

## Election (yawn): Is anyone out there listening?

It was a Monday night "town hall meeting" in Nassagaweya, area hotspot in the never-ending public assault on regional government, and sparks were flying over the "issues" of an issueless election.

Oddly enough, the region's defenders outnumbered its detractors at the Brookville Hall all-candidates meeting for Milton's Ward 3, but it wasn't until two new contenders squared off over the rules of procedure that voters in an audience of modest size began to enjoy themselves.

Grins of appreciation broke out in the crowd as Ward 3 opponents Bonnie Newton, current queen of the Nassagaweya separatists, and Mikki Goutouski exchanged a few verbal darts after the former reportedly tried to interrupt the latter's discourse on road improvements. Encouraging remarks from the gallery and a reticent meeting chairman let the spark catch fire long enough for the two women to debate reasons for the absence of several local incumbents, among other items.

For reasons that are all too apparent to the reporter in search of a fair and balanced account, all-candidates meetings these days often avoid this debate-style confrontation in which observers from the floor can get readily involved.

And whether or not this trend away from debates is helpful to voters, it is an understandable practice among meeting

organizers. Voters must simply look deeper themselves and read between the lines of campaign literature to assess the candidates and make their choices.

The Acton Chamber of Commerce, which always has provided a much-needed liaison between the community's politicians and electors, and the support-troubled Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association, again meeting the challenge to arrange candidates meetings for a less than enthusiastic populace, deserve special thanks in the midst of this boring election for trying to build and maintain some form of public interest.

The interest is simply not there this time around, as clearly shown by the low turnout at the three meetings held locally so far (there's another one tonight in Ward 4).

As mentioned elsewhere in this week's Herald, some candidates are startled at many homes along their campaign routes where voters express confusion over the basic municipal set-up in Halton and, in some cases, show little if any understanding of Monday's election itself.

Disturbing news at a time of so many small "crises" on the municipal scene, but it's bound to give the successful candidates food for thought while they're attempting to keep lines of communication open with constituents in the coming term.



## NDP-Trudeau negotiate to return constitution



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart  
MacLeod

All this happened after the prime minister and Broadbent spent more than an hour together, privately discussing the patriation package. And if they weren't talking about the NDP demands, and the prime minister's probable response, I would like to know what kept them together that long. I seriously doubt whether Trudeau was expressing his concern with Broadbent's constituency problems in Oshawa.

#### MORE CLUES

Another tipoff was the guarded reaction of Saskatchewan Premier Allan Blakeney who, beyond all doubt, has been in close contact with Broadbent from the beginning. And since the constitutional debate began in Parliament, Blakeney has had provincial officials in Ottawa on several occasions discussing possible compromises with Prime Minister Trudeau's people. A deal has been in the works from the beginning.

It was vitally important to the prime minister that he get NDP support for this patriation package, which is being brought on a confusing assortment of fronts by various Conservative governments. Without an elected MP west of Winnipeg, the Liberals desperately need voting support from the West and the New Democrats just happen to have 26 MPs from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. And no one should underestimate the importance of getting official support from the provincial government in Saskatchewan.

As Broadbent said immediately after Trudeau's announced compromise, "I haven't the slightest doubt that Mr. Blakeney will be

pleased." And he should know.

#### MEETS DEMANDS

What the prime minister offered in exchange for NDP support was to grant the provinces the right to levy indirect taxes on non-renewable resources. The federal government would also share the power over interprovincial trade in non-renewable resources with the provinces. However, in the case of a dispute, the federal view would prevail.

In his letter to Broadbent, the prime minister also said the patriation package would be amended to confirm the jurisdiction of the provinces over the exploration, development, conservation and management of natural resources, and forestry resources. This is what Broadbent had sought all along.

And it obviously wasn't a painful compromise for the prime minister. These provisions were part of the federal proposals made to the provinces last February and were the subject of discussion throughout the summer-long negotiations at the ministerial level. But these offers were withdrawn, along with others, when the constitutional talks collapsed in September.

Broadbent says he would like to get other changes—in the amending formula, in women's rights and in native rights. This will be discussed when the resolution goes to committee. And don't be too surprised if he gets them. Right now Pierre Trudeau would probably perform headstands on the Peace Tower to get NDP support for his constitutional package. And he'll probably get this support without even having to go all the way back to his original minimums.

## Davis' devious new tactic to revitalize trade system



### Queen's Park

By Derek  
Nelson

#### Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Premier William Davis has added a new twist to his campaign here against what he calls the nay-sayers and donkeys who dominate the opposition Liberal and NDP benches.

When members of these two parties speak about Ontario's industrial decline, they are actually attacking the working people of Ontario, he said. "You go around knocking work done by Canadians."

"You are doing the people of this province no service in having that overall condemnation of the men and women in the manufacturing sector because the reality is that they can compete," he said.

He specifically took issue with a comment by Opposition Leader Stuart Smith, who labelled Ontario's manufacturing sector the "crummiest" in the western world.

"It is not true. It is not fair. It is not

factual," Davis protested.

The premier spoke in the legislature during discussion of the money being spent by his office, the best chance annually for the three party leaders to indulge in some give-and-take on ideas wide-face-to-face.

#### IN DISPUTE

Smith, rising on a point of privilege, denied he was attacking the abilities of Ontario working people. Then he outlined once again the case he has been arguing for several years.

Canada (not Ontario) has an \$18 billion trade deficit in manufactured goods, that grows larger year-by-year, and since Ontario is the "industrial heartland" of the country Smith believes the "bad performance" is centred here.

"It has nothing to do with workers and nothing to do with Canadian-owned industries."

"It has to do with our foreign-owned branch-plant manufacturing sector which is largely not doing the research (and development required), and whose function is not to compete internationally," he said.

In reply Davis outlined his basic position, which states that in these troubled economic times Ontario is doing a lot better than its neighbours.

#### STAY CLOSE

"Do not tell me all about Sweden, West Germany, or Japan. Take a look at the states of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York—the places that combine to be our real competition economically."

"Look at the figures there. Look at what we have accomplished and what is happening in those jurisdictions," he said.

He wanted to know somewhere of "comparable nature where they have made greater progress in economic development, where their employment figures are better, where their standard of living is better, where their opportunities are better."

Smith interjected that "look in the parking lot and you'll see Japan is our competition."

And that set off a further exchange on the nature of Japanese society and industrial policy, and incidentally highlighted a few apparent contradictions in each man's views.

Davis, for example, frowned on Japan's "massive government involvement" in the economy, but expressed pride in Ontario's huge investment in futuristic transit technology.

Smith, who wants provincial support for high technology industry, has long criticized just such an investment in the transit technology.

From an observer's perspective it looks like a matter of degree. Smith must be critical of an industrial base that has severe problems without appearing destructive while trying on the sly (through grants to industry, new trade approaches and so on) to rejuvenate an ailing system.

## Halton's History

From our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**—The sale of Carroll's Grocery Stores, Hamilton, who operate stores in this district at Georgetown, Acton and Milton, has been announced. The purchase has been made by M.R. Gilmore of Toronto and two Montreal associates. Purchase price has been announced as "in excess of \$750,000."

A former Georgetown man, Vic Diggins, was a member of a hunting party last week which bagged Big Joe, king of the local elk herd. The big beast, which wild life officials said weighed more than 1,000 pounds, was shot by Major J.E. Hahn, millionaire industrialist, near the provincial fish hatchery at Balsam Creek. Major Hahn was using a .375 Greening double-barrelled big game rifle which he had used to kill tigers and panthers in hunting expeditions to India.

Men who lost their lives in two World Wars will be remembered at a solemn service on Saturday morning at the cenotaph. All local places of business will close from 10:30 until noon in order that everyone will be free to attend the service.

Harry Malone, a star Georgetown hockey player several years ago, has moved back to town. With his wife, the former Margaret King, he is living in the Grandview Apartments on Queen Street.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**—The Georgetown High School addition is in the official discussion stage. A delegation of high school board members conferred with the Ontario Department of Education at Queen's Park Tuesday and outlined the addition, which will include another single gymnasium to create a double gym, a cafeteria, two industrial art rooms, a home economics room, a science room and one, possibly more, classrooms.

The controversial Wilson property which has been the subject of much discussion by the Council over the past year, has been expropriated by the federal Department of Public Works. While no announcement has been made by the department, the action would indicate that the government is considering building a new post office at the Maple Highway 7 corner at some further date.

Changes for ice time at the arena were mentioned when Coun. John Gunn brought the matter up for discussion at the close of Monday's council meeting. The councillor said he had been approached by hockey clubs who said an increased hourly fee is working a hardship on their operations and wondered if council might intervene on their behalf.

The Honorable Lester B. Pearson, leader of the Liberal party in Canada, will be guest speaker at the luncheon given by the Ontario Women's Liberal Association to be held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on Nov. 12. Miss Judy LaMarsh, recently elected Liberal member of parliament for Niagara Falls, is scheduled as panel participant in the semi-annual meeting. In attendance will be women from every riding in Ontario, including several from the Georgetown district.

Dial service was introduced to residents in Snelgrove, Victoria and Huttonville last weekend. Crews of telephone craftsmen stood by early Sunday morning to disconnect the present manual facilities in these three localities while others put the new equipment into operation, a task which took less than two minutes to complete.

Following recent complaints of loud explosions at Armstrong's quarry in Limehouse, Esquesing Council decided to secure copies of bylaws in operation in other municipalities controlling stone quarries.

**TEN YEARS AGO**—Unanimous approval for a \$350,000 town grant to a hospital addition was expressed Monday when council passed two readings of a bylaw. But councillors want to know if Esquesing is going to come up with a \$150,000 grant before finalizing the bylaw.

Georgetown Council have resigned themselves to the new Esquesing fire department as a fait accompli. On Monday, Reeve Hunter criticized the town for not consulting the town in its plans to break away from its sharing arrangement. Town council first learned about it when The Herald reported after a township meeting that Esquesing had accepted a tender for building a fire hall.

The proposed widening of Main Street South into a four-lane road was stopped by the Ontario Municipal Board at the conclusion of a two-day hearing Tuesday afternoon. They dismissed the application to dispense with the vote by the electors, made by the town, saying they would not approve the expenditure.

Three hundred and ninety seven pupils in one large open area sounds like chaos to many people, but not to staff and students of Joseph Gibbons School, Georgetown's newest school, known as an open concept school. Here the 397 pupils are spread out over ten teaching areas, surrounding a large open library resource centre.

A fire in a silo on the old Alexander farm on the Eighth line south of Georgetown called firemen out five days in a row and injured two firemen. Tom Massena was overcome by smoke and taken to hospital while Brian Fyfe tore ligaments in his shoulder. The persistent fire started burning Wednesday night. Firemen were called again Thursday, with some of the firemen there all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. Water is still being poured into the silo at press time.

The Georgetown Recreation Committee gave permission to the Intermediate Raider Hockey Club to rent advertising space on certain parts of the arena walls. This will be a financial income for the hockey club. All signs must be approved by the Recreation Director before being displayed with no advertising for cigarettes or intoxicating beverages.

Fences around schools are being taken down so the public can get in. Halton board of education chairman Doug Wood of north Oakville said last Wednesday. He was talking part in a joint seminar at Milton High School. To back up his claim, Wood cited statistics which show that 242 outside activities per week took place in 66 different Halton public schools this fall.

**ONE YEAR AGO**—Mayor Pete Pomeroy has persuaded town council to postpone any development commitments for land south of Georgetown, despite charges that the move is a prelude to approval for the massive housing scheme of Focal Properties Ltd. Coun. Harry Levy accused Mayor Pomeroy Monday night of making fellow council members "look like a bunch of idiots" by holding private meetings without their knowledge with developers who have land holding interests in the rural area south of Silver Creek.

Town council has stopped just short of scrapping plans for the conversion of Chapel Street school into a rest home following a hard-hitting attack from the developer involved. Magnus Paulson, consultant and spokesman for Chateau Belair Developments and Reid Cooper Ltd., questioned the "democracy" of a recommendation by Coun. Roy Booth which would have seen the conversion scheme abandoned by nearly a year after it was first unveiled to the town.

A Georgetown man has been reunited after 24 years, with a friend he served overseas with during the Second World War. Cal Fawcett was reunited this summer with a friend, Father Ted Roy, with whom he had served during the war. Both were attached to the Number 6 Bomber Group, stationed in Yorkshire, England.



### Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

## Why wear a poppy?

"Tut" Harrison, the former Georgetown councillor who's still making his contributions to the community in various ways, dropped by the office this week with a poetic reminder about the idea behind Remembrance Day, taking place this year on Sunday. He's not sure who the author is, but has had the poem on hand for nearly a year hoping to make some special use of it.

Mr. Harrison and comrades from the Royal Canadian Legion, branches 120 and 197, will be out all this week selling poppies to raise funds for Remembrance Day wreaths, etc.

#### WHY WEAR A POPPY?

"Please wear a poppy," the lady said,  
And held one forth, but I shook my head.  
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them  
there,  
and her face was old and lined with care,  
But beneath the scars the years had made  
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,  
Bouncing along on care-free feet,  
His smile was full of joy and fun.  
"Lady," said he, "may I have one?"  
When she'd pinned it on he turned to say,  
"Why do we wear a poppy today?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way,  
And answered "This is Remembrance Day  
And the poppy there is the symbol for  
The gallant men who died in war.  
And because they did you and I are free -  
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.

"I had a boy about your size,  
With golden hair and big blue eyes.  
He loved to play and jump and shout,  
Free as a bird he would race about.  
As the years went by he learned and grew  
And became a man - as you will, too.

He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,  
But he seemed with us such a little while.  
When war broke out and he went away,  
I still remember his face that day  
When he smiled and said, 'Goodbye,  
I'll be back soon Mom, so please don't cry.'

"But the war went on and he had to stay,  
And all I could do was wait and pray.  
His letters told of the awful fight,  
I can see it still in my dreams at night,  
With the tanks and guns and the cruel barbed wire  
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.

"Till at last, at last the war was won -  
And that's why we wear a poppy, son -  
The small boy turned as if to go,  
Then said, 'Thanks lady, I'm glad to know,  
But your son - did he come back all right?'"

A tear rolled down each faded cheek,  
She shook her head, but didn't speak.  
I slunk away in a sort of shame,  
And if you were there you'd have done the same;

For your thoughts in giving is oft delayed,  
Though our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!

And so when we see a poppy worn,  
Let us reflect on the burden borne  
By those who gave their all  
When asked to answer their country's call,  
That we at home in peace might live,  
Then wear a poppy! Remember and give.

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