from voting against Halton's equalized sewer rate system, by which all four area municipalities in the region share roughly equal portions of the cost of sanitary sewer improvements in any given area.

Surely, their latest attempt to have Halton switch back to its old system of letting each town collect its own revenues and pay its own way without help from neighbors is merely an election eve ploy designed to convince gullible voters that the people they elected last time around are still struggling on their behalf.

And to be sure, it would be a relatively easy decision for any Burlington and Oakville voter to again back these councillors in the interest of saving a few dollars on next year's sewer bills. Most could probably care less about the region's mandate.

The region's mandate, as Mayor Pete Pomeroy warned colleagues at regional headquarters last week, includes the directive from Ontario to share costs equally; regional government was set up here largely so that the richer, industrial south could share its wealth with the economically less fortunate north, but councillors from the south still aren't too "region-minded", even six years after the region's creation.

Mayor Pomeroy's citing of Bill 151, the provincial legislation that formed Halton region, was a cool, strong and apparently effective device to force south Halton councillors to think twice about their ambition, even though the final vote on a

motion of deferral showed a scant, one-vote margin.

The possibilities of a huge legal battle, perhaps a prelude to some sort of non-contact "civil war" between the north and the south, are not that remote. Halton Hills appears to be on solid ground to challenge the region should council vote to revert back to its old sewer surcharge system.

Our appreciation goes to former regional chairman Ric Morrow for again coming forward with strong reminders for the region, advising it of its mandate as a "regional" council.

But imagine the discouragement should this prime example of regional solidarity collapse: the official plan remains a source of some contention even after getting provincial approval; the region's treasury is in an uproar over the stunning \$700,000 deficit that nobody anticipated; garbage collection bins at north Halton's only remaining dump are a topic of debate while giant legal wrangles hold up Halton's first "regional" landfill site; resource recovery is nowhere in sight; council still has not appointed a Medical Officer of Health to replace Dr. Joe Chamberlain, who retired in spring; a new business development director is needed following Bill Marshall's departure this month.

And on it goes, one travesty of bureaucratic bungling after another. We can't fault Halton Hills incumbents Mike Armstrong (Ward 4) or Roy Booth (Ward 3) for any specific shortcomings during the past term (quite the contrary in several instances), but we're alarmed that voters in those wards are so satisfied (perhaps empathetic?) that they'll allow acclamations in the midst of furious controversy. At least in Wards 1 and 2, challengers will give incumbents Ed Wood and Russ Miller a test and ratepayers will be polled for a vote of confidence - or a vote of non-confidence - as the names Whiting, Branch and Moulden appear on the ballots.



Rene acquires taste for power as Quebec ignores BNA talks



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Admittedly, the Parti Quebecois of Premier Rene Levesque is caught in a rather peculiar position. But, even so, this political somersault seems just a bit extreme.

Since the party's referendum on sovereignty-association was so resoundingly rejected by the Quebec people last May, it was obvious that the PQ, which now is bracing itself for another provincial election, had to dilute the strength of its commitment to Quebec independence—perhaps just slide it to the back burner and talk of other things. But, frankly, it never occurred to me that a non-referendum would actually become one of the party's planks.

In 1976, you'll remember, the PQ came to power in Quebec with a sacred promise that it would hold a referendum so the people could decide on the constitutional future of the province. Now, the party has decided to seek re-election with a sacred promise that, if returned to power, it will not hold a referendum.

Takes a bit of getting used to, doesn't it?

But at that recent three-day meeting of the party's National Council, there was overwhelming support for a resolution which said "the party is committed to not having a new referendum on sovereignty-association during a second mandate of the Parti Quebecois government."

And nothing could be clearer than that. PRACTICAL APPROACH Premier Levesque was preparing himself for some criticism as he emerged from the meeting. "Some of you journalists who have a knack for phrases may say that we have acquired a taste for power instead of a taste for Quebec." But he went on to point out that "in a democracy, you have to have a taste for power—otherwise you are just wasting your time."

And right now, the premier is convinced that the only way his Parti Quebecois can be returned to power is by promising not to bother the people again with another emotion-straining constitutional debate. The province is exhausted from the process. Even Claude Morin, Levesque's minister of intergovernmental affairs, the man who orchestrated virtually every move leading to the May 20 referendum, has clearly indicated that further constitutional discussions won't happen in the province.

"Polls show that people want to be left alone," said the pipe-puffing Morin. "People have had enough of it." He wants to postpone a provincial election until next spring so he won't even be forced to discuss the current constitutional debate now going on in Ottawa. "This fall if there is an election," he says, "we'll be forced to

talk a Prime Minister Trudeau's coup de force. I am not interested in talking about it."

It isn't easy to contemplate a Claude Morin who doesn't want to talk about things constitutional. Not so long ago, he seemed interested in little else.

MOOD CHANGE

But by listening to Quebec's provincial politicians and talking with that province's federal MPs, one quickly learns that the tide of nationalism which swept over the territory, and which climaxed with that May 20 tidal wave, now has ebbed. Not even Trudeau's controversial patriation package is yet causing a serious ripple, although it might be somewhat embarrassing for Quebec Liberal Leader Claude Ryan. And Premier Levesque, who talks of Trudeau's package being unjustifiable, insulting and threatening, has shown little initial inclination to use it as an election issue. Although, Heaven knows, he needs some kind of issue.

I would have thought that the PQ's National Council would have perhaps given the premier and his cabinet a free rein regarding a future referendum—not necessarily advocating it but ensuring that the option was still there if the mood of the people changed. The fact that delegates came from all over the province and decided overwhelmingly that the party's best political interests would be served by promising not to hold a referendum clearly says something about the current mood of the province.

At the moment, it would appear, a Quebec separatist simply has nowhere to find a comfortable home.

The acid rain tragedy: will new study meet hopes?



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Some kind of watershed has been reached in the surrounding Inco's Sudbury smelter operations. Two signs in particular stand out.

First is three ministry reports released here that indicate exactly what effect Inco's operations are having on acidity in provincial lakes.

The second, and somewhat earlier sign, is the new Environment Ministry control orders that will bring company emissions down near where they in truth should already be.

The big news in the provincial studies is that during the long shutdown at Inco due to the strike in late 1978 through to June 1979 acid rain fell as usual.

In other words, wind patterns are such that Inco's two per cent of continental sulphur dioxide pollution (the largest single source) is so dispersed that it falls everywhere.

PAIROTTI CONFIRMED It confirms Parrott's repeated comments that acid rain pollution is an international problem that must be dealt with in those terms.

Perhaps 80 per cent of the acid rain slowly killing several thousand Ontario lakes comes from the United States, and another 10 per cent from southern Ontario sources.

(Most of the lakes endangered are in the Canadian Shield, where many lack the natural buffering agents that allow other lakes like Superior or Simcoe to handle the mildly acid rain.)

At the same time, as the opposition demands and Parrott concedes, Ontario has to clean up its own backyard if it is going to be taken seriously by the Americans.

And that really comes down to tackling the symbolic large polluters like Inco and Ontario Hydro with its coal-fired generating plants.

MANY TONS

Being biggest Inco is first. The company had permission to pump 3,600 tons of pollutants into the atmosphere every day, even though it was technically (if not economically) feasible to reduce that to 1,500 tons.

Because of market conditions Inco has recently been averaging 2,500 tons, and the new control order makes that level official. Recently developed equipment must also be installed to bring emission levels down to 1,950 tons by the end of 1982.

KEY ACTION

But most important is that a new long-range program for discharges must be developed by the end of 1981, aimed at reducing pollution to the "lowest possible level."

Done properly, that study will examine whether opposition goals of 1,000 tons (liberal) or 750 tons (NDP) are legitimate. And whether, for example, a \$400 million commitment to new furnaces in Sudbury would be a worthwhile investment.

In any case there is finally a feeling of movement, as if all the players in the acid rain tragedy, from Inco to the Environment Ministry to other governments and even the

opposition critics, are all playing complementary roles, albeit with somewhat different emphases.

Above all ministry deadlines on long-term emissions are reasonable, time enough for adequate study, but in bureaucratic terms actually quite short. What has to be watched closely, however, is that the final product lives up to its advance billing.

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Halton's History From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—With a number of local organizations co-operating for four separate parties, Halloween should go off with a bang in Georgetown this year. The big evening of fun and entertainment will get underway with a parade led by the Lorne Scots Band, which will form up at the Presbyterian Church. Following this, the children will break up into different age groups and will be entertained at separate parties.

Georgetown Council met in special session on Tuesday evening for the purpose of amending the election bylaw. Instead of two weeks between nomination and election day, the time has been reduced to a single week. Council felt that the two-week system tried out the past few years took the interest out of an election campaign, and that the electors were tired of candidates calling for so long a period.

Television aerials are becoming more common in town. Lately we have noticed them at the homes of Jim Goodlet, Jack Armstrong, E.V. MacCurmack and Ray Bowers, as well as Jim Gumbell in the Glen.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Municipal water works for Glen Williams was forecast at Esquing Council meeting on Monday night. The recommendation was made in a letter from the Ontario Water Resources Commission, who expressed concern over sanitary conditions in the area. They felt many lots could not support both the beds and a well.

An exceptionally heavy blast at a district quarry caused anxious moments for householders in town and district Monday. The blast, which occurred about 6 p.m., shook houses over a wide area and local police were flooded with phone calls to ask what happened.

Monday brought the first snow in Georgetown, and in the morning there was a brisk little storm. Later the weather warmed, and the white coating disappeared in the sun's rays. It was a brief reminder that time is getting on and that the lovely fall weather this district has enjoyed is nearing an end.

Halton's population took a 5.51 per cent jump last year to a new record high of 111,867, county assessor Ford Rogers reported this week. Burlington with a 2,600 increase, and Trafalgar which added 2,100 to its rolls, made up the largest parts of the increase.

Town solicitor George Hewson advised council that he can see no legal barrier to Club Midtown charging admission for a Sunday charity show, providing it were held between 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Last week, a club official asked council for a ruling and Mr. Hewson was instructed to study the Lord's Day Alliance Act.

Halton County police have been instructed by Crown Attorney Peter McWilliams to crack down on charitable and religious groups offering lottery prizes worth more than \$50. Some prizes offered by county organizations have been worth up to \$5,000, Mr. McWilliams said. He asked the chiefs to warn offending groups before cracking down.

TEN YEARS AGO—Esquing Township plans to set up their own fire department and build their own fire hall, it was revealed Monday night at council. This fire hall will serve only the area now covered by Georgetown fire department, known as Esquing Fire Area No. 1.

There will be no vote in Georgetown on December 7 on liquor lounges. A planned plebiscite has been cancelled when council found that a special voters' list is necessary, which differs from the election list. The question of adding fluoride to the water supply will still be asked that day when voters choose their councillors, hydro, water and school trustees.

Mary Rhodes-Marrriott of RR3, Georgetown doesn't know for certain what she and her sister were watching in the sky over that part of Esquing Township Saturday night. They were en route to Mrs. Rhodes-Marrriott's home along the Ashgrove Sideroad when they spotted the white glow between the Fifth and Sixth Lines at about 10:15 p.m. The object seemed to approach to within two or three hundred yards of the car, and then kept pace with it for a distance. The object had a bright single light on the top and a larger white light on the bottom. They lost sight of it when it accelerated and disappeared.

Milton Brick have offered an old pit on their property as a garbage dump to serve Esquing and Nassagaweya. A letter came from the company to Esquing council, Monday night, making the suggestion. The land is on Lot 1, Concession 1, and according to Reeve Currie, has lots of space for a bigger garbage dump.

The pavilion at Hornby Community Park will be known as the King Pavilion in honor of the family who settled the land in 1830, Samuel and Jane King. At Sunday's official opening, the small hand of two-year-old Jamie King, the fifth generation King, named by his father, Leslie King, unveiled the plaque naming the new pavilion after his family, who at one time owned all the land between the Sixth and Seventh Lines on the base line.

Transport minister Don Jamieson told the Commons Tuesday that detailed studies have been completed on a site for a new Toronto Airport. Jamieson said that four possible sites are under consideration. He declined to reveal the exact location in order to avoid land speculation, but he did say that all four sites are between Toronto and Lake Simcoe. This would seem to rule out speculation that northern Halton County was being considered.

ONE YEAR AGO—Despite strong opposition from some members, the town has moved closer toward approving the two residential subdivisions proposed for Acton's east end as part of the "moderate growth" predicted for the community in the coming decade. Negotiations continue between town planning staff and P. Civiero Investments Ltd., which hopes to build 52 semi-detached homes off Churchill Road North and Cedar Road Developments Ltd., which has proposed 25 single-family homes for the opposite side of the road.

Town council has voted 8 to 1 to allow area hunters to trap furbearing animals in Halton Hills, despite Coun. Roy Booth's concern over the possibility that hunters may be using leghold traps, which he called "one of the cruelest traps I think we've ever devised."

Local artist Dorothy Stone has been awarded an honorary fellowship by the Heraldry Society of Canada. Miss Stone and Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon were the first women to be awarded Honorary fellowship.

The Acton town hall restoration committee decided Monday night to make the attempt to raise \$56,000 to restore the old building on the corner of Willow and Bower Streets. The money represents the citizens' share of the estimated \$36,000 needed to complete the work.

A five per cent ceiling on increases created by the upcoming equalization of regional taxation factors has trimmed an anticipated \$900,000 cost to Halton Hills by nearly two-thirds saving the average taxpayer here about \$30 in 1980. Equalization factors being introduced next year by the provincial government had threatened to boost the town's regional tax burden by nearly \$900,000 in 1980, according to town treasurer Ray King, but a recent announcement from Queen's Park should prove to be the taxpayers' saving grace, at least temporarily.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Top marks for GDHS

It was a bit of a treat for me visiting Georgetown high school Saturday to take part in the 1980 commencement. This time, I was presenting an award on The Herald's behalf; the last time I attended a GDHS commencement, it was as a graduate student.

That was eight years ago and, except for the indoor pool and one or two other improvements, the school's changed little since I left. What does seem to have changed substantially is the way students and teachers get along.

I'm not saying every student has become a close personal friend of every teacher; such relationships aren't always conducive to progressive education, but on the whole, there seemed to be much warmth and sincere goodwill Saturday tying the faculty as a whole to the graduating class.

And I couldn't help but be convinced by the testimony of several speakers that GDHS has made great strides in the past half-decade toward reaching one of the top few spots on a list of Ontario's best high schools. What few problems there are must certainly be common to all high schools to varying degrees, but as principal Mike Furlong correctly stated, they barely warrant consideration in light of the positive achievements of GDHS students.

I say quite frankly that in my five years at GDHS, I held little respect for Mr. Furlong's attitudes on group discipline and strict adherence to the rules of the day. While I'm no longer able to comment on those attitudes with any first-hand authority, I have to say that I was indeed impressed by his remarks Saturday. Both his humorous repartees with graduates and his much more serious challenge to any and all detractors to visit the school and witness its good works carried a great deal of truth and sincerity, highlighted as they

were by genuine and generous samplings of kindness and pride.

And the bottom line in any discussion of Mr. Furlong's contributions to the school, of course, has to be GDHS' steadily increasing success in all manner of student activities.

To Mr. Furlong and his staff, my sincere congratulations on turning out another impressive graduating class, complete with 24 more Ontario scholars. GDHS, my old school, is in the Top Ten and always climbing, and - yes - I do take some pride in that knowledge.

Saturday also gave me a chance to say hello to several former teachers, each of whom taught me more in the course of three years (Grades 11 through 13) than all of the university and college teachers I encountered during the two and a half years following my graduation. (The past-secondary academic life never did agree with me.)

Terry McDonald, I imagine, is still giving his GDHS art students the best of both worlds by guiding their projects through simple guidelines and special assignments while at the same time leaving ample room for their imaginations - and personal motivation to carry their work higher. Having proven my ability to him by Grade 11, I was allowed enough free rein in the subsequent terms to come up with some of its scope and ambition.

Phil Monaghan introduced me to many modern classes of literature in his English and Creative Writing classes which I still own copies of today. Stern-faced and sometimes intimidating in front of the class, he was, and no doubt still is, a deep well from which any interested student could draw all the insight and inspiration he needed to comprehend a novel.

I also caught a glimpse of Bill Bingham, another English coach who gave me support when I had anticipated none and thus helped build the confidence in me to let my talents come out and perform. Unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to say hello Saturday, but I hope he reads this and gets the message.

Before this column turns into my own overly emotional valedictory address, I'll close with a simple word of thanks, both to the current administration for allowing me a chance to visit, and to those former teachers - just so they know they're not forgotten once the university profs start lecturing.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Oct. 29 Glen town hall

Oct. 30 GDHS

Nov. 5 Centennial P.S.