

Investing in our business future

So much to lose, so little to gain

It certainly raises our feelings of self-importance as a community when we see publications from Halton region promoting the virtues of life and commerce in Halton Hills.

There's a brand new "Halton Report" being mailed out to some 5,000 readers inside and outside the region, and Halton's business development director, Matthew Fischer, showed his mettle as a convincing promoter at Monday's meeting of the Halton Hills general committee, asking town councillors to support a massive advertising campaign boasting of Halton's merits among businesses and industries.

We've gone on record before as questioning the value of Mr. Fischer's elaborate corporate promotion scheme, introduced last fall. Our main concern then was just how much benefit will this scheme hold for Halton Hills, compared to the obvious potential good it will do Oakville and Burlington.

It's clear from the "Halton Report", a periodical just launched by Mr. Fischer's office, that our big-city neighbors to the south have more to offer businesses interested in locating in Halton. Acton's and Georgetown's problem with attracting new industrial-commercial investment remains a matter of ability, and as last week's Herald editorial pointed out, we in Halton Hills are all awaiting those critical sewage plant study results from the ministry of environment.

Until Halton Hills' ability to accommodate new growth - residential as well as industrial - is determined, we have noted previously, the extent of our support for Mr. Fischer's campaign must remain undecided.

So it was with much dismay that we heard Mr. Fischer ask Halton Hills Monday night for \$10,000 toward the

print advertising campaign he's devised. We agree with Mayor Pete Pomeroy that \$10,000 is not a great amount where there is a good possibility it will attract essential business assessment, but it bothers us a great deal that Oakville and Burlington are being asked for exactly the same amount. Our third Halton neighbor, the town of Milton, is in more or less the same boat as Halton Hills, but stands to gain a great deal over the next few years with its ambitious Highway 401 industrial park. Milton, too, will be asked for \$10,000 for advertising.

Our real sentiments are shared by Coun. Harry Levy, head of town council's budget committee, who just doesn't feel it's right for us little guys in the north to be matching investments with those big, more successful boys in the south. They can afford larger contributions by virtue of their larger populations, and clearly have much more to gain from any regionalized advertising plan.

Mr. Fischer himself acknowledged Monday that Halton Hills' "biggest challenge is getting its land zoned and serviced" for new industry. Needless to say, Burlington and Oakville have large tracts of land ready and waiting for outside investment.

So it seems to us that financial support for Mr. Fischer's plan should perhaps be arranged on a per capita basis, so that every man, woman and child in the area municipalities will be contributing the same amount through taxes.

Even so, we'd like to caution Mr. Fischer again that the "small fish in the big pond" of Halton are expecting a great deal from his office. Hopefully, a ruling on our sewage plants will give him the opportunity to meet those expectations.



How a little streamlining makes MPs' salary hike easy



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

While the federal government is preparing a tough new stand against inflationary wage demands in the public sector, and while our attention is otherwise focused on soaring unemployment, our Members of Parliament are preparing to cash fattened pay cheques.

It will be done very smoothly, this 11 per cent increase. There will be no debate, no arguments, no protests. The salary and tax-free expense allowance for MPs will rise to a total of about \$65,000-a-year without the slightest fanfare. No messy bargaining, no threatened strikes, no problems.

There is just no sign of any labor

unrest in Parliament.

These smooth, unannounced pay increases, were built into the system last summer when Parliament, with embarrassingly little debate, approved salary increases retroactive to the last election and, in future, pegged to the cost-of-living index. This means that salaries automatically go up in tandem with inflation each year, and with any luck they will be largely overlooked.

BIG INCREASE

Incidentally, with the new increase coming in the next few weeks, it will mean that the total income of MPs will have risen about 38 per cent since the 1980 general election. At the moment, they receive \$43,800 in basic salary plus \$14,700 in tax-free expense allowances. The forthcoming increase will push the basic salary up to \$48,800, or thereabouts, while the expense allowance goes up to \$18,200. And that, by my reckoning, adds up to the \$64,900.

When elected to this Parliament in 1980, the total was \$47,000. And so far we've been dealing only with ordinary MPs. The salary increases for those with special duties are even more attractive.

Take the prime minister. After the 1980 election, which returned him to office, he was receiving a total of \$87,500. Now, when the new increase goes into effect, he will be getting about \$120,000.

As opposition leader after the 1980 election, Joe Clark received \$71,300. Now, his income will be going up to about \$102,000. This, incidentally, will also be the salaries of all cabinet ministers and Commons Speaker Jeanne Sauve.

SENATORS TOO

The salary of New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent, which totalled \$54,000 when this Parliament began, now will reach about \$87,000. Then there are the parliamentary secretaries, all 23 of them, who help cabinet ministers in the Commons. Their total income will rise to about \$73,000, compared with the \$53,400 they earned at the beginning of 1980.

And let's not forget the Senators. They are also part of this slick new indexed wage program and, as a result, they will soon be getting \$48,518 in salary plus \$7,900 in tax-free expenses.

I don't know how that would work out on an hourly basis, but the figure would be absolutely staggering.

Until the MPs approved this salary scheme last summer, it was all very messy for MPs to give themselves a raise, and they would squirm with embarrassment during the debates. But those uncomfortable moments are gone forever with this indexed plan. It sure beats compulsory arbitration.

Province moves to dump 'wingy' Toronto's inequities



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

A lovely word exists to describe Toronto as it appears in the minds of a lot of people who live outside its boundaries: wingy, as in strange or demented.

But at least in one case the province seems to be exerting a little pressure to bring the place to its senses. After recording a slight decline in the 1981 growth rate, the Conference Board is forecasting a 2.4 per cent reduction in 1982.

For the other major sector, wholesale and retail trade, the Conference Board has no encouraging words. After a bad year in 1980, the sector picked up in that early 1981 consumer surge which encouraged the manufacturing and construction industries. The same fate awaited it in the second half. And, even with a slow steady recovery in 1982, the board does not expect growth to equal that in 1981.

In its analysis of key economic indicators, the board predicts retail sales, which increased 13.9 per cent in 1981 to increase 9.8 per cent to \$38.9 billion in '82.

Employment in the province is expected to advance one per cent to 4.23 million from 1981 when it increased three per cent to 4.18 million. At the same time, however, unemployment is expected to increase to 7.2 per cent from the 1981 level of 6.3 per cent.

taxpayer money to improve services for the private castles of the land grabbers and speculators.

This demented giveaway, of course, only occurred because the Ontario legislature - all three parties, even the egalitarian, people-loving NDP, and led by Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman and Inter-governmental Affairs Minister Tom Wells - passed a special law to make it come about.

OTHER SIDE
In contrast to that piece of provincial meddling, the province has recently taken another step within its own jurisdiction that could, with some luck, prompt the city to abandon one of its other wingier ideas.

People who have renovated their houses within the last decade have found this year that the province has added that value to their assessment notices, with the result property taxes on those lots have risen.

Revenue Minister George Ahe said the program is province-wide (although only Toronto is objecting).

and wasn't done in past years because everyone thought general property tax reform was just around the corner.

IS GONE

It wasn't, as it turned out, and piecemeal reform is taking place municipality by municipality, 349 of the 837 in the province having taken that route already.

But Toronto doesn't want to go along, because that would mean ending the horrendous property tax inequities that exist in the city. (First World War veteran lots are still assessed as though the veteran lived on it, for example. Nowhere else does that.)

Assessing renovations doesn't touch the basic inequities, but it has hit perhaps 10 per cent of city dwellings. Those people may now prefer reform and taxes spread evenly across others still enjoying inequities.

And because they vote, it could force Toronto politicians to abandon their current schemes to keep many of these cherished inequities through which they play favorites with the electorate.

POET'S CORNER

The Faithful Friends

The kind of folks I used to know, on whom you could depend
When you have some one you can trust, you have found a friend
So many folks that have passed on, we missers for their loss
For most of them, we do know, they cling to the rugged cross
They lived with humble thoughts, their conscience always clear
As they walked with the strength of Christ, held Him very dear
Wonders of this world are seen, sent from His lavish hand
Fruits, food and flowers, everything, even loved ones they are born
This world is full of wonders, great knowledge we can gain

We must live in Christ's great way, we cleanse that greedy stain
When you live a life that's true, your family bare no shame
For every living soul that's born, they deserve the same
Why world is full of weakness, it ends with tragedy
And some one is responsible, for this catastrophe
If you can't do anything right, do nothing at all
You could end up, a useless life, within a prison wall
There is so many useless folks, prospects end in pain
You don't you listen to your thoughts, you could maybe find great fame.
—By Albert Brooks, RR2 Acton.

THIRTY YEARS AGO—A home on the outskirts of town had a surprise visitor. The Norm Feendley family was at home in the evening when their dog began to bark, running back and forth to the door to be let out. A few minutes after the dog had disappeared there was a loud crash in the basement. Running to the cellar, Mr. Feendley switched on the lights, went down a few steps, and in amazement saw a doe, eyeing him belligerently. The doe, frightened by the dog, had jumped through the basement window, taking the frame and all in the plunge. Before Mr. Feendley had time to think, the animal turned, made a graceful leap back through the open window and disappeared into the night.

Georgetown's minor hockey teams are well up in the sports picture. The Legion 120 Club juveniles finished their season in first place, winning games against Woodbridge, Brampton and Oakville last week and Friday they start a playoff series with Woodbridge. The midgets have been grouped with Acton in a playoff series. They won an exhibition game here last night against Oakville.

John Bell, one of three Georgetown members on the North Halton High School district board, was elected chairman at last week's inaugural meeting in Milton. Mr. Pickett was elected vice-chairman and a number of committees set up, with the first being named in each being chairman. Mr. Bell stressed the need this year for definite action on building new schools. Last year, the board decided to build new schools at Georgetown and Acton, and retain the present school at Milton with the addition of a gym and auditorium. Creation of the new building committee was suggested by Mr. Bell as a means of implementing the building of the new schools.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Querying cost of a sewage lift station which is being erected to service the eastern industrial area of town, Coun. Fred Harrison was told Monday by Mayor Sargent that a report would be prepared for next week's meeting. Coun. Harrison made his query after a letter was read from the Municipal Board approving a \$60,000 expenditure which the town will pay through the Water Resources Commission. He said that in 1960, when he was a council member, the town had negotiated a deal with Delrex Developments for purchase of land and equipment for the lift station which was already partially constructed at a purchase price of \$35,000, and he wondered if the completed project would be costing \$101,000. The councillor asked if it had been wrongly engineered or whether last year's council had made an error.

Construction of Georgetown's long talked of technical wing technically got under way last week when ground was broken behind the present high school building on Guelph Street. The costly structure with equally costly equipment will be for the most part paid for by the federal and provincial governments. It will be usable in September.

Rev. John H. McMullin, B.A., S.T.B., will become rector of St. George's Anglican Church March 1. The appointment was announced Sunday by Rev. Kenneth Richardson who is leaving after an eight year pastorate to become a hospital chaplain in Hamilton. A Toronto native, Mr. McMullin is presently rector of St. Patrick's Church, Guelph. After graduation from the University of Toronto and Trinity College, he served as curate at St. James, Dundas and rector at Christ Church, West Flamboro. He has been in Guelph since 1958. Together with his wife and two children, Mr. McMullin will be moving into the rectory beside St. George's.

A fatality free record for the past two years is Georgetown's proud boast. An almost equally noteworthy achievement is the safety record of school children. "From September 1980 (11 December 1981 not one public or separate school child has been involved in a motor accident," according to police Chief Roy Haley, who is justifiably proud of his department's Safety Education program. Over 2,500 children have watched the safety movies and heard the lectures during the 240 hours police have donned to this cause over the past year. As well, during 1981, police investigated 90 motor vehicle accidents, a drop of nine over 1980, and an astonishing drop of 70 over 1979.

TEN YEARS AGO—Zorge Construction of Georgetown has been selected by Ontario Housing Corporation as the builder of the 28 senior citizens' apartment unit here. The site will be at the corner of Mountainview and Sargent Road, R. Cliff, representative of the O.H.C., told Monday night. Cliff said the OHC liked the design with each unit having a bay window and an angular shaped balcony which gives privacy. He said the location close to shopping was an advantage. Of four submissions this was felt to be the best location and the best price.

A dog poisoner is at work around the Sixth Line of Equusway, north of Highway 7. Six dogs have already been poisoned, four are dead and the other two were still alive at press time. Dr. Brian Buckrell of the Georgetown Animal Clinic said someone is leaving raw hamburger laced with what seems to be strychnine around the Sixth Line. The doctor warned all dog owners in the area to keep their dogs at home and pointed out a young child might put some of the mixture in his mouth. He said the dosages seem to be massive. OPP are on the lookout for the poisoner.

The bylaw setting a yearly salary of \$2,500 for members of council, excluding the mayor, was passed unanimously Monday night. The salary will be paid monthly and \$30 will be deducted for each regular council meeting or standing committee meeting missed. It will not be deducted if a councillor is away on other municipal business. One third of the allowance will be deemed expenses and will not be taxable.

ONE YEAR AGO—Dominion Seed House, a landmark industry in Georgetown for nearly 60 years has won the Chamber of Commerce's "Business of the Year" award for 1981. In presentations from the Chamber, Halton Hills town council, Halton region, Queen's Park and Parliament Hill, the seed house was praised for its contribution to commerce in Georgetown and to Canadian unity. Margaret Harding, president of the business, accepted awards honoring the business which her father, Bill Brady, founded in 1922. DSH operates the largest mail order seed company in Canada.

Keith Black is back in the classroom at Acton High School this week after an unprecedented show of community support saved his teaching job from termination, the same fate already suffered by his 155-year old family homestead. Delighting a crowd of 300 friends, colleagues, students and relatives of Mr. Black who jammed his classroom Wednesday night, the Halton board of education ruled that the 66 year old social studies department head could keep his job at Acton High despite his Dec. 23 conviction for theft over \$200.

The Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) has approved a proposal by a Georgetown man and four British residents to establish a new business in Georgetown. The proposal by C.A. Warner of Georgetown and the four Birmingham residents is to establish a business to manufacture and distribute roll-forming and related metal fabricating equipment.