

Legal gaps in site F clash

Councillors may argue that it is legally expedient; civil servants at the regional level may point out that it is politically necessary; we don't care - it just strikes us as pretty dumb when a regional municipality takes one of its member local municipalities to court.

This is not what Darcy McKeough had in mind when he drafted a plan for regional government.

There'll no doubt be very little animosity between representatives from the region of Halton and the town of Milton when they square off in the courtroom Friday over Site "F". This appears to be very much a battle over legal precedent and, except for the fact that Milton's long-standing opposition to Halton's Site F plans will be underlined, there's no overt threat to regional government posed here.

But what bothers us is the repetitive nature of the confrontation. Having persuaded the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to force Milton to rezone 248 acres for a regional landfill site, the region now finds Milton unwilling to accede. Milton officials note that the

provincial environment ministry has ruled that any hearings pertinent to Site F will be held under the terms of the Environmental Assessment Act; as a result, they say, Milton is unable to do anything with the land in question, including its rezoning, until all hearings are complete.

Milton is thus compelled to rezone the rural property by one provincial body and prevented from doing so by another.

So it was two years ago when Halton Hills citizens were battling Ontario Hydro over the transmission line now in place along the fifth concession. Which piece of legislation takes precedence over the other, Queen's Park was asked.

Contradictory legislative roadblocks are nothing new, of course, and they won't go away for a long time, if ever. It bothers us no end, however, to see taxpayers' money being spent in a courtroom by municipal officials who are trying to sort out a provincial shortcoming. Each time the province blocks or slows the growth of a regional municipality, Queen's Park's shortsightedness in establishing that region comes deeper into question.



MP MAKES HIS REVIEW

The first non-military guest to review Georgetown's 756 Air Cadets Squadron in 13 years of annual inspections, Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid was assisted Monday night by Captain E. Francis and Wing Officer B. Edstrand of Canadian Forces Base Downsview. Highlighting the air cadets' year,

the inspection in Georgetown Memorial Arena also involved several demonstrations and the presentation of awards by local dignitaries. The Herald will carry more photos and full coverage of the inspection Friday in its Weekend Extra.

(Photo by Norm Ibbot)

Opinion polls prove fruitless in Constitution question



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Government - and opposition parties, too - pay great heed to public opinion polls. Just about every major decision, such as the timing of an election, is preceded by a sampling of public opinion. The major parties have

surveyors in the field most of the time, asking questions about inflation, personal popularity and egg prices. Public opinion surveys tend to govern the way we are governed.

But there are times when no one should pay too much attention to such surveys. And one that springs to mind - which happens to be the latest to spring across this desk - is a Gallup survey on the public's perception of the government's plan to patriate the constitution. The question that struck me as uniquely useless has this: "In the long run, do you think the federal government's effort to patriate the Canadian constitution will be a force to unite Canada or to divide Canada?"

And then the Gallup people provide us with the inclusive responses, including regional breakdowns. We learn, for instance, that 41 per cent of Canadians, on a national basis, think the patriation package will unite Canada while 37 per cent feel it will further divide us.

Another 22 per cent, which would certainly include me, don't have the answer.

REGIONS VARY

The survey went on to discover that in Atlantic Canada 47 per cent think that patriation will be a unifying force while 32 per cent think otherwise. In Ontario it's 46 per cent on the positive side and 34 per cent on the negative side. But on the prairies, it's reversed. Only 34 per cent of the people in that region seem to feel a patriated constitution will help unify the country while 49 per cent take the opposite view.

Since, on a national basis, the Trudeau constitutional package is perceived as being more unifying than divisive, the government will no doubt take heart from the news, and make frequent use of the figures to justify its actions.

But, with all due respect to the respondents in that survey, I think it would be silly for anyone to attach much significance to the numbers. The question was as difficult as asking us to predict whether the rate of inflation in Romania would be still on the upswing in 1987.

I think it's fairly reasonable to conclude that the overwhelming majority of us haven't the faintest idea

whether a patriated constitution will prove to be unifying or divisive.

OPPOSING VIEWS

If you listen to Prime Minister Trudeau you will quickly gain the impression that Canada will have trouble surviving without a new constitution; that it's a miracle we made it this far without such a document. Or if you listen to a typical premier you will quickly get the idea that, if the constitutional package is implemented, the country might split apart at the seams.

There is someone to tell us that when the proposed constitution begins protecting minority language rights that Quebecers will feel more secure within Confederation rights that Quebecers will feel more secure within Confederation and English-speaking residents of the province will finally join the mainstream of the province's development. But then you hear someone else say that on the basis of the new constitution, Premier Rene Levesque may call an election, asking for a mandate to separate.

And we shouldn't overlook the fact that Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed, among others, has suggested he wouldn't abide by the new constitutional rules. That didn't strike me as particularly unifying gesture.

What really matters is how our political leaders perceive the constitution and how they propose to react to it and use it. Until that is settled - if it ever is - what the rest of us happen to think is scarcely worth Dr. Gallup's time.

Let's not be too hasty, here

From past editorials and the one above, our stand on provincial-municipal relations is clear: our sympathies lie entirely with the municipality.

It is in this interest, however, that we must chide Halton Hills council and those like it that would simply file away appeals for support from other towns and townships without, it seems, a second thought.

It's a routine matter at council meetings for proposed resolutions from other towns to be quickly examined as "correspondence" and - unless something in the proposal hits a nerve for one member - discarded without comment. The resolutions are frequently circulated among Ontario's municipal councils to compile a list of supporting towns and townships ready for submission to the provincial government.

Suggested resolutions range from attacks on provincial policy to humanitarian appeals for financial help in the face of catastrophe.

There are several reasons why many of these inter-municipal petitions get stamped by the clerk "received and filed" without action being taken by the recipient.

Many veteran councillors resign themselves to the fact that official decisions must not be made on the basis of limited information invariably supplied by the party seeking support; in all fairness, a proper investigation would have to be made into the circumstances prompting the request, a study which would be costly and time-consuming.

But another municipal council is crying out somewhere for assistance in

opposing or supporting some issue that it feels is relevant to other towns and citizens. Often, the issues described on official municipal stationery are trite; often, they're "motherhood issues" that stretch beyond council's jurisdiction; usually, they're neither.

Such was the case Monday night when two different municipalities asked Halton Hills to endorse their draft resolutions ready for forwarding to Queen's Park. Both were received and filed without discussion.

Ironically, one from the township of Georgian Bay sought our council's support in its battle against the proposed construction of two hydroelectric stations. Halton Hills, of course, suffered through its own utility fight, although it never circulated such a petition.

If we agree that it's mutually beneficial for municipalities to support one another in these kinds of presentations to Queen's Park, it follows that some form of umbrella agency, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario notwithstanding, could aid this solidarity by circulating the petitions itself and at the same time preparing objective reports on the circumstances.

A system whereby municipal clerks could study the incoming information, conduct further investigation if necessary and make recommendations to council would be theoretically perfect, but the major responsibility for setting it up clearly rests with some central administrative body, either one already existing or one that must yet be formed.



Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

Our founder revisited

Several people, including a woman who claimed to be Pauline McGibbon, have been asking me just why WAS the McGibbon Hotel Georgetown's first building? I'd indicated as much in a recent column which aspired to rewrite the community's dusty history as a sort of "I Love Georgetown" project.

"Pauline...Pauline...Pauline," I moaned into the phone. "It was a rhetorical teaser. The history was fiction. It was further slander against the good name of George Kennedy - Our Founder - (who was really a WOMAN, but that's another episode) and the fact I had the audacity to call him a drunk and a womanizer."

Two editions of the Globe and Mail later, the lawyers for one Oscar Kennedy were on the phone - both of them. "Said he was George's long-lost great-great-grandson, who'd just booked a room at the McGibbon Hotel."

"You called my great-great-grandfather a drunk and a womanizer," he snarled, peppering me with beer nuts as he swung his cane dramatically to and fro.

"I'm sorry, I'll never tamper with the past again." I called after him as one of the hotel's big, burly bouncers carried him outside. "Be gentle with him, Elsie - he's an old man."

Convinced I'd made Georgetown's proud history just another cause in the International Year

of the Disabled, I reached across the bar for some darts.

"I'll stick to the future from now on," I muttered to myself, bouncing the first dart off a cigarette machine.

Look for Astra Pape representing The Herald at various news events around town. A first-year journalism student at Ryerson Polytech in Toronto, Astra's a Georgetown resident who'll be helping us out a lot in the months to come.

In the interest of being fair, I'd like to report a new development on the Ontario energy scene for which the provincial government should be applauded. Lord knows I've recommended the Conservative government's defeat enough times because of its long-term commitment to nuclear power, but last week came news of a gratifying diversion in that policy.

The ministry of energy announced the launching of a five-year, \$10 million, commercial-industrial demonstration program, part of its new \$50 million "Solar Strategy for Ontario". Initially, the government will be striving to create a market for solar energy, provide experience for the technicians who'll be involved and increase the public's knowledge of solar energy and its potential uses.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

The best line at Treasurer Frank Miller's press conference, where he answered questions about his tough budget, came when he was asked about opposition reaction.

"They were smiling," he said. And so they should be.

Miller's budget, on the face of it, is a heavy-handed document that socks the taxpayer for \$600 million more than before yet still leaves the province \$1 billion short of revenue.

That gives the opposition a chance to act outraged and score political brownie points.

The Liberals and NDP can shed tears for the hard-done-to ordinary citizen, who is going to see his or her personal income tax rise, gasoline prices soar, OHIP jump, and both booze and tobacco become more expensive.

The opposition too pointed out that Miller could not have hammered the

average person this way if minority government still existed.

NOW HONEST

After all, the combined opposition forced then-Treasurer Darcy McKeough to roll back a 37.5 per cent OHIP increase in the 1978 budget and substitute other taxes instead.

And knowing he was going into an election Miller was extremely circumspect about taxes in both his 1979 and 1980 budgets.

Liberal treasury critic David Peterson put it another way, mind you, saying it is an "old subterfuge" leaving taxes alone in an election year and then paying a "heavy penalty" to overcome the resulting "fiscal distortions" the following year.

While there is some truth in that particular Peterson criticism, most attacks upon the Miller budget are simply political gobbledygook.

Considering the pressures upon him from different directions, Miller probably produced about as fiscally responsible a budget as Ontario could have gotten at this particular time in its history.

GOOD NEWS

True fiscal responsibility, of course, means spending no more than one earns, but in an age of inflation, the credit card, and oil wealth flowing west, that is a tough target for Miller to hit.

The good news is that total government expenditures continue to grow no more quickly than the economy in general, meaning the

job-creating private sector is not being squeezed more heavily to pay for government.

The bad news is that the idea of a balanced budget continues to recede into the distant future. (This year, 1981, was when McKeough originally intended to accomplish that goal.)

Then, too, Miller last year spent more money than he had originally planned, something the government did not do in the prior five years.

HEALTHY THOUGH

In addition, the province remains under pressure to accelerate spending.

Partly it is a natural consequence of an aging society, an economy weakened by energy price hikes, and the heavier-than-average impact inflation has on government costs.

But partly it is the result of people always demanding "more", whether in wages and services, with the consequence there are political danger lines no government will cross regardless of the effect upon the budget. For example, further financial squeezing of health care is impossible.

Some of the budget changes will help finance this cost push, especially the shift in the personal income tax base, and the decision to take a percentage cut on every hike in retail gasoline prices.

But what Miller must really be hoping for is an adjustment in the federal-provincial equalization formula so that Ontario receives more money and Ontario's treasurer more flexibility.

Call of the wild

Wildlife Appreciation Days begin Saturday at the Halton Region Conservation Authority's Mountsberg Wildlife Centre near Campbellville. A \$3 per car admission fee covers a variety of family-oriented activities, including horse-drawn wagon rides, live animal exhibits, spring hiking, barnyard animals and a Spring Tea Shoppe. Saturday and Sunday this week are devoted to the wolf, June 7 to predatory snakes, June 13 and 14 to birds of prey and June 20 and 21 to "birds in hand".

PC annual meeting

The Brampton-Georgetown Federal Progressive Conservative Association holds its annual general meeting June 3 at 8 p.m. in the Brampton public library auditorium, 65 Queen St. E. Outspoken MP Jake Epp will be guest speaker for the meeting, which also features the annual election of officers. Memberships will be available.

Artwork at libraries

Students' artwork from Georgetown's Centennial School, Acton's McKenzie-Smith Middle School and the Stewarttown School goes on display at both the Acton and Georgetown libraries June 2 through 20.

Safe cycling

Halton regional police constable Raj Swaminathan returns to the Acton and Georgetown public libraries June 3 and 4 at 6:30 p.m. for bicycle safety clinics. Find out if you're a safe cyclist and, if not, learn how you can be. Clinics are June 3 in Acton and June 4 in Georgetown.

Road race June 14

Although expressing no desire to enter it themselves, Halton's regional councillors have approved of Halton Hills' plan to hold a mayor's running race June 14.

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-The school board has voted unanimously in favor of building two new high schools in Georgetown and Acton. A motion calling for a second school in Georgetown, which would eliminate the need for a school in Acton, was rejected by Acton officials who said they had enough enrolment to warrant their own school.

On June 1, Canada's ninth census begins. A.E. Padbury is chief commissioner for Halton. He and four people in charge of Georgetown have been taking an instruction course preparatory to compiling the forms required and will be starting on their rounds this week.

One of Main Street's best known businesses has changed hands. Enrico Caruso of Brampton took over ownership of Licata's Fruit Market Monday morning. The fruit and vegetable business will be known as Caruso's Fruit Market.

A local knitting company is erecting a new business building in Georgetown. All Wilfred Laviole and Son have started work on a one-storey factory on the west side of the highway just over the White Bridge. The new building will be of cement construction providing 67,000 square feet of floor space. They are currently located in the downstairs half of the building owned by William Shenk and Laviole Knitting Co.

The oldest established taxi business in Georgetown has been sold. Fred Leeder, operator of Glen Taxi has purchased the DeLuxe Taxi from Ray Whitmee. He will operate it under the DeLuxe name.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-A 76-year old trophy missing for the past 44 years has been recovered by the Lorne Scots through publicity about their 1939-45 reunion held in Brampton last week.

Sidewalks will be installed on the east side of Windsor Road with residents paying for concrete and the town supplying labor. All residents have agreed to the proposal which will be undertaken under the Winter Works program. Cost is estimated at \$2 per square foot for the 600 feet of sidewalk to be paid.

Mr. R. Proctor of the municipal engineering firm addressed Esquering Council regarding a water system for Glen Williams. He offered his services in preparing a report and suggested that they talk to Georgetown since the Glen would be better served by a common water supply.

The establishment of Ontario's first County Industrial Committee was announced last week. The Committee, which has been criticized by Georgetown councillors, is to promote Halton as an ideal industrial location.

More boys registered for Minor Baseball last Saturday morning bringing the present total close to the 200 mark, almost double last year's total. Because of the size of the turn-out, the boys have been divided into 12 teams this year with a new division created in the beginner ranks.

TEN YEARS AGO-Both Joe Robert and Clive Llewellyn are candidates for Canada's Olympic wrestling team in the near future according to Georgetown high school wrestling coach Lew Martin. The two had just returned from the world amateur wrestling championships in Tokyo, where they had shown promise.

Georgetown Lions roared through the downtown area behind pushbrooms making their contribution to the local clean-up campaign.

Halton County roads committee this week heard a proposal from Indusium Quarries to turn its site near Limehouse into a recreational, industrial or residential complex. The plans call for reforestation of the pit as well as a large lake in the quarry's southwest corner.

The North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded received the go-ahead from Esquering Council Monday night to hold a nursery school for retarded and handicapped children in the recreation room of the addition to the A.R.C. Industries building in the old Hornby school.

In an abrupt change of position, Burlington decided not to press for further representation on county council at a special meeting last week. They had wanted to increase their representation by five members and decrease Georgetown's voting power by one.

ONE YEAR AGO-Halton Regional Police has a new deputy-chief. The police commission approve the appointment of Robert Middaugh to the position of deputy-chief of operations at a meeting last week.

The Georgetown high school track and field team, the Rebels, came on strong at the Peel-Halton meet held at Centennial Park in Etobicoke. They came in second, trailing the winners, Erinedale, by only 16 points.

Eighth Line residents are busy preparing their case against the golf driving range planned for development near their Hornby area homes. They are presently gathering evidence of the range's anticipated impact at operating sites nearby.

Maple Avenue Baptist Church celebrated its 25th anniversary all last week holding special activities every night.

The town's general committee passed a recommendation Monday to consolidate all bylaws regulating the fencing of swimming pools in the town. They said it wouldn't affect the existing regulations but rather consolidate them all into one set of bylaws.

POET'S CORNER

Find the Way

The greatness of life is to seek and to gain
Where do I start and how do I train?
Take all the problems that get in my way
Make sure I solve them and call it a day
Then your answers will come clear
Day by day, year by year
As you try, they will come true
As more you try the better you'll do.
Even the birds use their wing
Way up in the tree the nest does cling
For their young to protect
Without some wit would be neglect.
Dream within your heart and soul
For that image is your goal
Something to want, something for you
The answer is there, just find the clue.
When your mind's made up, you planned it so
The time has come, it has to go
Live the life that you want it to be
It's a great world now you see
You have tried a worthwhile strain
All your work is not in vain.

—By Albert Brooks
RR2 Acton