

When rehearsal becomes reality

When the possibility of an emergency suddenly becomes grim reality, it's somehow comforting to watch our emergency services in action.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to policemen and firefighters from the area, and their helpers, for putting in three long days of gruesome volunteer work last week searching for the body of Scott Kovas.

Conservation and municipal officials were generally ready for flood conditions along the Credit, and parents everywhere were aware of the grim potential for some youngsters to give into temptation, get too close and slip into the rising river, but no one anywhere was ready for the fate that befell 12-year old Scott.

It was one of those terrible things you hear about each spring in the news, but it's hard to accept when it happens here at home. The Toronto boy was on a school outing with his classmates and teacher as the early thaw swelled the Credit. After hiking back and forth over a footbridge to a midstream island, Scott reportedly lost his footing on an ice floe along the riverbank and vanished into the water.

Thus began three long days of work for off-duty policemen and volunteer firefighters and divers. The sight of a police helicopter waiting behind the Georgetown station near Alcott arena was a visual reminder Thursday that the search continued against adverse conditions.

The local Red Cross unit has done a commendable job rehearsing our emergency services and educating the general public about such potential disasters as aircraft crashes and rail accidents, and no one would doubt that they and their co-workers are ready for most small emergencies.

Then along comes an accident like this, and there seems little anyone can do that is not already being handled. If the Red Cross and groups like it played any role in last week's episode, it was likely a small one. The only job to do involved searching, and police and divers were already wading through the current and swimming beneath the ice.

The helicopter, brought in by the Ontario Provincial Police to extend the search downstream from Norval, was barely used: a diver from Brampton spotted the body nearly buried by silt at a spot already searched twice before.

Our sympathies and our hearts go out to young Scott's family; his father was in Georgetown throughout the vigil, and there must have been some tense moments, both along the riverbank and at the police station, where fire chief Mick Holmes and others plotted their rescue and recovery strategy.

But more importantly, our gratitude goes out to the men who conducted the search. It's reassuring to know you're ready in time of crisis.



Flora's unifying motion brightened 'shoddy affair'



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Every once in a while there is a rare, glistering moment in Parliament, when the institution rises above the humdrum of dreary debate to excite, even inspire, its audience. It may happen when some shy, back-bench MP gets an opportunity to influence a major world event. Or it may happen when MPs put partisan politics aside to pay tribute to a former colleague. It can even happen when the prime minister and opposition leader agree on something that's important to Canadians.

And, to my way of thinking, it happened a couple of weeks ago when Flora MacDonald, the minister of external affairs in the Clark government, rose and presented the following motion:

"That this House go on record as strongly supporting the nomination by the department of external affairs that Mrs. Zena Sheardown and Mrs. Pat Taylor receive the Order of Canada for the courageous and indispensable role

which they played in the rescue of six Americans from Tehran."

For a few magic moments, the entire House of Commons was united on something. MPs on all sides cheered the MacDonald initiative. Without a dissenting voice, Parliament had expressed itself.

And, frankly, I can't think of a more deserving motion.

NOT CHANGED

No, it's not because I have changed my opinion about the Order in Canada. I have always felt that the Pearson government, in creating a multi-tiered honors roll, was establishing a high-level class system that was open to outrageous distortions. However, I won't harp on that again.

But now here were these distortions more apparent than in the awarding of honors to eight Canadian embassy personnel who helped smuggle six Americans out of Iran, while the two wives who sheltered the Americans were cheerfully ignored. So long as we have national awards, the eight recipients were obviously deserving, but how the two women could be ignored is, to me, preposterous. They had been recommended for the honor by the external affairs department.

The advisory committee which recommends names to the Governor-General, has never officially explained why the wives of Ambassador Ken Taylor and First Secretary John Sheardown were not included when the eight awards were handed out. But one report says that the committee, headed by Chief Justice Bora Laskin,

considered the two as a "pair" and that Mrs. Sheardown, a Guyanese native who is not yet a Canadian citizen, was technically ineligible.

NOT GOOD

I suppose that excuse is as good as any. But it isn't very good. First, the cabinet has the power to bestow citizenship on any person who has provided outstanding service to Canada. And, secondly, just think of the irony of Mrs. Sheardown being refused an award on these grounds when the event for which she was considered involved the Canadian government providing faked and forged passports to six Americans. Talk about overcoming ineptitudes.

Anyone who has seen those television documentaries on the escape of the six Americans knows what those two women went through. As John Sheardown himself has said: "Myself and my colleagues had the escape of going to the office on a day-to-day basis. Sometimes, we went in when we didn't have to go in, merely to relax. But this wasn't possible for the ladies."

Is it any wonder that he announced he would return his decoration if his wife were not similarly honored. Mr. Justice Laskin says the two women will be reconsidered.

I think we can safely assume they will be given the honor, but it won't be quite the same.

The only bright note, in this whole shabby affair was that moment when all parliamentarians united around Flora MacDonald's motion and spoke for all of us.

Seeking the 'disadvantaged' in pursuit of equal rights



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

More and more a strange concept known as "equal results" is replacing "equal opportunity" as a driving principle within our relatively free society.

The new system involves first classifying everyone into various categories, rather than treating people as individuals, and then seeing how each group stacks up against another.

The assumption is that unless each group does equally as well as the others in terms of results, then equal opportunity did not exist in the first place.

The latest recruit to the "equal results" theory is Toronto City, which now has a "race relations committee" surveying city hall staff to see how many "non-whites" are employed and in "what type of job."

It takes little genius to see that if the exact proportions do not reflect what the surveyors think then discrimination against the "non-white" population in Toronto will have been "proved."

QUOTA SYSTEM

The solution will be an "affirmative action" program, a polite way of saying a quota for "non-whites" will be established and people will be hired and promoted on the basis of color.

Our new federal constitution, which supposedly bans discrimination such as job preferences based on color, actually legalizes such "affirmative

action" where those benefitting fit the category of "disadvantaged."

And how does a group obtain the label "disadvantaged"?

In the United States, where these ideas originated, the criterion usually accepted is that a group deserves quotas if "society" is guilty of "past discrimination" against it.

But that can hardly be the Canadian approach.

The only reference to Canadian "disadvantaged" who might deserve quotas was given in a federal government survey of business leaders last year.

It named eight "disadvantaged" groups - people over 45 or under 25, the handicapped, "natives", women, French-Canadians, Asians, and "blacks". That covers almost everyone except middle-aged males of non-French European extraction.

And at least two of those categories - Asians and blacks - have in the main, not been in Canada long enough to have suffered "past discrimination."

Three-quarters of a million Third World immigrants have arrived in this country in the past 12 years, which makes it a little difficult to swallow the argument that their arrival here somehow indicates "past discrimination."

However, it is often suggested that government employees, because they serve the public, should "reflect" the colors and cultures in society in general.

WELL DONE

In theory that's a sound concept, but again it assumes "equal results," and the only way it can be applied is by a quota system. It also ignores criteria other than color for "reflecting" culture.

Moreover, the federal government appears to go further, Employment Minister Lloyd Axworthy having suggested that businesses dealing with government are also going to have to

initiate quota programs for the "disadvantaged."

The serving-the-public argument doesn't apply there, and in any case again assumes equal opportunity only exists where "equal results" can be measured.

The Ontario government, which has both official quotas (called "targets") and unofficial quotas, has not gone quite that far. But one suspects such a law is coming.

So you thought wood-stoves were cheap?

How You Can Save Money with a Wood Burning Stove (A one-year's review)

Stove, pipe, installation, etc.	\$458.80
Chain Saw	149.95
Gas and Maintenance for Chain Saw	44.00
Four-Wheel Drive Pick-Up, stripped	8,379.84
Maintenance, Four-Wheel Drive Pick-Up	438.60
Replace Rear Window of Pick-Up (twice)	310.00
Fine for Cutting Unmarked Tree in County Forest	500.00
Fourteen Cases of Michelob	196.00
Littering fine (Beer Cans)	50.00
Doctor's Fee (Removing Splinter from Eye)	45.00
Safety Glasses	19.50
Tow Charge from creek	50.00
Doctor's Fee (Broken Toes)	195.00
Tree fell on foot	49.50
Safety Shoes	803.80
Replace Burned Living Room Carpet	110.19
Paint Walls & Ceiling in Living Room	49.95
Chimney Brush & Rods	19.60
Log Splitter (manual)	635.29
Log Splitter (pneumatic)	9,000.00
Thirteen acre woodlot	417.20
Taxes on Woodlot	75.00
Replace Coffee Table (chopped up & burned while drunk)	33,878.22
Divorce Settlement	\$56,822.31
Total First Year's Cost	62.57
Savings in "Conventional"	62.57
Fuel, First Year	62.57
Overall Cost, First Year's Woodburning	\$56,829.84

- Contributed

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-Negotiations for the purchase of Mount Pleasant Church have been completed by two Georgetown ladies, Mrs. D.R. McLaughlin and Mrs. M.H. Moyer. The ladies plan to use the building to house a new industry, Kirk-Kraft Studio, which will produce and sell handcraft products. It is believed that this may be the only such venture in Ontario where handcraft is produced on a large scale and sold direct to the public.

Plans are progressing for Georgetown's new auxiliary public school on which construction will start this spring. Last Wednesday, John Parkin, representing the architects, John B. Parkin Associates, met with the school board to present the initial plans. The \$190,000 school, which will be built on highway property being purchased from Jack Tost, will contain six classrooms and an auditorium as well as a combination health and lady teachers' room and a principal's office.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kirby opened their new store in Brampton last week. It will be known as the Margaret Kirby Shop, and features ladies' wear. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby operated Kirby's Specialty Shop here for seven years before moving to Brampton in 1946. Their store was located in the premises now tenanted by the Empire Lunch.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-The man responsible for keeping the local post office grounds the picture spot of the downtown area, Alf Rolfe is retiring. Mr. Rolfe, who took over the superintendent's position twelve years ago, was eligible for retirement three years ago, but has had numerous extensions granted at his request.

A visit to a performance by the Canadian National Ballet was a treat enjoyed recently by Diane Greenwood's ballet class. They watched the "Nutcracker Suite" performed by the company with Angela Leight, Al Kraul and Lillian Jarvis dancing the lead roles.

Martha Kennedy, formerly a teacher from the Georgetown district and a resident of Halton Centennial Manor for the past three years, marked her 92nd birthday last Thursday at the manor.

A Provincial Paper dart team came within inches of competing at the Sportsman's Show when they advanced to the finals in a Guelph Tournament Feb. 21. The team, captained by Rocco Lorusso, was ousted by a Guelph team for the honor.

A member of the Georgetown Revolver Club, Alf Long, went after something bigger than paper targets last month. Alf, who is an Acton resident, returned last week from Nairobi, where he had just completed a "big game" hunt arranged through White Hunters Inc. Alf proved his effectiveness with a high-powered weapon by bagging a rhino, an elephant and a lion during the hunt.

TEN YEARS AGO-Jim Snow of RR2, Georgetown, Halton East MPP, was one of seven new faces named Monday to the Ontario cabinet by Premier William Davis. Snow's promotion from the back benches to minister without portfolio gives Halton County two cabinet ministers. George Kerr, who represents Halton West, is energy and resources minister.

A full-time paid fire chief, a second firehall south of Silver Creek, an aerial pumper fire truck and an additional two bays with hose drying tower at the existing fire hall were some of the recommendations listed in the report unveiled at committee meeting last Thursday. The report was the result of a joint meeting with representatives of Georgetown, Esquesing and the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office.

Police in the Halton-Peel region were advised last week to begin immediately to protect themselves against regional government. Spokesmen from eight police departments in Halton-Peel gathered in Oakville to discuss problems related to any move that would bring the two-county area into a regional unit.

A plan to build 150 townhouses on the land near the old bottling works on Mountainview Road was presented to committee of council last Thursday night. Samuel Black of Economy Construction asked council to send a letter to Ontario Housing Corporation stating there was a need for such housing in town.

Acton Mayor Les Duby has no strong objections to the new airport being located near Acton. He said the town is on the edge of development and can move ahead to 7,500 people very quickly, airport or not. He emphasized the town will have to take care not to go over 12,000 people or it will lose the small-town atmosphere that means so much to the community.

ONE YEAR AGO-Halton board of education finance committee estimates it will cost just over \$100 million to operate the school system this year. Committee chairman Florence Meares said last week the \$101,745,314 total is an increase of 9.91 per cent over last year's \$93,425,888. Among the areas inflation has hit hardest during the past year are fuel prices, which have jumped 27 per cent, hydro, which rose 13 per cent, interest rates, which rose 15 per cent and tenders for supplies and services, which so far have risen 7.5 to 14 per cent.

A rezoning application for the Chapel Street School site in Georgetown, calling for the construction of four single-family homes and the renovation of the existing building to make room for up to 22 one-bedroom apartment units, has been referred to town staff for a report. The application by Chateau Belair Developments Ltd., asks for a rezoning from third density residential to fourth density residential "special".



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

Keep the bags packed

Watching the standing ovation that greeted Ronald Reagan's defence-heavy budget recently, I was even more incredulous than before about a letter I'd received at The Herald from a Toronto solicitor and notary public.

As a member of the post-war baby boom generation who came of age just as America's presence in southeast Asia was being challenged around the world, I can't help but look at Reagan's election as a step backward for morality, for peace, for the American people and for North America as a whole.

But there it was: Reagan's landslide victory. To be sure, Carter's apparent inability to deal with the issues was a factor; and yes, the possibility that Reagan can revive the economy was a factor. But if these were the operative factors, were the voters en masse ignoring his record of political corruption in California and, most importantly, his hawkish view on military confrontation.

Was it then a vengeful instinct among the American electorate that swept Reagan to victory in the hope that he'd show those Iranians a thing or two and strong-arm the Soviets into complacency? Because of the scale of Reagan's election victory and because of the enormous "Moral

Majority" foundation on which that victory was based - i.e. the money-minded evangelists of fundamental "Christianity" who sermonized their TV viewers into voting Republican "for Jesus". I'd just about given up the ghost. If indeed the West has forgotten the lesson of Viet Nam, forgotten the bitterness it fostered at home, forgotten the tragedies of Kent and Jackson States, then let's just pack our bags, Martha, and quietly slip out the back door. We can be painting moustaches on the stone heads of Easter Island even before the bombers leave the airstrip.

Suddenly, lo and behold, a letter from Robert S. Karfell, a Carlton Street barrister ("Cable address 'Peacemaker'") casually informs me that I'm not alone in my steadfast pacifism. A covering note sent along with the letter to all area news editors explained that the lawyer is "developing the idea" enclosed. It goes something like this:

"What would you do if Canada were invaded? Suppose the United States invaded Canada, what would you do? What would the consequences be of such take-over? Now, suppose the Canadian government refused to oppose a conquering army; again, what would you do?"

"A decision not to resist means learning to live in changed circumstances. It means refusing to kill - even if attacked.

"Canadians should understand their society excels over virtually all other nations. Canadians would not only withstand any invasion; they would merge enemies into their way of life. What is superior in Canada would prevail.

"After all, what would an aggressor do? He envies and seeks us. Why should he spoil what he sees works well? That would be against his interests. A wiser course would permit Canadians to continue running the country while imposing yet another tax. Is this more onerous than mass suicide?"

"Finally, once a stand is taken not to kill, you begin to treat all peoples better. You start at once to negotiate differences. You settle all problems regardless of difficulty, knowing you have prohibited yourself from murdering your opponent no matter how unreasonable he is. Your own code compels you to let everyone into your home; you co-operate with him to ensure he does not smash the furniture.

"Hardships may have to be faced. Yet you do so knowing you are in the right and behaving sanely. "It has been said, 'In a nuclear war, the survivors will envy the dead.'"

More about this attitude toward nuclear and other wars next week.

YMCA READY FOR AUCTIONEER

Preparing for the Georgetown YMCA's art auction March 13, auction co-chairman Hank Visser (left) joins fellow chairman Ralph Vincent and publicity director Cheryl Lightowers to pose for a photograph Friday. The auction, slated to get underway at 8 p.m., following a preview at 7:30 will be held in the Holy Cross Church Auditorium and will feature paintings and Eskimo carvings. Tickets, at \$4 a piece, are available by calling 877-2311 or 877-4495.

(Herald photo)

