

Good news and bad news for our planners

Kudos for Tom, Guelph St. firms

We've often talked in the past about "cleaning up" the Highway 7 corridor through Georgetown; in this context, the term really involves re-organizing existing uses and better planning for future uses.

The deal finally signed between the town and two highway-front industries this week is perhaps the key to the whole project, and a sizeable project it is.

Town recreation director Tom Shepard this week sealed the deal with William Nelson Company and Irwin-Dorsey Ltd. that will enable soccer buffs to use the firms' lands weeknights and weekends over the next ten years or more. In return, the town picks up the tab for about \$1,000 worth of realty tax a year and

covers players for injury and accident.

This simple, mutually beneficial deal is attractive for several reasons: not only do the two companies get assistance in paying for and maintaining their property, worthwhile use is made of otherwise empty space, the problem of overused soccer pitches is alleviated and the development of land along the highway is enhanced.

Our congratulations to Mr. Shepard and our thanks to the two firms involved; may their contribution and willingness to pool resources with the town stand as an example of how the businesses already in place along Guelph Street can ease traffic and development pressures both in their immediate vicinity and across the community.

Legal questions hinder planning

It bothers us that Mayor Pete Pomeroy and town council must conduct their business in spite of modest concerns over the legality of their actions.

The case at hand involves the preparation of secondary official plans for Stewarstown and Glen Williams, now being finalized ready for inclusion in the overall Halton Hills official plan through resolutions from town and regional council.

The mayor expressed some doubt last week that council's action may be challenged before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) since the provincial government's Planning Act requires a formal amendment to the existing official

plan where secondary plans are to be added.

It seems unlikely that the question of legality will pose any serious threat to council or the town, but coupled with recurring troubles over the area's long-range planning, the episode is yet another example of inter-government haggling over procedure, a clash of bureaucracies totally unwarranted by the small scale of the documents on the table. We've had plenty of troubles over official plans at both the regional and local level these past seven years, and regardless of which government level deserves more blame, we're convinced these legal and procedural wrangles can be avoided.



Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

Rags to riches

Combining the neo-primitive writing style currently popular among young people with similarly fundamental but often impressionistic pen and ink renderings, the Halton Hills public libraries' new fund-raising novelle, "Rags to Riches" emerges as a finite but integral testimony to the populism of the "new prose", a sign that readers everywhere may again turn to such condensed vignettes as a form of primal therapy.

Having just waded through "War and Peace", I was less than enthusiastic this week when a library staffer dropped off a complimentary copy of the new book for a press review. So cerebral a work, I assumed, would demand hours of painstaking preparatory research if the reader were to analyze its contents adequately, plus days - maybe even weeks - of eclectic cross-referencing to "read between the lines", as it were, the subtle doctrines usually associated with such major socio-psychological treatises.

Obviously, "Rags to Riches" recounts the background and continuing adventures of a Peruvian Cavie ("just a fancy name for guinea pigs with long hair", according to the protagonist) who took up residence at the Georgetown library (now temporarily located in Guelphview Square) after two less-than-ideal owner-pet relationships with human supporting characters.

Author Pamela Payne (perhaps a pseudonym designed to express the allegorical angst running like a thematic current through the book) has wisely

little rumbly noises because it feels so good." Passages such as this mire the book with images of a hedonistic piglet gorging herself on vegetables and human affection. Indeed, there is a great deal of self-indulgence, both on Rags' part and Ms. Payne's. There is also much self-serving description of library work, cleverly disguised to promote interest in the librarian's noble profession among young readers.

Rags' much-recounted, near-legendary escape from her cage (doubtlessly a metaphor for Iran's release of the American hostages) enables the four-legged furball to acquaint herself with other beings who are "the same, yet different". "Stalder" and "Waldorff" are two gerbils also loafing around the library at the taxpayer's expense. Though they remain imprisoned, Rags' nocturnal nosing around prompts them to put on a show and teach the guinea pig how best to exploit their mutually limited accommodations.

And while Rags attempts to re-enter her cage herself without success, she is not replaced until morning, when a library staffer finds her snuggled in an old, velvet-lined alley bag (symbolizing the creature comforts of childhood), where she'd bedded down after hours of discomfort (just as symbolic) on a cold window ledge.

Thus, Rags - embodying Everyman - returns to prison a happy pig, squeaks with delight every time his keepers approach with their meagre offerings of food and comfort and submits herself to occasional outdoor forays during which she remains very much a passive curiosity among students and other youngsters who seem inevitably armed with hair and nail clippers.

Now, envision the overall project: "Rags to Riches", a disarmingly accessible story of totalitarianism subduing natural freedom and curbing social intercourse, is presented as an interesting, "harmless" pastime for youngsters whose parents - in buying copies at \$1 apiece - are helping to build the new library-cultural centre. All for a good cause, I suppose, but must we confound our children with the doctrines of Stalinism?

I'd also like to take issue with library staffer Judi Starkey, who provided the book's illustrations. So free-form and expressionistic are her sketches of Rags that the hirsute little hairball looks like a whiskbroom gone to seed. As a result, my attempts to color the pictures (yes, "Rags to Riches" is also a "coloring book") turned each page into a hellish mess no matter how fine my crayon lines and how subtle my cross-hatching. The picture of the new cultural centre turned out really neat, though.

"Rags to Riches" is actually great for kids and is available at the Acton and Georgetown libraries; at the latter location this Saturday, the pig herself, her biographer and her illustrator host an autographing session from 2 to 4 p.m.



afforded us few clues about Rags' previous owners. The book is, after all, non-fiction, and since these characters, "Pat" and "Lianne", effect little development of the plot or underlying morality, they are perhaps best merely mentioned to protect their privacy.

Rags herself narrates the story, a rambling collection of anecdotal misadventures highlighted by a fur-raising tale about an escape from the cage after closing time. There is also the inevitable sensuous passages aimed more at titillation than at character or plot development, in which the names of those involved in any and all unsportable activities are replaced by blank spaces, purportedly to be "filled in" by young fans of the randy rodent: "...put out a pointer finger and moved it very slowly and softly, starting at the end of my nose and right up to my forehead. When...does this, I make



Constitution stakes still rise as PM ponders court defeats

Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

In the immediate aftermath of that decision by the Newfoundland Court of Appeal that Prime Minister Trudeau's constitutional package is, in effect, illegal, there is a broad view that this is an enormous setback for the federal government. But it may not be. It depends.

Trudeau and his ministers were obviously convinced they were on sound constitutional grounds when they brought the controversial patriation package before Parliament last October. And during its long committee study, and subsequent Parliamentary debate, legal questions didn't dominate discussions. Although there were frequent references to the legalities of the package, the opposition has been devoting more attention to the political aspects - the lack of consensus, the alleged divisiveness, the lobbying in Britain, the exclusion of God from the preamble, and such specifics as native rights and women's rights.

Whenever opposition MPs raised questions about the legality of the package, Justice Minister Chretien and the prime minister always expressed their confidence that they were on undisputed legal grounds. And since the Conservative opposition was

opposing the package on every conceivable front, the legal arguments didn't receive any more attention than the political comments of some backbench British MP. And when the Manitoba Appeal Court ruled by a 3-2 margin, in Ottawa's favor, the legal arguments were pushed further into the background.

ATTENTION DIVERTED
The opposition concentrated on the political arguments. And with the eight opposing premiers scrambling to come up with a consensus on another amending formula, all the attention was riveted on this exercise. In the parliamentary filibuster, the federal Tories killed time by attacking everything from the Speaker to New Democratic Party constituency offices. The debate had lost its focus. Most people weren't even listening to what the MPs were saying.

But the Newfoundland court decision jolted them. "We are somewhat disappointed by the judgment," a subdued Trudeau told the Commons. Then, in what appeared to be a retreating gesture, he said that, if Parliament quickly passed the resolution, he would await a final ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada before asking Westminster to give it a final approval. And if the Supreme Court decided the resolution was unconstitutional, then it would be dropped.

"I wonder if we could not agree to pass the resolution and make sure the Supreme Court of Canada is acting, not in a hypothetical case, but on a real one and agree to respect the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada," he said in the House.

The immediate reaction of the Conservatives was to reject this proposal, arguing that Parliament shouldn't be debating a measure that a court has declared to be illegal. Since the legalities are still very much a

matter of debate, particularly when a decision is still to come from the Quebec courts, and since the Supreme Court would be better served by having the amended and approved resolution before it, I don't agree with the Conservative reaction.

NEW DIRECTION
But that's beside the point. What the Newfoundland decision has done is to refocus attention to the legality of the measure. Suddenly that's the over-riding issue. And when all the arguments are directed at this one aspect - which they will be - other issues are pushed aside. The constitutional debate now will effectively become a legal one.

Should the Quebec courts also rule against the federal government, I don't see how the prime minister could proceed with the resolution, even with ultimate approval from the Supreme Court. And of course, if the Supreme Court also upheld the provinces, there wouldn't even be that political question to consider.

The resolution would receive a well-deserved execution. But - and this is getting back to my original point - what if these other courts uphold the federal position? In that event, I would think the Trudeau government would be far better off than it would have been without the Newfoundland decision.

The issue now is firmly in the courts, and if Trudeau is fortunate enough to get future decisions in his favor, it will be virtually impossible for his parliamentary opposition to reassemble another broad offensive on other fronts. On the other hand, should courts rule against him, it will be equally improbable that he will mount another offensive to patriate the constitution.

It's just that the stakes now are much higher.

Don't let victory fool you - long-term Tory trend down

Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

In one sense, politics is a lot like sports. You can be a hero to the crowd one minute and a bum the next. And it is not a terribly rational decision.

When applied in the context of the 1981 provincial election, where Progressive Conservatives ran as "Davis candidates" almost to the exclusion of the party name, the Tories must have worried about the future.

With a masterful campaign, well-financed, well-led, well-organized, with a popular premier heading it up and fumbling en masse in the opposition camp, the PCs still won only 70 of 125 seats.

The turn-out was a ridiculously low 56 per cent, indicating a general lack of emotional issues motivating voters to go to the polls, and no great pull by the

Davis name alone. More important, the Liberals actually increased their vote, both in percentage and real terms, even though the consensus was that Liberal Leader Stuart Smith ran an uneven campaign and didn't touch nerves with his issues.

MUCH WORRY
If under those circumstances the best the Conservatives can do is a marginal victory, one has to wonder about the party's ability to maintain its grip on power.

The problem is the yo-yo like reaction the public seems to adopt towards marginal leaders.

Probably no politician oscillates in Ontario esteem to the degree Pierre Trudeau does - being seen as Superman at his 1968 high point, while playing the Devil Incarnate at his 1979 low.

But Premier William Davis, while he hasn't suffered the same extremes in public affection and disaffection as Trudeau, has had his own brushes with a volatile public.

Davis was relatively popular and high profile in the 1971 election campaign, yet a target of personal abuse in the 1975 contest.

BIG WORRY
This time around the Conservatives tried to package him in a manner similar to the 1971 run, but - lacking a high turn-out and an emotional issue such as separate schools were then - with less successful results.

public mind as the four years following the Conservative-Davis sweep of 1971?

The Conservatives' future is complicated by the human tendency to vote against, rather than for on voting day. Opposition parties rarely win elections, more often governments lose them.

Smith is hardly the darling of the masses, but if Joe Clark can win hands-down in English-speaking Canada as in 1979 because of the unpopularity of the incumbent, then Smith too has a shot in Ontario.

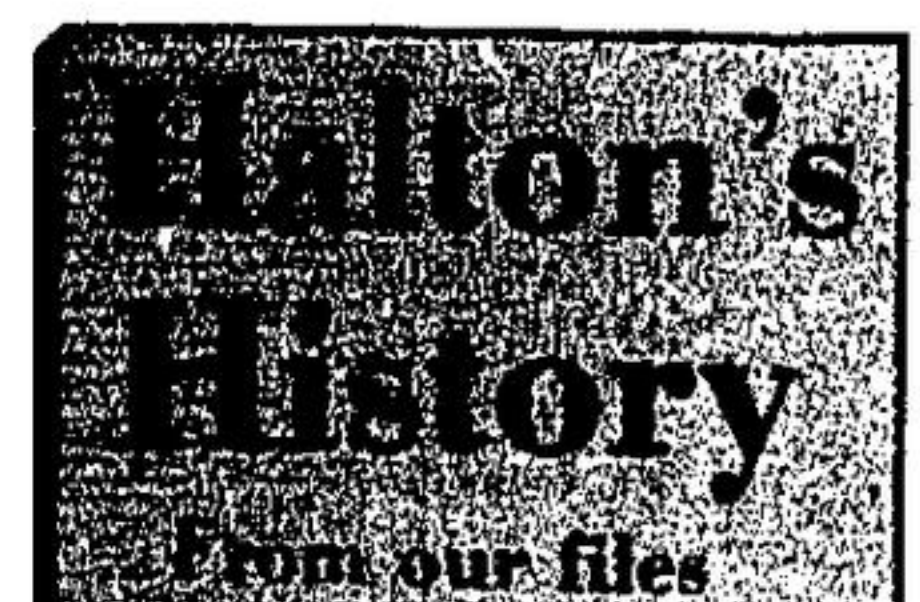
COULD BE
Of course, this assumes the Tories won't go into the next election campaign with an emotional issue and mass fervor on their side. The PC Party hasn't lasted 38 years in power by being stupid.

And Davis isn't about to roll over and play dead either. Many feel the Tories came from behind, partly because of hard campaigning by Davis, to squeak out a minority victory in the 1975 election.

Equally, one can never over-estimate the tendency of both the Liberals and NDP in Ontario to hark-kari at just the moment when it looks like the Tory monopoly on power may be broken.

The Conservatives still win a lot of votes because they are perceived as being the lesser of three evils.

But even adding those qualifiers one has to conclude the long-term Tory trend is downward. Even many who like the Conservatives are, as one retiring Tory MPP here once said, tired of them.



THIRTY YEARS AGO - Callfoot vaccination as a control measure for Bang's disease is fast becoming a general practice on the part of all progressive cattle owners in Halton. According to figures recently received from the Ontario Veterinary College, 3,285 calves were vaccinated in Halton in 1950. This is almost a 50 per cent increase over 1949.

The comedy "Raggedy Nan" sponsored by St. John's Guild and presented by the Young Adults Group of St. David's Church Campbellville, was performed at Stewarttown Hall Friday night.

Several weeks ago a campaign to raise funds for the March of Dimes was carried on in local schools. Later, it became known that the only society authorized to collect from schools is the Red Cross, so it was decided to send the \$38.62 raised to the authorized organization.

Rev. Arthur Dayfoot, who returned from the United Church mission field in China this year after six years, was welcomed back to town Friday when he addressed a gathering in St. John's Memorial Hall. Mr. Dayfoot spoke at length of his impressions gained as an evangelistic missionary before and after the communist domination of China.

The Legion project of sending cigarettes to the men in Korea got underway this week, with initial orders to be sent by Tuckett Tobacco Company in Hamilton. Local men include Earl Beerman and Bob Rodgers.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - A Georgetown dart team established themselves as the team to watch when the district final rolls around later this month in Hamilton. The team, made up of Bud Hill, Roy Rudiger, Art Hall and Bill Ranahan, won over 18 teams in a Zone Dart tournament held in Brampton.

A former town resident, Brigadier F.C. Wallace, became vice president of the Royal Winter Fair last week. Brigadier Wallace moved to York Mills two years ago and is president of Pittsburgh Industries.

An attractive new entrance and a larger librarian's office will come out of a renovation program now being undertaken at the public library. Library board chairman J.L. Lambert said this week that the renovations will include new terrazzo steps at the entrance which will extend farther into the library proper to reduce the present steep incline. The building will also receive a new floor in the vestibule and new double doors at the entrance.

Edna Strong, president of the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario, was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Altona Junior Farmers. Peel County Juniors learned they are a small fraction of the 7,000 members in 34 districts in Ontario.

A move contemplated by councils several times during the past few years will become reality soon when town gas pumps are installed at the water pumping station. Council on Monday voted to contract with Cities Service Oil Company to supply gas, fuel oil and diesel oil at an undisclosed price.

TEN YEARS AGO - Silverwood Women's Institute held their 20th anniversary party at Stewarttown April 2, with a lively 23 tables of euchre. A special birthday cake was colored in the WI's blue and gold.

Total expenditures for the Halton County Separate School Board for 1971 are estimated at \$4,831,600 compared to \$4,302,602 last year. Revenue from the provincial government amounts to \$4,044,166 or 83 per cent of the total 1971 budget. Revenue from local taxation makes up most of the balance of board funds at \$805,434. Of this, \$748,511 comes from municipal tax levy, and \$20,923 from use of the 1970 other levy on municipalities.

Nature has not been co-operating with Halton Conservation Authority's annual Maple Syrup Festival at Crawford Lake. For the past week, the Authority has been selling maple syrup bought from a commercial operation in Barrie because of the lack of their own syrup.

The Halton County Separate School Board last week approved the appointment of a new superintendent of schools, Clifford Brynes. He has been assistant superintendent with the Waterloo County Separate School Board.

Maple Nursery School parents held their annual wine and cheese party at the home of Terry and Fran Baines March 19. The evening included a sampling of exotic cheeses, an old-fashioned sing song and toasts with various Canadian wines.

ONE YEAR AGO - More than \$1,140,000 worth of health and social service programs, nine staff positions and road reconstruction projects that were to include the regrading of the hazardous Mountainview-River Drive intersection may have all fallen victim to regional budget cutbacks. "I really don't know where to look for any more cuts," chief administrative officer Ernie Reid said.

Halton regional public works employees are back on the job today after ratifying a new two-year contract Monday. The new contract gives workers an average hourly rate of \$7.80 effective immediately, up from \$7.27 under the contract which expired Dec. 31. The new contract calls for a 7.25 per cent pay increase retroactive to Jan. 1, and a further two per cent effective June 1.

Halton MP Otto Jelinek is "delighted" with his appointment as corporate affairs critic in the Conservative shadow cabinet. "It enlarges my interest from strictly small businesses to medium and large corporations," he said. "It will be a very challenging portfolio to handle."

Georgetown's Rotary Club celebrated its 25th anniversary in grand style Saturday night with a gala banquet that saw four local club members presented with Paul Harris awards, the most any club has received in one presentation, according to District Governor Paul McKeelvey.

Acton's McKenzie-Smith Middle School will lose its vice-principal, who has been there since 1978 and spent three years before that as vice-principal at Georgetown's Centennial Middle School. He was elevated to a principal's position by the Halton Board of Education Thursday night.

POET'S CORNER

Lost wallet

A shocked look upon her face
How her wallet left that place
Left her stranded in the store
So she couldn't shop no more
She looked and searched all around
No sign of that wallet could be found
With her license and credit cards too
What could that depressed lady do?
Oh what a shock, did someone steal?
You cannot pay, how would you feel?
Who would do such a selfish act
Only someone that is cracked.
Say someone with cupboard bare
Children hungry, nothing left to spare.
It was a lady that I know
No one saw the sneaky go,
They who live a snatcher way
A prison term, some day will pay.

By Albert Brooks
RR 2 Acton

Rotary Club
Bowl-athon
April 28