

'Montebello' at Halton region

It's always rather interesting when a senior official from the provincial government drops by to visit municipal politicians. Last Wednesday's address to Halton regional council by housing minister Claude Bennett - something of a mini-summit inside the council chamber - was no exception.

Just like the world leaders' economic summit at Montebello, last week's visit here had its share of tactical diplomacy, but, just like in Montebello, it seemed that every word spoken widened the distance between the parties.

Having already visited the jolly green headquarters in Oakville last year, ostensibly to sign Halton's new official plan, Mr. Bennett returned last week ostensibly to introduce his new portfolio - municipal affairs - which he'll handle for the Davis government along with the housing beat.

Having done so, Mr. Bennett then invited questions from the councillors. Immediately, the discrepancy between the public's expectations of municipal government and the municipality's ability to meet them in the face of reduced provincial support was tossed on the floor.

The minister was boring but sincere when he reiterated the province's commitment to regional government and stressed its unwillingness to consider structural change. But when he began deflating the province's failure to meet municipal financing needs, the lines were clearly drawn.

Councillors - who take the brunt of public criticism every time a planned project or service gets dumped for lack of funds - called Mr. Bennett down time and again with questions about gaps in the flow of money from Queen's Park. Time and again, the minister praised the provincial government's success in keeping pace with inflation, and chided the municipalities for not doing the same.

Backed into a corner by Mayor Pete Pomeroy, Mr. Bennett showed little recognition of municipal tax assessment inequity, promising to, ahem, "look into" the level of provincial apportionment grants designed to cover those inequities.

Housing minister Bennett is typical of the Ontario Cabinet ministers who forge ahead, in turn, on projects they consistently defend as being "for the good of the province" while ignoring the short-term effects they'll cause at the municipal level in specific areas. Conversely, Queen's Park will often sit back and watch a planned project idle while municipalities suffer in the long run.

Yes, there are instances when the municipalities cause the province some undue grief. But these are few and far between: especially in Halton and other areas of regionalized government, the province holds sole responsibility for providing - or helping the towns provide - some basic services. Inflation and its associated evils have seen these services falter, and no amount of diplomacy on the minister's part can right those wrongs.

Letters to the editor

Referees' official challenges recent soccer column

To the editor of The Herald:
I want to correct some errors of fact which appeared in Alex Tough's soccer column in the Herald of June 30.

Mr. Tough writes about the referee assault problem and states: "... Referee assaults seem to be increasing in spite of the CSA's determination to dish out heavy sentences ..."

"This statement is not correct. ... The CSA (Canadian Soccer Association) deal only with referee assaults in professional soccer. It is the OSA (Ontario Soccer Association) which deals with all assaults in amateur soccer. All sentences handed out are based on minimum standards set by the CSA.

Mr. Tough then goes on to write: "... The referee can caution (yellow card) and eject (red card) coaches, managers, players and other spectators also, from the field ...". As an OSA registered referee Mr. Tough should know that this statement is completely erroneous and therefore very misleading, especially to younger and inexperienced referees.

No referee can caution or dismiss from the field a coach,

manager or any other official of a club or team and most certainly never a spectator.

The FIFA Laws of the Game (Law XII) provide for the referee to caution or dismiss from the field ONLY players and substitutes on the team bench. There is absolutely no provision in the laws for showing a red or yellow card to any other person, whether or not that person is associated with a team, and to repeat, certainly not a spectator.

The correct procedure, which again Mr. Tough should know, is that in the case of general misconduct by team officials (a yellow card to a player) the referee reports the incident(s), to the appropriate authority (league, association); in the case of continued misconduct or an assault by a team official (red card to a player) the referee shall request that the offender leave the park and the immediate areas, and on a refusal to do so the referee shall inform both teams that the game will be abandoned. The referee can also request that a spectator leave the park and the home

team. The alternative is again to abandon the game. In all cases of assault, by any person the referee must submit a report to the OSA and the OSRA.

I hope you can find room on your sports pages for this letter since, with the increase of referee assaults and general misconduct by players and officials and spectators, it is most important that all referees fully understand the correct procedures.

May I just say that the matter of referee assaults is of concern to all sportsmen and the OSRA are very pleased that your columnist gives it the local coverage that is needed to bring it to the attention of all concerned at the grass roots level.

Yours sincerely
Francis T. Clayton
Secretary

Columnist Alex Tough responds:
Mr. Clayton takes a sledgehammer to a nut - in this case, nitpicking at factual terminology.

Nowhere in my official copy of FIF's Laws and Guide does it state that ONLY players can be cautioned or ejected. Indeed the OSA Guide specifically names players and team officials in the caution (yellow card) and ejection (red card) disciplinary process.

The OSA Guide also refers to club members (i.e. spectators) in this category. The purpose of using the color codes was to simplify understanding for the general reader. I AM aware of correct procedures; is this necessary to general readers?

Nor, in my official copy does it state that referee cannot take the action as I originally wrote; nor have I been advised otherwise by OSRA, OSA or CSA that I should not have, when I have, nor has any other referee to my knowledge, cautioned or ejected, or have had ejected persons other than players.

It is pleasing that the column of a purely local newspaper appears to be so widely read and taken seriously enough to raise interest at provincial level.

A. Tough
Georgetown

'Use ActiVan' - reader pleas

To the editor of The Herald:
I suppose you would say this is a letter to the editor, but I'm hoping the editor would place this letter, where it would get most review. My letter is regarding the ActiVan.

The disabled of this community are not making full use of this wonderful service and without full cooperation I'm afraid this service will go down the tube.

Personally I use the service whenever possible. After being home-bound for six years, I'm grateful for

this service and would hate to lose it. I can now go to the hairdresser, bank or doctor without relying upon the goodness of friends, and I feel it makes me a little more independent.

I would appreciate your help in this matter, because without the ActiVan a lot of people will once again be house-bound. I cannot speak highly enough of the good service, helpful drivers, and the feeling of being needed, when riding the van.

Thank you, Sir,
With respect,
Joan E. Jones.



Coutts' climb to PM's office would be fight from scratch



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald
The conventional wisdom is that Jim Coutts, the flash adviser to Prime Minister Trudeau, is seeking a Commons seat for the express purpose of becoming the next leader of the Liberal Party. Why else, it is asked, would he want to quit being the second most powerful man in Canada?

There is no doubt that Coutts has clout. Since 1974, when Trudeau reorganized his office around the energetic little wheeler-dealer, Coutts has had enormous influence on events in Ottawa. It was Coutts who, more than anyone else, engineered Trudeau's decision to remain around to fight successfully, the 1980 general election. It was Coutts, a native Albertan who talked Tory Jack Horner into joining the Liberal cabinet. If the little fellow is academically brilliant, he is also a pragmatic politician. From the time he sat across from Joe Clark in a university model Parliament, Coutts has displayed a single-minded determination to grip the reins of power. His grip, at the moment, is firm.

STEADY RISE
Jim Coutts has experienced few setbacks since he arrived in Ottawa as a rosy-cheeked 25-year old to become

appointments secretary to the late Lester Pearson. He has bounced from one success to another, stopping to study at Harvard University and becoming an influential Toronto consultant. And since he joined the Trudeau team, his rise to the top position of influence has been smooth and steady.

Now, Jim Coutts wants to be an MP and, presumably, a cabinet minister. So his boss has decided that the most suitable riding would be Toronto's Spadina, partly because Coutts owns a home there, and to create the opening the sitting MP, Peter Stollery, was shoved off to the Senate where he can enjoy 30 blissful years in that under-worked institution. As I mentioned earlier, Liberals don't fool around when they want to juggle personalities.

Anyway, it's widely assumed that Coutts has his eyes set firmly on the Liberal leadership since he would scarcely want to slide from his present perch of power to a nondescript seat on the backbenches. And Trudeau himself helped fuel the speculation when, although with tongue in cheek, he hinted in the Commons that the manoeuvring was done with his retirement in mind. "... It is well known that I am planning to leave public life and I am hastening to put a good man like Jim Coutts into Parliament."

WORTH WATCHING
Well, perhaps Jim Coutts will some day be prime minister of Canada but even if he gets himself elected to Parliament on Aug. 17, it's going to be a hazardous route to the top. There is no convincing evidence that even the personal endorsement of Pierre Trudeau works any magic with ambitious politicians. The names of Pierre Juneau, John Evans and Gordon

Gibson come to mind, along with many others.

And there is no evidence either that employment in the prime minister's office represents foolproof qualification for advancement. Energy Minister Marc Lalonde used to be the prime minister's right hand, and while he has done reasonably well in Parliament he is not perceived as a leadership material. Fisheries Minister Romeo LeBlanc had also been a prime ministerial employee and he is not destined for the top job. Parliament tends to have a levelling influence on its occupants.

And if Coutts is going to make it to the top, he will have to do it on his own, starting from scratch the moment he enters the House. In a few months it will have been forgotten that he ever worked for Trudeau, just as few people remember that Lalonde was once the key adviser to the prime minister.

Coutts has a razor-sharp mind, he is a good speaker, a marvelous story-teller and, given the Liberal Party's traditional fascination with backbenchers, he is obviously worth watching.

But then there have been many others who were worth watching as they entered Parliament - and have scarcely been seen since. Pulling strings behind the prime minister's back, regardless of how brilliantly it's done, is a far cry from facing the enemy every day in the parliamentary trenches. Furthermore, anyone who is perceived to be leadership material, invariably faces heavier fire than your less ambitious cabinet ministers. And there will be days when Jim Coutts will wish he was back in the relative tranquility of the prime minister's office.

Feds' pay raise takes heat off MPP's own salary goals



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald
That idiotic pension scheme and 31 per cent pay hike federal MPs voted themselves has had one good side effect so far as provincial politicians are concerned.

It has kept the heat off their own search for more bucks.

The Legislature this session raised the basic pay of an MPP from \$24,500 to \$30,000.

In addition, the member receives an annual tax-free "expense" allowance of \$10,000, up from \$8,000 (which is probably the equivalent in taxable dollars of another \$16,000 income).

So the real base rate is about \$46,000.

Not too many members take home that little, of course.

If they sit on a committee during the six months the Legislature is not in session, they receive an extra tax-free \$87 a day.

If members of cabinet, as 27 MPPs are, an additional \$11,700 or \$23,500, depending on responsibility, flows into their pockets. (The premier makes \$60,200 plus the \$10,000 tax-free allowance).

LOTS MORE
If parliamentary assistants to ministers, as 21 Conservatives are, there's \$7,300 more.

The Speaker picks up \$17,200 extra, the Opposition Leader \$23,300, and the Third Party Leader \$11,700. Chairmen of committees bank between \$3,300 and \$7,200 depending on type, party whips acquire \$2,750 to \$8,900 depending on status and the two opposition house leaders take home \$8,900 and \$6,700 respectively.

As well, a number of MPPs keep their civilian jobs going and have income from them too.

What it totals into is a respectable pay package that makes one look with a sceptical eye on claims by some MPPs that they are "grossly underpaid."

On the other hand, with two exceptions, it is difficult to quarrel with the current amounts they receive since the job does carry certain important responsibilities.

NOT GOOD
The \$87 a day allowance for summer and winter committee work is, in essence, double pay. They are already paid a fair annual salary. Why this extra goddite?

The \$10,000 expense allowance is no such thing. It is straight income and treated as such by MPPs. None that I know of has ever returned a

single penny of this so-called expense money because it wasn't used.

MPPs do have genuine expense accounts in addition to the \$10,000. These handle all their accommodation costs in Toronto, travel to and from Queen's Park as well as around their constituency, printing and stationery, mailing, postage, long-distance telephone use, translation, secretaries and assistants, and office accommodation and expenses.

Picking one member at random, I added these expenses together and found he's spent nearly \$40,000 last year.

NEED CHANGE
MPPs do have a few additional and peculiar expenses. For example, when a local organization with a fund-raising drive hits a member for a donation he literally can't refuse.

But that should be handled by the federal income tax department like any other system of deductions available to people who work in occupations that have unusual allowable expenses.

The present expense allowance system is a sham and morally dishonest, as two freshmen Liberals (Bill Wrye and Sheila Copps) rightly suggested in debate here before being stepped down by their elders.

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Esqueting council has asked the North Halton High School District Board to defer any action on building new schools until the new county assessment system is stabilized. A delegation of board members looked over the new idea of building costs. It's believed that new schools can be built at a cost which will be equal or less to the present debenture costs of the district which expire in two years.

Change of ownership of a local business was announced last week with the sale of Bradley Brothers Meats and Groceries to Walker Cleave. Mr. Cleave took over operation of the Main Street business last Monday. He has been working with Mr. Bradley for the past four years.

Five hundred hens, a bull, some pigs and the hay crop were lost in a fire caused when lightning struck the barn shed and silo on George Jennings' farm during an electrical storm. The bolt of lightning struck the centre of the building which was immediately engulfed in flames. Mr. Jennings' farm is located between Stewarttown and Speyside.

The new Georgetown phone directory to be issued to subscribers here in early November will contain several important changes due to the steady increase in number of telephones in service. The new directory will no longer contain listings for Aurora, Roche's Point and Sutton. These changes will provide subscribers with a more convenient directory for local calling.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown will need a sixth public school soon but where it'll go won't be known until a study of the available sites is made by town council. The school board favors a site on Delreux Boulevard and presented figures to town council proving the necessity of another school. They stressed their preference for the Delreux location as their choice after having conducted extensive investigations.

The Georgetown and District High School Board has been given the green light to proceed with the proposed million dollar technical wing. Approval from the federal government will mean the new \$969,900 wing and the \$220,800 for new equipment will cost the town practically nothing. The federal government grant will cover 75 per cent of the cost while the Ontario government will pay their normal 25 per cent.

The Georgetown's girls pipe band has had a full agenda this season with appearances in Malton, Kingston, Port Credit and Grimsby as well as the local scene. They gave their first performance when they marched with the Lions Club parade in Malton. The pipers made their first local appearance at the Georgetown Lions Rodeo Parade.

TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown commuters came one step closer this week to being served by a new commuter train. The prospect emerged after a closed meeting of federal, provincial and Metro officials who agreed on terms of a federally-financed study. The study, which could result in four or more GO-train services, strongly recommended service for Georgetown.

A petition is being circulated in Georgetown's east end by parents of high school students affected by the termination of the bus service to the high school. Halton County Board of Education cancelled the bus service for the 375 students last June. The service had been started several years ago when the students had to wade up to 2.75 miles through mud and heavy construction. Since those conditions no longer exist, the service was cancelled.

The committee of management of the Halton Centennial Manor for the aged has voted to make a bid for part of the Ortona Barracks property in Oakville as a site for the home for the aged. The committee wants eight out of a total 18 acres and all members agreed after touring the site that it would be ideal for a new home for the aged, the second in Halton Hills.

Residents of Acton's Lakeview subdivision are disputing the right of an Elizabeth Street resident to fence off a walkway which connects the subdivision with Prospect Park. The residents were involved with the owner and police in two separate incidents last week. No charges were laid but some adults and children threatened to tear down the fence.

A Terra Coits man is convinced that the provincial government has allowed development of a gravel pit next to his home. Mr. Symmes said the company received a permit from the department of mines and resources in September 1970 and began daily operation. The area, he said, used to be a small and seldom used gravel pit and has now become a 50-acre quarry. Both the September permit and a renewed permit in March were issued without inspection of the site by a department official.

ONE YEAR AGO—Mayor Pete Pomeroy and Wendy's president Dennis Kral snipped the ribbon to officially open Georgetown's newest addition to the hamburger chain. The Georgetown Wendy's franchise was open to dignitaries and press Monday night. It is managed by Dave Meade and already employs 75 people on varying shifts.

A neighborhood furor has erupted over the clearing of trees from a two-acre property above Glen Williams, action which the homeowners say the developer has no right to take. Residents say the developer has broken the law by proceeding with the removal despite lack of approval and it threatens to create an erosion problem along the area slopes. A spokesman for the firm said that they are within their rights to proceed since they've been granted permission to construct a home on Regional Road 30.

Halton region has launched a study designed to improve the delivery of child services in the region. The year-long study which will cost \$39,800, is being sponsored by the region and the Halton Child Services Group. All the available information on child services will be gathered and collated.

The Halton Board of Education has rejected a proposal that it recognize the need for a speech pathologist to work with the trainable mentally handicapped children. Halton Hills trustee Barry Shepherd said the motion was only a suggestion for the board to consider for inclusion in a long term plan and they could still examine the concept without having to hire someone.

Acton didn't get funds for its new separate school because the Halton Separate School Board listed Oakville as the number one priority according to the minister of education. Dr. Bette Stephenson said the board had given Oakville the top priority rating and therefore the ministry gave 1.5 million dollars to the board for a new school in Oakville. She also said that the entire situation would be reviewed in September.

POETS' CORNER

Buttercups

"Buttercups"
As the little girl picked the buttercup
It was a fascinating streak of luck
Oh what a thrill that day to see
This little girl picked them happy and
free
To that girl it was a great delight
Time stood still, soon came the night

She was charmed with flowers yellow
and bright
Picked them for her Mother, to her a
beautiful sight.
Time rolls on into the past
These thrills of childhood go so fast
Like the beautiful things along our way
Like memories, live forever in yester-
day

Children get their thrills a happy way
Nature makes the best of play
Things of pleasure, that we know
Help their little minds to grow
Birds, butterflies, or a pup
But she preferred the buttercup.
—By Albert Brooks
RR2 Acton