

Chairmanships represent strength on region council

There's room for cautious but open optimism this week at Halton regional headquarters in Oakville, where Halton Hills representatives appear to have retained two key committee chairmanships and Mayor Pete Pomeroy may take control of the all-important administration and finance committee.

In themselves, these appointments by vote of the incoming regional council represent no new trends of support for Halton Hills: Roy Booth and Russ Miller easily won the respect of colleagues as heads of the planning and solid waste management committees, respectively, during 1980; a driving force behind his own town council, Mayor Pomeroy's reputation as a no-nonsense hard worker spread to the region and gained him similar esteem there.

Collectively, however, the three chairmanships could throw a great deal of weight behind Halton Hills at the beginning of a term that's bound to be a trying one for all four municipalities engaged in this long-range provincial experiment at middle-ground government. Next to Milton, Halton Hills' position in the regional scheme is most often jeopardized by the weightier demands and loftier aspirations of south Halton. If ever in the north needed the kind of critical control which Pomeroy, Booth and Miller can provide, it will be during 1981 and '82.

The regional planning committee had completed most of its work on Halton's first official plan by the time veteran Georgetown politician Roy Booth became its chairman at the beginning of 1979, but it fell to him and his co-workers to finalize its contents and wade through the discouraging red tape blocking its adoption. The provincial government's reluctance to finally endorse the plan upon its completion will go down in history as one of the region's more embarrassing moments.

But now, except for a fairly serious court challenge, the plan awaits implementation, and such a job belies some councillors' claims that the planning committee's usefulness had come to an end with the plan's adoption by council. On the contrary, the lion's share of the work is just beginning as Coun. Booth, whose membership on the Niagara Escarpment

Commission has made him something of an expert in such matters, attempts to turn a piece of paper into a recognizable and enforceable land use policy.

We already expressed our pleasure at seeing Russ Miller take over the solid waste management committee last year when its very relevance in the face of imminent crisis was being questioned. He has already done much good with the committee, particularly in spurring council on to quick action where needed, and it's usually needed most in north Halton.

It is Pete Pomeroy's anticipated rise to the chairmanship of the administration committee, perhaps Halton's second most important political post next to that of regional chairman Jack Raftis, that interests us most. Under outgoing chairman McLean Anderson, a former mayor of Oakville, the committee seemed beset by endless fiscal failures and shocking surprises. While no one can fault Coun. Anderson for the committee's becoming a watershed for regional disasters, we have a gut-level feeling that Pomeroy's leadership could turn things around in much the same way it is starting to turn things around here in Halton Hills.

It seems unlikely that the committee's key members, Mayor Roy Bird of Burlington, Harry Barrett of Oakville and Gord Krantz of Milton (replacing Don Gordon), will waive their chance to retain seats on such an important committee.

Mayor Pomeroy would thus be in a position to exercise strong control over the debates that precede each council session and perhaps work that same cold-logic, dire-warning "magic" that's made him a force to be reckoned with at town council these past four years.

The expected re-election of Jack Raftis as regional chairman only adds to our optimism, particularly in light of his unofficial defeat this week of fellow Burlington alderman Walter Mulkewich who votes parochially every chance he gets. In Mr. Raftis, on the other hand, north Halton has an important ally when the crunch comes on such crucial issues as equalized sewer and water rates.

That particular crunch will come soon; Halton Hills has never been in a better position to head it off.



No 'western separatism', Tory MP finds on B.C. trip



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

With all the ranting rhetoric we've been hearing about western alienation and western separatism, I felt better after I ran into Lorne McCuish. But then, I suppose most people feel better after running into McCuish. He's that type of guy. McCuish is the Conservative member of Parliament for Prince George-Bulkley Valley, a 10,000-square-mile constituency in the middle of British Columbia. He came to Parliament in the 1979 election, an unpretentious insurance adjuster who had a wide background in municipal politics before running for Parliament. This wartime flyer has the happy knack of making people feel better because he seems to see the silver lining in every cloud, he laughs easily, he never overstates a case and - this is a rarely held opposition MP's - he never exposes any bitterness.

What I am saying is that McCuish is a very pleasant fellow. And for the last few weeks, ever since Finance Minister Trudeau brought down his constitutional resolution and Finance Minister Allan MacEachen introduced his budget, McCuish has been sitting in

Parliament listening to all those fearful statements about western separatism.

Like any other listener, he could be excused for thinking that the country was coming apart at the seams. Speaker after speaker has been hammering away at the theme of western alienation, suggesting that unless drastic action is taken, it's going to be too late. Even Tory Leader Joe Clark said that Westerners are flocking to the separatist movement "by the thousands."

NEEDED UPDATE
In the midst of all this, Lorne McCuish decided it was time to go back to the riding and spend eight days getting an update on the thinking.

"After everything I had been hearing," he said, "I was almost afraid to get off the plane. Considering all this talk about alienation and how Westerners are supposed to hate Easterners, I didn't know what kind of voices I would be hearing."

In his huge riding, with one city of 30,000, seven smaller communities averaging 2,500, and a great deal of rural area, he figured he would pick up a pretty fair cross-section of this alleged hostility during eight days of public speaking.

His comforting conclusion: "It just isn't there."
"By and large," he went on, "the people expressed surprise at all this talk of separatism they were reading in the newspapers and hearing on television. They were asking me, as someone who just came from the east, to explain all this separatist talk."

NO CHANGE
"Actually, I don't see any change whatever in attitudes in my constituency. There are still complaints about

freight rates and other traditional irritants, but no one is giving much thought to the constitution. There is still a certain indifference toward Ontario, a lack of understanding about Quebec and a real empathy for the Maritimes, but this doesn't represent any change. "There is still a feeling that Prime Minister Trudeau is an autocrat making all the decisions. They don't pay much attention to Allan MacEachen and the only reason they remember former Tory Finance Minister John Crosbie is because of the way he pronounced "budget."

"There is still a clear impression that Trudeau is the government."

And everyone knows that Trudeau doesn't head the popularity charts in the west.

"But the point is, in my area nothing has changed," says McCuish. "Everyone seems happy with the status quo, no one can point to one instance where the present constitution has prevented them from doing anything, and I didn't hear one suggestion that the West should separate from the rest of Canada."

"But the whole question of nationalism is not a big issue there," he adds. "It's a busy area and people who are busy doing things don't have time to think about things like that." He said that when the Canada West Foundation moved its Prince George office to a heavily-advertised meeting on the region's future, only 20 people showed up. "And six of these were the organizers."

"Sure, if you go into the big cities you'll find all sorts of academics who like to discuss separatism, but if there are any such sentiments in my riding they are well hidden."

Criticized before its release, dump report controversial



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Environment Minister Harry Parrott will shortly release the \$425,000 MacLaren Report, a detailed analysis of possible sites for disposal of liquid industrial wastes in Ontario. Parrott hopes people will use the report to make rational decisions on

where one would find, on balance, the best permanent site for liquid waste disposal.

He's dreaming, of course. NDP Environment critic Colin Isaacs, for example, before seeing the report, has already criticized it. And from there reaction will go downhill, especially in named sites.

Few issues today excite emotional opposition to the degree that waste disposal does, and liquid industrial waste in particular. What has to be asked is why?

Partly it appears to be media type feeding fear of unknown danger. Partly it is understandable selfishness. People just don't want what they see as a potential health hazard (and a cause for property devaluation) near their back yards.

PUBLIC TRUST
But beyond that Parrott appears to face an even greater difficulty... a lack of "public trust" or "public acceptance" of the whole process.

Take for instance the furor caused by ministry support for the building of two plants that would, on an interim basis, transform liquid waste into non-toxic solids.

One would be near Chatham and the other Niagara Falls, and Parrott promised Environmental Assessment Board hearings to judge the environmental acceptability of the plants.

Some contend the solidification plants should be built where the chemicals originate, which is fair enough, although the solid residue still would have to go somewhere else for burial.

But the rest of the opposition can be divided into two parts, the paranoid and the rational.

The paranoids argue that because the ministry is co-sponsoring the projects, and because the assessment board reports to the ministry, any conclusions can't be objective and based on the facts.

The rationalists, on the other hand, accept the assessment process and that ministry motives are genuine, but believe companies cheat and that the ministry's record shows it to be "totally incompetent" to monitor the site.

That quote from Liberal Leader Stuart Smith is too sweeping, but it is true Smith has enough the ministry making more than its share of mistakes over the years.

WAY BILL
For example, Ontario's way-bill system for keeping track of where liquid industrial waste comes from, and goes to, proved so inadequate it had to be scrapped.

Its successor, a new fail-safe computerized system, is still only two-thirds functional.

That's partly a function of time. A decade ago liquid industrial waste didn't concern many people and any bureaucracy adapts but slowly to the need for change.

But Smith doesn't believe that the competence level in ministry ranks has really improved that much. (In response, Parrott has offered to let local residents pick the technicians responsible for monitoring the solidification sites.)

In any case, it means the MacLaren report, instead of signalling the end of the liquid industrial waste disposal crisis, more than likely will signal the beginning of new and even wilder battles.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Ted Tyler is mayor of Acton for 1951. Mr. Tyler, who runs a transport business there as well as having one of the high school bus routes, was chosen by acclamation at a nomination meeting last Friday. He is a brother of Charles Tyler of Georgetown. Mr. Tyler succeeds Mr. Armo Mason, first mayor of the town since its elevation to town status last year.

North Halton High School District Board voted 8-3 at its meeting Monday in Milton to build a new central school on Highway 7 midway between Georgetown and Acton.

Fire Brigades from Georgetown and Brampton answered a call yesterday afternoon to Union School. The school uses a space oil heater and when an oil flare-up threatened to cause a fire, calls were sent for the brigades. Luckily no damage was caused and the danger was over before any action was necessary by the brigades.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Eric Beard and Ern Hyde will be seeking the mayoralty Monday as 16 candidates vye for office, with every position being contested in the municipal election.

Mrs. Frank Connelly, 39 Normandy Blvd., was one of 12 Canadians who received transistor radios this week, first prizes in a recent crossword puzzle contest sponsored by Aqua Soft Services Limited.

Elmer Lee's Raiders won their second game in three starts last Wednesday night, but it cost them their number one sniper, Blake Inglis, who topped the team in goal-scoring last year, left the game on a stretcher late in the second period following a collision with a Duradas player at centre ice which, x-rays showed, cracked his left arm just above the wrist. He'll be lost to the club for six weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. W.R. McMurray, 4 Queen Street, were visited at their home Sunday by an amazing guest. Mr. Thomas Cody-Williams of Woodstock, who visited with his wife, is a pilot of two world wars and just recently received his license for parachute testing. The amazing part? Mr. Cody-Williams is 76 years old.

Last Wednesday was an important night in the history of Esqueping Township ratepayers when they officially opened the township's first consolidated school at Speyside.

TEN YEARS AGO—Quick action by a young Chapel Street School student saved a younger school mate from possible fatal injuries recently. Doug Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Wilson, Victoria Street, was one of several Chapel Street pupils who shouted at a Grade one girl when they noticed her standing on the CNR tracks opposite the school while returning at the end of the noon hour. With a train approaching and the child apparently frozen with fear, Doug ran up the bank and pulled the girl to safety.

A search located no bomb after a Friday morning scare at General Fireproofing plant on Guelph St. Work was disrupted for a few hours during the morning while the search was conducted. Workers were able to return to their jobs before the noon hour.

Halton Region Conservation Authority voted Thursday to pay for its annual pheasant dinner and drinks out of the \$12 per meeting which each authority member receives. HRCA treasurer Max Hatherley expects next month's dinner will cost about \$350. The authority says it is holding the dinner to improve rapport with elected municipal officials. Every HRCA member gets to invite one official.

From The Herald's classified columns: "A gorgeous four-bedroom split level home with family room tastefully finished with baseboard siding, avocado oak-grain panelling and all-weather carpeting on the floors. It's a landscaper's delight, plus paved drive and garage. It can be yours for only \$31,500."

County council last week approved hiring an extra full-time case worker to help relieve the over-worked family and social services department. Chairman of the social and family services committee, Reeve Ron Harris of Milton told council his committee had gone into an emergency sitting just before council to make the recommendation.

The board of directors of the Halton Children's Aid Society have flatly turned down a five per cent cost of living increase for its social workers.

ONE YEAR AGO—Halton Hills' spokesmen got virtually "everything we asked for" in the Niagara Escarpment Commission's (NEC's) proposed plan, according to Coun. Roy Booth, Halton's representative on the commission. Coun. Booth explained that a special committee chaired by Marilyn Serjeantson prepared, drew up and presented the town's submission to the commission and this submission was included almost intact in Thursday's final draft.

Dr. Joseph Chamberlain, the retiring Halton Medical Officer of Health, was showered with gifts and praise at a special reception held in his honor in the regional council chambers last week. Coun. Mike Armstrong, who has known Dr. Chamberlain literally from birth (the doctor brought Mike and brother Paul into the world) spoke with great affection about the contributions the doctor has made to the region and more particularly about his long association with Halton Hills.

Poet's corner

EDITOR'S NOTE: Albert Brooks, one of Acton's more creative senior citizens, has submitted some of his poems for publication in The Herald. In this and coming weeks, it's our pleasure to share them with you.

RIP VAN WINKLE
We went to sleep for 20 years, the country in a mess, So many people want so much they can't wait - it's greediness.

Different things that people buy, attractive things that get their eye Most folks can't manage, the prices are too high, They have to do with less and less, there is a reason why.

The millionaire is richer growing overnight The poor man has lost his shirt, hasn't got a right. Now metric is trying to confuse us in distress We can't afford this tangle, I have no other guess. Our governments are tricky, no friend for you or me.

All they have in their mind is that big salary. The drums of war are warning, there'll be another call, Will our leaders ever learn to spare the boys before they fall?

We try to live a normal life, live it fair and clean, Unless we meet some ladle-brain who tries to bleed us lean. You try to buy a little home: everybody's dream, When you see the price and mortgage, it would make you scream.

Things must change for young folks if life must prevail. We must help the young folks, this is no story tale. If men won't stick together, try it on your own, That's the way I lived my life, always worked alone.



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

I wouldn't have missed

The American hostages are about to become naturalized Iranian citizens, the Ayatollah Kamikaze keeps kicking sand in the Iraqi bully's face, the Soviets, with one foot atop Afghanistan, are ready to drop the other on top of Poland, Reagan's ready to dump every social service inaugurated since Roosevelt's time in favor of a Hollywood-size defence budget, Loughheed's ready to pull the plug on our oil supply...

...and the world waits with bated breath to find out who shot J.R.

These are trying times for journalists, those disillusioned cynics who have relegated themselves to the roles of "observers" in a fit of self-defence prompted by disdain with the accepted authorities of our time. We (and I include myself in the fold with some reluctance) are supposed to - expected to - gauge public opinion and feed the public demand for information and explanation. We must somehow account for public taste.

Given the results of the recent American election (and the state of American politics in general), given the timeless meanderings of our own federal and provincial governments, and given the latest ratings afforded television's new season, the task of assessing public mood is high impossible.

At risk of being ostracized by a generation of TV viewers coaxed into following the new-style "serial" dramas on TV, I must admit that I signed up for the "Who cares?" contingent of cynics when the big end-of-season question came up: "Who shot J.R.?"

If truth be known, I personally would have shot J.R. myself given the chance, and I dare the Halton regional police to try and make a Conspiracy to Commit Murder rap stick in court. Any fair and reasonable judge would have shot J.R. too, but like me, would have taken great care to make sure the bullet found its mark and kept Larry Hagman off the tube this season.

But let's keep this in perspective: the publicity people behind "Dallas" were only doing their job, and boy did they do it well. The blame in this sordid affair lands squarely on the shoulders of my "fellow" media people, albeit the sordid mixture of entertainment-industry hype artists who just love this kind of "front page" gossip

mongering.

It's the "front page" factor that bothers me: virtually every major network newscast and every daily newspaper on the continent let TV fans know Friday that "tonight's the night, folks, when we find out after an extended holiday season just who gunned down J.R. Ewing". The capper, for me, was a Toronto Star editorial (!) acknowledging the imminence of this astounding revelation.

Such is the value of media hype to today's pop journalists - they'll write about anything that's currently faddish, and keep on writing about it until the lights go out.

Well, the television tube went dim Friday night and that was that: if you didn't watch "Dallas" and still wanted to find out "who shot J.R.?", you were plumb out of luck. The story was dead and even the less-than-dignified Star failed to carry a follow-up Saturday.

As for me, I'm just DYING to find out who kidnapped Jody's baby on "Soap".



Mandy Bonozew (far left) picked the lucky winner of the Credit Valley Artisans raffle held during their annual Christmas crafts sale Saturday afternoon. Joining Mandy in the draw are (left to right) her mother Pat, Margaret Searle and Eva Middleton. Winners in the draw were Fred Rider, (ticket number 497); A. Gray (1422); Bob Davey, (046); Mark Engel, (415) and Carol Ridge (231).