

the HERALD

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Making disarmament a reality

Coming to terms with the arms race

When Georgetown resident Janet Duval and other concerned citizens ask town council next Monday to endorse a proposal for all nations of the world to hold a global referendum on disarmament, they might as well be holding all of our lives in their hands.

For almost 40 years, people have been talking about the likelihood of nuclear war and the seeming inevitability of civilization's destruction should that likelihood become reality. Now, with non-nuclear armed conflicts in South and Central America, the mid-east, eastern Europe and southeast Asia, that option is wide open.

But why take the single most pressing question of our time to a municipal council made up of our neighbors and friends and merchants who spend most of their time planning sewer improvements and keeping the parks nice-looking?

Because they are the people elected to make decisions for us who constitute our nearest and most responsive government.

The concept of a global referendum on disarmament is relatively new, fostered by frustration among common citizens over 35 years of failed negotiations among the superpowers and their affiliated nations. In the words of Operation Dismantle, the Ottawa-based organization that has championed this cause, a referendum or public survey held as part of regular municipal elections everywhere represents "a consultative (not binding) world vote (that) would give a voice to the people of all nations".

Operation Dismantle has spent the last two years lobbying Canadian government officials as well as those at the provincial and municipal levels to make Canada the leader in promoting such a referendum. A single nation is all that's necessary to propose the world vote at the United Nations. The general assembly would then compose a ballot aimed at general disarmament which could be put before the people of all nations, one at a time, in conjunction with national elections if possible to cut costs.

Operation Dismantle anticipates strong public support for disarmament everywhere the vote is taken, com-

prising a firm grass roots mandate for the United Nations and the individual nations to literally ban the bomb. Intensive lobbying at the UN has convinced its founders that such a vote would be not only feasible (costing at most \$800 million or 20 cents per voter, about half the cost of a single Trident submarine) but effective as well.

Last August, Ottawa city council became the first Canadian municipal body to endorse Operation Dismantle. The city's mayor notified 1,043 other mayors of Canadian cities of 2,000 people or larger about Ottawa's decision and urged that their councils follow suit. To date, 32 municipalities have voted to hold a referendum on the issue next fall.

We agree wholeheartedly with Dismantle's organizers that "the results of municipal referenda will make a difference". Widespread participation and in particular a "thumbs-down" vote on the arms race would surely persuade the federal government that Canadians want no part of the political game-playing that's been part and parcel of the world's political scene since the last world war.

Its front-page sensationalism notwithstanding, the Toronto Star has demonstrated in recent weeks just how strong a reaction the issue of disarmament - especially where nuclear weapons are concerned - can provoke among average Canadians. The newspaper's Easter Sunday report on the lingering horrors of Hiroshima and widespread fear for the future prompted hundreds of letters from sympathetic readers. The Star's follow-up report also demonstrated how unconvinced the federal government remains: external affairs minister Mark MacGuigan could only pass the buck onto the civil servants working for him.

It's our country; it's our legacy; it's our children's future. We can hope for the best for them and idly watch the Falkland Islands crisis play itself out, or we can stand up and do something right now.

It's up to our federal and municipal governments right now - but mostly it's up to you. Call your town councillors and let them know how you think they should vote next Monday night.

They rely on you

Did you ever stop to think how many people rely on you?

There's your family, friends and the people at work. But there is one group of people that you probably haven't even thought of. They are those in need of a blood transfusion. Whether you realize it or not, to them, you just may represent the difference between life or death.

Here's something else to think about. Over 1,300 units of blood are needed every 24 hours, seven days a week in Ontario. It's a difficult task to keep up with, but even more so during the summer months. Last year, over 380,000 units of blood were collected in Ontario. In fact, 22 per cent of the blood collected was used during the summer months.

We remember to do a lot of things, before going on vacation, and forget to do others. Perhaps, this summer, one of the most important things you will forget to do is donate blood. That one simple step which can mean so much to some unknown person.

It only takes about 30 minutes of your time. Giving blood is relaxing, quick and perhaps the best of all, helps someone.

So when you start to prepare your vacation list, don't forget to jot down "Give Blood" as one of your priorities. Someone will be glad you did. Remember your next clinic day, next Monday (May 10) at Holy Cross Church auditorium.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to space shortage, Part 2 of last week's editorial 'Bette versus Betty' will appear next week.

IN FRIDAY'S WEEKEND EXTRA:

- ★ Crawford Lake opens
- ★ Musket men
- ★ Community news
- ★ Scouting news



Coutts' struggle for power: Spadina Liberals divided



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

There is no doubt whatsoever that wee Jimmy Coutts would dearly love to become prime minister of Canada. And, who knows, perhaps he will. But it seems to me that the harder he tries, the more elusive is his goal.

Heaven knows he tries. Anyone who has experienced his setbacks would have given up long ago, but not Jim Coutts. He's still banging at the political door - a door that was slammed in his face twice - and even if it involves a bit of lock-picking he's determined to get in. Whether it's manhandling in Toronto's Spadina riding, or beaming at the Queen in Ottawa, you get the feeling it's all in the name of profile.

Some people seem to be born with that drive.

The 42-year-old Coutts had achieved enough power to satisfy the most ambitious individual when, after failing to win election in an Alberta riding, he went on to become principal

secretary to Prime Minister Trudeau. And he was no ordinary principal secretary. It was generally acknowledged around Ottawa that Coutts had an inordinate influence on prime ministerial decision, perhaps the most powerful backroom boy in the country's history.

MORE WANTED
But like an earlier prime ministerial principal secretary - Marc Lalonde - Coutts obviously craved for greater things. And so, to make room for the cherubic little fellow in Parliament, Prime Minister Trudeau last summer opened another door - this time a door that seemed incapable of closing.

What he did was create a vacancy in the Liberal stronghold of Spadina, considered one of the safest Liberal fortresses in the land. It had been won by Peter Stollery a year earlier by 5,000 votes, and the prime minister effectively turned it over to Coutts by appointing Stollery to the Senate.

We assume Stollery is still in the Senate. Magically, Coutts got the Liberal nomination in Spadina - where he had bought a trendy little house - and everyone around Liberal headquarters just assumed that he would win. The only doubts concerned the portfolios he would be given in the Trudeau cabinet. Would he be asked to head economic development programs? Or would he be asked to reorganize transport? Clearly, it would be an important assignment.

But guess what? Coutts was defeated by New Democrat Dan Heap. It was a humiliating blow, partly brought on by the arrogance and

cynicism that brought on the unnecessary election.

BOUNCES BACK
After that, it was assumed around Ottawa, Coutts would try his political ambitions and go back to being a highly-paid consultant, with his massive network of connections in Ottawa.

But within a few months of his defeat, he once more surfaced in the national capital, this time as head of an influential Liberal Party committee that included the prime minister himself. The committee meets irregularly and deals with policies at the highest level. It represented a remarkable rebound for a defeated candidate.

And it wasn't to stop there. By exerting his considerable influence, Coutts managed to encourage the Spadina Liberal Association to hold an extremely early nomination meeting for the next general election. That meeting now has been held - well before other potential candidates got their act together - and while only a third of the association members showed up, Coutts was nominated by acclamation.

All reports suggest Spadina's Liberals now are bitterly divided over their candidate - something that doesn't auger well for Coutts who already faced the formidable task of knocking off a sitting member.

While last year's exercise struck me as crassly cynical, this latest one appears to be surprisingly stupid. But we'll have to wait and see. The next election is probably several years away.

Dirty typewriter in Ottawa has coin collectors drooling



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

By STEVE RHODES

Thomson News Service

Queen's Park

Ears up coin collectors.

One of two commemorative coins ordered by the Ontario government to celebrate our shiny new constitution has a flaw. The blame rests with a dirty typewriter somewhere in the nation's capital.

The coins, one in French and the other English, were handed out to celebrants at the Queen's Park ceremonies on constitution day April 17.

On the English side of the coin it reads, "Proclamation of the Constitution Act 1982." But something was lost in the translation. The French reads "Proclamation de la loi Constitutionnelle le 1982."

As any French speaking Canadian can tell you the last part should be "de 1982"; meaning "of 1982" rather than "le 1982" meaning "the 1982."

When Ottawa provided the translation for the Ontario coin the half circle in the letter "d" was barely visible. No one caught the mistake, including staff at the Canadian mint. Already one Toronto coin collector has offered the government five dollars for every flawed coin.

FAREWELL BAH!
Premier Davis' sage, soothsayer and top advisor Hugh Segal got a few

laughs at the expense of retiring Davis' press secretary Sally Barnes at a recent farewell dinner.

As Segal tells the story...when Barnes first took the job seven years ago she asked Davis, "Premier, do we lie to the press now or do we lie to them later?"

Davis supposedly said, "Sally, WE never lie to the press. You have your job and I have mine."

RESURRECTION
Just about anybody is fair game in the world of politics.

Northern Affairs Minister Leo Bernier (PC-Kenora), hard pressed to fight off Liberal attacks about government plans to spend \$10 million on a new jet, took a shot at Mitch Hepburn, Liberal premier of Ontario in 1984.

As Bernier tells it, Hepburn, when he became premier, publicly auctioned a fleet of government cars assembled by the Tories, says Bernier. Then he turned around and bought a new fleet for his own cabinet ministers.

"Such hypocrisy," Bernier claims. "You can buy a lot of Model Ts for \$10 million."

According to MPP Sean Conway (Lib.-Henrieville North) Tories will be running wild through Algonquin Park this summer.

RUNNING WILD
Opposition parties have hammered away at the ministry of natural resources' summer hiring practices because it plans to hire 500 students from Toronto to fill jobs in northern Ontario Parks.

Conway believes the jobs will be "meted out on the basis of political referrals."

"Which undoubtedly helps to explain why between May and October there are more Tories than deer in Algonquin Park," he says.

METRIC SHOCK
For Bob Runciman (PC-Leeds) George Orwell's 1984 has arrived a couple of years early.

He says "metric gestapo" are just around the corner. Runciman, who differs from his party on metrication says, "you've heard of future shock, well these older people, and some not so old, are suffering from metric shock."

Halton's History

From our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—A second successful Peanut Day was held by the Lions Club Saturday when the 50,000 Planters Peanut float came back to Georgetown. The event was held last year for the first time as a money raising event by the local club and proceeds were used for the annual Stay at Home Camp which the club sponsors in cooperation with the Ministerial Association. Hundreds of town and district people came to see the Peanut Queen and the two Mr. Peanuts whose unique costumes drew attention to the decorated float. Each contribution was acknowledged with a five cent package of peanuts.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown's 1962 tax rate was set at 73.177 mills for residential and 78.904 for industrial and commercial establishments on Monday. The residential rate, up slightly over six mills will mean an increase of \$20 to \$30 this year for the average householder. Per capita government grants and special grants for industry which will have almost an eight mill hike in taxes. Characterizing it as a "hairline budget", finance chairman Bob McNeely told council that no contingency fund has been included and recommended that each committee earmark part of its allotment for contingencies which are bound to arise during the year.

TEN YEARS AGO—Two names well known in Georgetown's past were suggested as the new names for two streets in town at Monday night's council meeting. Victoria Avenue and Victoria Crescent would be changed to Dayfoot Drive and Chapel Street West would become Ryan Road. The Dayfoot Shoe factory operated in that area for many years, while Annie Ryan was principal of Chapel Street school for many years. Coun. Ern Hyde described her as "perhaps an original woman's liberator, the first woman principal of any school in the area."

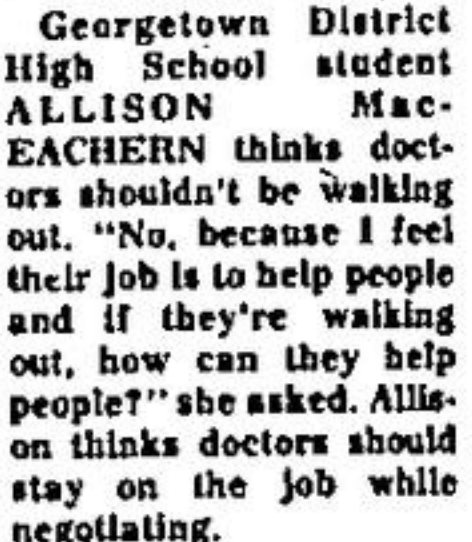
ONE YEAR AGO—Boyd Hoddinott became the sixth consecutive winner of the Georgetown Racquet club's annual club championships held last week-end. Hoddinott defeated opponent Al Kogon who was runner-up in the A division while Andy Deruchie captured the consolation A trophy. In the B division Rob Allison came out the winner against the consolation champion Bill Lightowler while Kevin Fitzgerald was the runner-up.

Takin' it to the streets

THE HERALD ASKS:
Did you support the doctors' walkouts?



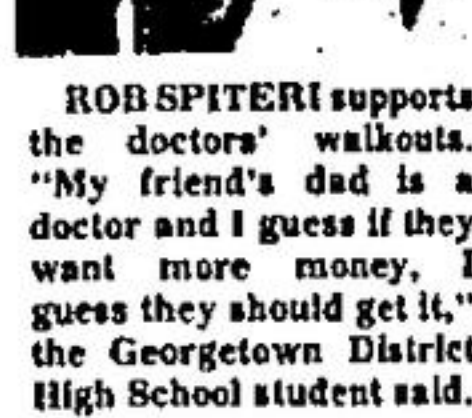
"I'm going down to give a doctor some money now," A.E. CRIPPS said when stopped on Georgetown's Main Street Friday. He said he opposed the walkouts by the doctors. "I think they make pretty good money as it is," he said.



Georgetown District High School student ALLISON MacEACHERN thinks doctors shouldn't be walking out. "No, because I feel their job is to help people and if they're walking out, how can they help people?" she asked. Allison thinks doctors should stay on the job while negotiating.



DAVID RICHARDS of Georgetown said his opinion of doctors has changed as a result of the walkouts. He said the high respect he granted members of the medical profession has eroded. Does he support the walkouts? "No, not really, of course I'm getting on, I'm over 70, and I look back to the days when doctors were dedicated to their job. Now I think the dedication is to money," he told The Herald.



ROB SPITERI supports the doctors' walkouts. "My friend's dad is a doctor and I guess if they want more money, I guess they should get it," the Georgetown District High School student said.



Asked whether she supported the doctors' walkouts, I.A. SWITZER of Georgetown said, "Yes and no. I feel they should leave behind sufficient coverage to handle cases." She said some civil servants, nurses and postmen are being paid more than doctors and she doesn't think that's right.

POET'S CORNER

Images of Taurus

I spend more and more of my time, with comfortable images. Something more than dreams, but, always less than reality. You're always there: recoloute.

secure, sometimes obstinate. Diminished only by my inadequate capacity to conjure up perfection. You come and go.

—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2 Beeton