

Renewed faith in cultural centre

They were right when they called our recent editorial, "Who is planning administration for arts complex?", a negative attack on a project that now desperately needs positive public support. But we have no regrets.

It was probably a coincidence that information started flowing in the two-week period The Herald was asking those involved a lot of questions about the new cultural centre in Georgetown. The sudden exchange of information was seemingly renewed between those most involved, not just whenever The Herald sat in.

To put these "concerns" in their proper perspective, however, they are invariably minor, based entirely on a temporary lapse in that flow of information. Town officials must bear some blame for the gap; building and fund-raising committee heads must bear some blame; the Halton Hills Arts Council must bear some blame...

And the Halton Hills press must also bear some blame. Hopefully, our in-depth report on page C1 of this week's issue will shine appropriate light on the project's positive aspects, and there are many. Concern over the complex's size, cost, adaptability and rental fees has yet to be fully resolved; we must await final assessments of need and council's ultimate decisions.

However, within our reach right now is the opportunity to help lay the groundwork for positive decisions in the future. That is, by supporting fund-raising activities now to help cover the project's construction cost, we can demonstrate a well-based community spirit that can guide

councillors in their deliberations over the complex's interior design. A substantial showing of public interest in the project will let the town know our every concern must be accommodated.

Already hard at work these past few months preparing a modestly spectacular complex that will serve generations to come is a mere handful of local citizens meticulously taking care of business on our collective behalf. They produce the tenders, pick the bidders, sign the contracts, ready the site, pour the concrete - and organize the awesome but clearly achievable task of raising \$200,000 in public funds.

Led by Mayer Pete Pomeroy, Rex Heslop, Ab Tennant, Ken Richardson, Rud Whiting and others, these behind-the-scenes-types may have gone about their community-minded business a little too quietly of late, but their apparent modesty in the face of historic achievement is easily forgiven.

Ernie Sykes and other Georgetowners received deserved applause when they renovated the community's old arena with a well-organized public fund-raising campaign several years ago. Let us anticipate similar success in this venture and reward Heslop and company now for the work they'll go on doing for another year at least.

How to thank them? A fund-raiser will be coming to your door or stopping you on the street during the coming months, and there'll be plenty of other opportunities to contribute elsewhere. No community-oriented cause is more appropriate to support, because we'll all derive major benefits in the years to come.

GDHS PRESENTS ANNE OF GREEN GABLES Nov. 27, 28, 29



(Photo by Ken Kuhl)

It comes as quite a shock to Matthew and Marilla when the boy they had asked to adopt to help out on the farm turns out to be a girl named Anne. In the Georgetown District High School production of the musical 'Anne of Green Gables', Anne, played by Brenda Archer, and Matthew, played by Bill Marchant, have a chance to get acquainted during the leisurely buggy ride from the train station to the farm. The buggy ride is just the beginning of Anne's adventures in Avonlea. The play opens Nov. 27, and continues for two more days in the cafeteria at the high school. See story page A8.

BNA could come home thanks to British opposition



Ottawa Report By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

In suggesting, as I did, that epidemic opposition to Prime Minister Trudeau's constitutional proposals, particularly the opposition that's spreading in Britain, might force him to back off somewhat, I may have missed the whole point.

Perhaps it's this opposition - and I am speaking about the British variety - that may just permit him to succeed with his complete, original and unabridged package. Funny it hadn't occurred to me earlier.

As the whole constitutional package seemed to be coming unstuck, with political infighting over parliamentary procedures, television rights, native rights, provincial rights, and peoples' rights, not to mention the potential political f-ups in Britain, it appeared that Trudeau would be well advised to modify his proposals to soften the raging opposition. Perhaps, we thought, he should settle for mere patriation of the constitution - something that would enjoy widespread support - and forget that controversial bit about a charter of human rights and the amending procedure with his provision for a referendum.

Actually, I still feel that a smattering of compromise would be in order. But it's obvious that the prime minister doesn't feel that way.

NOT CONCERNED

At his most recent news conference he continued to make it clear that he intended to push his constitutional package right to the British Parliament, and if it is blocked, he will never be ashamed of his efforts. "I think that people who hypothetically might have tried to block it might be ashamed, because there will be another 53 years of deadlock." Yes, he had considered modifying the bill of rights, but he had concluded that unless these provisions were inserted now it would never be done.

In fact, Trudeau wasn't even inclined to discuss the tight deadline handed the joint Senate-Commons committee on the constitution. "It seems obvious to anybody looking at it from a strategic point of view that the game the Opposition is playing, the opposing provinces are playing is to gain time." If the prime minister were to grant any concessions to the opposition, they weren't going to be major. This, he has made clear.

And when it came to opposition within Britain, well, Trudeau didn't display much concern. "I mean, it does take up some important section of their parliamentary time, but whether it is taken up in January, February or March, it will be the same amount of time... assuming they decide to get it through before Easter, maybe the Day of Resurrection might be a good day to proclaim it."

As the prime minister was speaking, a British parliamentary committee was meeting to talk about the expected constitutional resolution from Canada, and what their response should be. There were grumblings from the British government about the potential embarrassment of dealing

with a Canadian parliamentary constitution that was opposed by a majority of provinces. And native groups and provincial representatives were already engaged in a hectic lobby to block the resolution when it does arrive.

NOT EXTREME

Then I heard a New Democratic Party MP - Lorne Nystrom from Yorkton-Melville - say that some senior public servants were examining the possibility of the government declaring unilateral independence if the constitutional package became bogged down in the British Parliament. "It's an extreme move," he said, "but it's possible."

Now I am beginning to wonder whether it's even that extreme. If the constitutional package became the subject of a condescending debate in Britain - and since the debate inevitably put Canada in the position of a colony, it can't be other than condescending - would it be that extreme for the Canadian government to tell Britain to forget the whole embarrassing exercise. We wouldn't bother transferring the British North America Act; we'd just have the Canadian Parliament replace it with a new constitution.

It's difficult to predict the national reaction to such a move, but if the reform package became embarrassingly bogged down in Westminster - and the British are going to be a delicate situation on this one - it's easy to see how the prime minister could gain wide support for terminating the embarrassing process.

The issue would not merely be the constitution, but whether the British Parliament had a right to dictate its terms.

I am sure the prospects of such a question haven't entirely escaped the prime minister.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

A vision usurped

"Truly a paradox, Delrex is a complete city in the midst of the country."

This was Georgetown's sprawling, 20-year old housing subdivision described in a promotional booklet issued by Delrex Developments Ltd. on the eve of the community's last big population increase. There's no date on the booklet, which recently came across this desk as a matter of historical interest, but it appears from its design and photographs to have originated around 1958 to 1960.

I've written in this column on several occasions about Georgetown's past and future development, but the Delrex company's somewhat pretentious little advertising play held many wonders for me, particularly when comparing the vision of the late Rex Heslop Sr. with modern-day reality.

"Blueprint for Decentralization" is a Grade B-level, soft-sell attempt to attract new investors. It makes much of the fact that building new "cities" some distance from existing metropolitan centres was a pioneering idea whose time had come. Heslop's vision, interestingly enough, barely acknowledged the presence of old Georgetown: in its place on the enclosed maps was a large centre called Delrex, a "new" community "within walking distance of the country."

A front cover aerial photograph of "Delrex - Ontario's \$100 million city-to-be" illustrates Heslop's starting point. You can follow Highway 7 east past the cluster of homes along Shelley, Byron and Prince Charles, past Rexway Drive and down Mountainview to Sargent Road. Then you realize that the photograph predates anything since built beyond that: the modern site of the Delrex Market Centre is a vast and very vacant triangle of weeds and grass; only one or two large industries lie north of Guelph Street, everything else is still as empty as the patchwork fields of Esquesing visible beyond the Credit River valley; and Delrex Boulevard itself winds quietly eastward toward Norval, passing a farmhouse here, a clump of trees there...but no subdivisions.

Having purchased the land from the municipality, Delrex Developments prepared its pitch:

"Here at Delrex, just 36 miles west of Toronto, we are building a \$100 million project in industrialized decentralization. Bulldozers and 'cats' are face-lifting land which grew crops just over a year ago. Roads have been completed and railway tracks have been laid. Sewers have been installed, water services completed - all towards the making of an entire city."

"In all, nearly \$5 million in preliminary services have transferred the rolling farmlands of Ontario's Halton county near the town of Georgetown into the site of an embryo city which, within five years, will be a community of some 20,000 (1) people working in and living near more than 100 industries."

Elsewhere, the availability of "more than 300 acres of parkland and a small lake" are advertised and promises are made for "a modern hotel, hospital and a large shopping centre".

As has been noted amidst The Herald's election coverage recently, Heslop saw the Delrex market lands as his "city centre" - a totally commercial and institutional focal point for a

sprawling industrial park to the north and endless rows of housing to the south. The idea was realized in Bramalea, but the best-laid plans here in Georgetown were somehow usurped by alternative interests and conflicting needs.

For incoming industry, Heslop's "Blueprint" pointed out, "taxes are low, water is cheap and plentiful...Bell Telephone has recently installed a dial system and trunk lines to Toronto and Hamilton are available."

Why was Georgetown chosen from among southern Ontario's many communities of potential to succeed Rexdale as Heslop's latest baby?

"Georgetown, after careful survey" was chosen as the spot best geared to Heslop's requirements of proximity and easy access to major markets. "More than five million people, live within overnight hauling distance of Delrex."

An historic decision on Heslop's part, and one that has affected us all in the 20 years since. Had town fathers in that interim been able to fully realize the developer's vision of a combination "city of homes" and "home for industry", we would indeed be enjoying the kind of municipal affluence predicted by "Blueprint for Decentralization". Instead, we have a small-scale "city of homes" but far too few industries; new industry awaits servicing and new homes, ironically involving Pocat's revised vision of the Heslop proposal, await new industry.

Like a house of cards, something's going to give one of these days and we'll have a flurry of development activity that would bowl over even a pioneer like Rex Heslop Sr.



Man with a vision, the late developer Rex Heslop Sr. saw Delrex as the best of both worlds, combining urban comfort with the "cellar room" of the country.

(Photo from "Blueprint for Decentralization, Delrex Developments Ltd.")

Will our provincial Tories bask in Reagan's reflection



Queen's Park By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

One has to wonder what effect the Ronald Reagan landslide in the United States will have on Tory tactics in Ontario over the next few months as we head into a provincial election.

Will the Progressive Conservative Party be polishing the conservative half of its image on the grounds that it looks like such approach is selling well nowadays?

While politics cannot be easily transferred from one jurisdiction to another, it is clear that over the past half-decade something has been stirring in the English-speaking world.

Everywhere parties described as conservative have been winning election, from Rangan to Margaret Thatcher in Britain to Malcolm Fraser in Australia and Robert Muldoon in New Zealand.

(Even after the Joe Clark regime

here was viewed as incompetent, it still won more seats in English-speaking Canada outside Quebec than any other party.)

MUCH HOPE

What Reagan offered, as one astute U.S. observer noted, was not a return to the past, but a "return to the past's way of facing the future" - that is, with confidence and hope, and a belief that if government provides the climate, people will unleash their own talents.

In those terms it is fascinating that the one commodity Premier Bill Davis has been trying to sell for the past couple of years is confidence in our economy and institutions.

Whether that, and other stands Davis takes, makes him a progressive or a conservative in the sometimes schizophrenic Progressive Conservative Party depends upon whom one listens to.

Some say Davis is a conservative who sounds progressive to get elected, others that he is a progressive who at times sounds conservative to keep the True-Blue Tories happy.

While he may be a bit of both, the second explanation seems to carry more weight - Davis' close advisors in particular being invariably progressives.

GOOD TREND

Still, the impression lingers that the government has been trying to share up its conservative credentials since the 1975 election - a tactic (which some Tories blamed on the progressive

nature of the 1971-75 regime).

This is especially true in the economic sphere, where the government has taken seriously rhetoric about spending restraint, actually trying to get value for money spent.

It's tight-fisted approach to Chrysler contrasts sharply with the hand-out philosophy of other governments, or even the earlier Conservative decisions to pour money into the likes of Minaki Lodge and North Pickering.

Still, the budget deficit remains and will grow. And whenever the government hits a large special interest group, as when it tried to close unnecessary hospitals, it took the chicken road out.

Red tape, or regulations, while somewhat lessened, still provide many years of work for the bureaucracy.

SOUTH CONCERNS

It is on the social and foreign policy concerns that the Tories have sounded most conservative.

Support for the Olympic boycott and increased military spending costs Ontario nothing and solidifies Conservative support with eastern European ethnic groups - which may be the point. Support for the Lord's Prayer in schools keeps a substantial segment of the PC constituency happy, even though it flies in the face of the government's professed belief in multiculturalism. Yet on the constitution, Davis is far from being conservative.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - While engaged in some digging operations this week, Don Arlhus of the town staff spotted a coin which is almost 100 years old. The coin is badly corroded and Don intends to clean it up and see what he has. The date 1854 appears quite clearly on one side, as do the words "Canada" and "Bank of".

Georgetown is grouped with four other Intermediate A teams and one Senior B entry in a hockey league for this season. Milton, Oakville Legion, Burlington and Dundas will provide the opposition in the fight for supremacy and New Toronto Ostranders is the senior team which will play in the league.

Several Georgetown soldiers are among those who are moving into Fort Lewis, Washington for advanced training before their final destination, Korea. The men are members of the Canadian Special Force, recruited for service with the United Nations force battling the North Korean Army, which invaded South Korea.

Rev. Arthur Dayfoot with his wife and daughter, Cathy, landed in San Francisco yesterday and will be with his parents at Oak Bay, British Columbia later this week. The former Georgetown man, who became a United Church missionary in China after graduating from Emmanuel College made the Pacific crossing from Hong Kong.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - Georgetown High School may add a technical school by 1965. At a meeting of the Georgetown District High School Board Monday night, members were informed that the Department of Education expected this area to be ready for such a school by 1965 or 1967, and have advised the local board to begin preparing now by grouping the proposed technical rooms in one wing.

Esqueing council has recommended to the township planning board that there be no further separations of land of less than ten acres for residential development.

Crested blazers may be the uniform of county council next year if preliminary steps taken this month are carried through. The clerk was instructed to obtain prices on 60 crests and discount prices on navy blue blazers. The blazers will be purchased by individual members.

Lomar-Lee, a standard bred yearling colt reaped laurels for his owner, Lloyd Davison, RR2, Georgetown, at this year's Royal Winter Fair. The colt won standard bred yearling class and went on to cop the J.H. Lock trophy for the best standard bred horse in the Futurity class, as well as reserve junior champion.

A perfect safety record for Acton Hydrex workers for the past year earned them a safety award for 1959 from the Electric Utilities Safety Commission. Superintendent Doug Mason received the award on behalf of his men.

An unusual idea was broached by Reeve Fred Rycman of Burlington at County Council. Noting that a scheme for county-wide ambulance service had been turned down by the Committee, he suggested that this be taken over by the Civil Defence Organization. He said he "couldn't imagine any better exercise than carting bodies off the Queen Elizabeth Way."

During the thunderstorm last Tuesday evening, a bolt of lightning hit the barn of W.H. Robinson. It seemed to travel along the litter carrier track that is well grounded. It blew several light bulbs out and frightened the cattle that were in the barn. It blew three pole lights out plus the radio in the house.

The new County Administration Building soon to be erected on the Base Line just north of Milton and the present Court House were again the subject of discussion at County Council this month. It was felt the Registry Office should be moved to the new building, and the space vacated, rented to the County Health Unit.

TEN YEARS AGO - A branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, being erected beside Kinney Shoe Store, at the corner of Mountainview and Guelph Streets and the addition to the Bell Telephone building downtown, brought the total new commercial building permits to \$120,000.

Four of the five Esqueing councillors came out in favor of some grant to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital for a 33-bed addition Monday night, but did not commit themselves to any specific amount. Councillor Ken Marshall did not necessarily oppose the grant, but contended he would like to find out how the taxpayers feel about it.

Esqueing's works garage to be erected behind the present municipal building on the Seventh Line, will be built by A.J. McCarthy of Georgetown, who was awarded the tender Monday night. The four-bay works garage, tendered at \$5,085, will house an office for the road superintendent and a lunchroom for the outside workers.

School caretakers and maintenance employees in Halton County will strike if an acceptable settlement to the current wage and contract dispute is not reached by Nov. 23.

Extra purchases of Halton escarpment land may be made possible by a recent provincial review of cash flow allotment to conservation authorities for 1970. Halton region conservation authority decided last week to quickly determine what parcels of land are available, discuss them at this week's board meeting and try to get purchases approved by Ontario.

The persistent fire on the Eighth Line, which burned for four days last week, flared up again Saturday. For seven hours, Georgetown firefighters fought the fire, and this time they think it's finally out. The farm, known as the old Alexander farm, is managed by George Treviramus.

Scott Block's Fabridam may not be installed this year. It depends on the weather. Resources manager Murray Stephen told the Halton Region Conservation Authority last week a foul-up in orders from consultant to supplier and delays at the United States border have prevented materials from arriving from Wisconsin.

Members of Local 73, Canadian Union of Public Employees, which comprises the town works staff elected new officers recently. Gerald Fendley was re-elected president and Kent Robinson is vice-president, James Barclay, secretary-treasurer and David Hannah, recording secretary.

ONE YEAR AGO - Fifteen of the 18 inmates who escaped from Maplehurst Correctional Institute in Milton during a riot a week ago have been re-captured, leaving only three escapees at large. One of the escapees turned himself in to police in Peterborough on the weekend and the rest were re-captured in Brampton, Milton and Toronto.

The town planning board has followed the lead of Halton Regional Council by endorsing resolutions from Mono and Waterloo townships seeking more municipal involvement in a proposed new bill on pits and quarries. The resolution questions the loss of municipal powers and the time limit for licence application investigations.

After having its wires crossed for years by public and municipal opposition, the controversial 500,000-volt Ontario Hydro transmission corridor has been given a cautious and somewhat reluctant seal of approval by the town. Town council passed the Official Plan and Zoning bylaw permitting the connection line between the Bruce Nuclear Station and the Milton receiving station to pass through the town, as ordered by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), during Monday's meeting.