

Did Hydro learn lesson?

It's incredible enough that Ontario Hydro has been submitting extensive building plans to review boards at a time of reduced power consumption and supposed fiscal restraint. It's nothing less than astounding that the utility seems ready to push another transmission line through Halton Hills, albeit just a small portion of the municipality.

Despite Hydro's insistence that no such plans are afoot for Halton Hills, a town surely regarded with some contempt and wariness by Hydro officials, and despite Mayor Pete Pomeroy's cautioning that the plans are "just conjecture at this point", there is every indication that a major east-west power line will cut through several miles of south Halton Hills.

Why? Hydro's own statistics indicate a sharp drop in power consumption by Ontario customers. Its officials admit they greatly overestimated our demand and now have a worrisome surplus at the Bruce nuclear generating station and other facilities that we apparently never needed in the first place.

Now that there is a costly surplus of power in Ontario, the crown corporation wants to ship it elsewhere and that, apparently, is why its gargantuan building plans remain

somehow relevant. Never mind the 14 per cent rate hike we'll have to absorb next year, and never mind the exorbitant salaries paid to Hydro executives; it'll be hands across the border if Hydro gets its way and "clean, efficient" nuclear power will flow into the U.S. via Ontario farmland.

When the Interested Citizens Group disbanded earlier this year with an informal party, its members took righteous pride in their sole but substantial victory: they'd literally made Ontario Hydro more responsible to the customers it serves. More than seven years and a great deal of money were spent by the group and its supporters trying to stop Hydro from building the 500,000-volt transmission tower line down Halton Hills' fifth concession. Today the line stands in testimony to Hydro's far-reaching control over our provincial government, but the corporation did indeed learn some worthwhile lessons.

Whether those lessons will prevent Hydro from arrogantly expropriating valued land and otherwise abusing the rights of citizens, as was the case with the north-south corridor, remains to be seen. We can only hope town council is mindful of the past and won't let similar misfortunes occur.

Let's have fun on Canada Day

In this era of historic transition, Canadians remain an odd bunch.

But for those among us holding tight to their secular ethnic cultures and celebrating their year after year, there is little color, little natural energy among our customs. In Halton Hills, we look to the Scots and the Croats, as two examples, for our holiday fun.

Yet even as we ignore the common denominators we all share, Canada is coming into its own: the new Constitution obviously comes to mind first; public pressure is forcing our form of government to be less tentative and less experimental; public sympathy for the predominant health and social issues of the day are finally admitting some light where

before there was only darkness.

These days Canada, like most other progressive nations, has the jitters. Economically and globally, no one knows anymore what exactly to do about current problems or what will happen tomorrow. We know our form of government is far better than those of a majority of nations, but we don't know if it will ruin us just the same. We know we're basically a peace-loving nation, but who knows whether unforeseen aggression might draw us into armed conflict?

To everything, there is a season, the bible tells us. This then, must be the time to ponder. There is danger all around, but certainly an improved Canada and an improved global

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Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

Halton Hills' colorful past

Anyone who thinks Halton Hills history is dull hasn't delved too deeply. While writing the article last week on Frances Wilson, the Pioneer Citizen of the Year selected by The Herald for community recognition as part of the Pioneer Days festivities, I reviewed what little is known about Georgetown's founding and the man generally credited (no pun intended) with getting us started.

Among the more interesting anecdotes recorded in the years prior to 1837, when the handful of Hungry Hollow residents who'd banded around George Kennedy decided to rename their community after him, are the adventures of elder Kennedy kin.

If I'm reading history correctly - and there is room for error and interpretation it seems - George Kennedy's dad John Senior saw one of his sons, but not George, kidnapped by an Indian squaw who

became enamored of the infant's black locks. This all happened in upstate New York, mind you, while the old man was working as a New Jersey government cleric before his loyalty to the Crown prompted his emigration to Canada at the outset of the War of 1812. The child was eventually returned safely.

George's brothers John Junior and Charles fought in the 1812 war, but by this time their father must have been used to shocks involving his family. John Senior's brother, Richard, was a blacksmith who staked himself a claim on Canadian soil, then returned to his New Jersey home to get the wife and kids. Unfortunately, he never made it. The man he was travelling with took an intense dislike toward Kennedy and murdered him with a tomahawk while the pair was crossing a river on horseback.

Another tragedy on a river crossing



It's a race to the finish on Burnett's Field, site of Ballinafad's successful Canada Day celebration Saturday.

The view from the inside: just the same as the outside



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Normally, and unless the subject matter is singularly significant, I wouldn't repeat long conversations with unnamed government sources. There is, after all, only limited interest in the wisdom of nameless people. And, anyway, we tend to over-quote individuals who refuse to be identified.

Having said that, I am going to pass along the views of someone who, for obvious reasons, cannot disclose his identity - at least not while the current government is in office. And while he didn't come close to breaking the Official Secrets Act, I had more than a passing interest in what he had to say.

This person, incidentally, knows what is being said in the highest level of the federal government. And now he was sitting back in a restaurant, sipping on his third cup of coffee, listening to me complain about the

difficulty of understanding the economy. My point was that, since the best economic brains in the country can't seem to agree on solutions, how can I possibly be expected to get a firm grasp on the situation.

VARIED VIEWS

I was talking about the frustrations of the job. Here we are, at a time when economic problems dominate everything, and simply can't be ignored, and yet what are we laymen supposed to be saying when the best economists in the country seem to be swirling around in seas of confusion. Some say we must stick with high interest rates, others say they must be brought down. You hear impressive arguments for propping up the Canadian dollar, while others argue for a free float. There should be exchange controls, says an economist. Another says no. There are arguments for wage and price controls; similar arguments are against them. There are calls for tight spending restraints; others call for greater spending to create new jobs.

I had no difficulty admitting to my sense of inadequacy. What I was saying, in a roundabout way, was that it isn't easy to be an interpreter of events when you don't know what you're talking about. I offered the view to my friend that he was lucky to have access to the highest government economic documents, the ones that have been stripped of all political rhetoric and in decisive detail, outline

the implications of all economic initiatives that could be taken.

He didn't say anything for a time. Then he laughed lightly and said, "So you think you're inadequate because you can't figure out what the government should be doing right now."

He laughed again, this time a bit louder, and said, "And you think that we are working with decisive documents that cover all the implications of various economic policies."

He shook his head in wonderment. "I guess that's the general view from the outside," he went on. "I guess people think that we are a tight little group sitting around a cabinet table armed with all sorts of economic intelligence and that we instinctively know what to do to get the economy on the road to recovery."

"And those same people think the Tory caucus does the same thing, collectively agreeing on alternative economic policies - but apparently keeping them secret."

"If it makes you feel better," he said, "the inside of government is the same as the outside, and there are people sitting around that cabinet meeting who are as confused as you. Frankly, it's a hell of a situation to cope with and I, for one, don't know the answer."

I am not sure whether he made me feel better or worse - but at least I came away feeling less isolated in my inadequacy.

Grits ignore by-election to rally 'round new leader



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

One might have expected Ontario Liberal leader David Peterson to be the loser at the party's annual policy meeting, being held here for the first time in almost a decade.

After all, just two days earlier, the Liberals had lost the Hamilton West byelection, giving up the seat occupied

for seven years by retired leader Stuart Smith.

And worse, under Peterson the Liberals had crashed to third place behind winning New Democrat Richard Allen and the second-place Conservative.

But finding a critic of Peterson's leadership among the 300 delegates, was as hard as finding a sunny Saturday in weekend Ontario. There weren't any.

The blame went to Ottawa, the federal Liberals, and specifically to Pierre Trudeau - as party president Jim Evans accurately said, "I went to Hamilton and found out what a protest vote was all about."

NEW WAVE

In fact, if anything delegates seemed more comfortable with Peter-

son than I'd ever seen them with Smith. The former leader commanded respect, even awe, from the party faithful, but never the quiet affection that Peterson appeared to receive.

Moreover, Peterson is good at what is nowadays called people-stroking - making people feel they are important and wanted. It was no accident there was spontaneous applause during a bearpit session when Peterson spoke about the "strong team at Queen's Park".

MPP Julian Reed (Halton-Burlington) mouthed what reads like the ritual words politicians always utter - except in his case you could hear the emotion underlying them.

Peterson "inspired us to be here, to work a little harder. He has the ability to put confidence into other people, to bring out the leadership in the rest of us," he said.

CANGROW

And Peterson rose to the occasion. His performance throughout the weekend was superb - a "class act" one observer called it - and ranged from the simple ability to mix with the crowd to a speech in which he had something to say and said it well.

It was a speech on labor relations that showed more thought than one normally expects in Liberal policies and Peterson put it over with an amazingly smooth and relaxed style.

One delegate who voted against Peterson at the leadership conference later told me she was impressed. "He's growing," she said.

PARTY FIRST

It was obvious his personal stamp was being put on the party. Even the banner behind the stage proclaimed this convention was composed of "Peterson's Ontario Liberals".

Although the focus was on him, Peterson ducked the idea of being a one-man show. At the bearpit, for example, he took all the questions, but then he fielded them out to the various Liberal critics, usually tossing in some line about how great the particular MPP was in his job.

It is true that one conference does not an election victory make, nor that winning the party necessarily means winning the province. But without the party first it is a much tougher task, as was discovered by Smith and before him, Bob Nixon.

When it comes to Peterson, in party eyes, Hamilton West never really happened. And that is an interesting perspective for them to adopt.

Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-Awards for proficiency in local schools have been established as memorials for the late H. Silver. His business acumen created a store which would be a credit to a town much larger than Georgetown. That he realized the value of education was shown by the fact that he gave the best to his children. His son Sid is an engineering graduate from the University of Toronto. The H. Silver Memorial awards at the public school will consist of a total of \$50 awarded each year to worthy students who have passed their high school entrance exams. Details of awards much higher in value are currently being worked out for the high school.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-A one month jail term and a \$500 fine was the sentence imposed on Georgetown land developer Rex Heslop by Judge George Elliott last Friday morning in Milton court. The sentence followed a jury verdict June 8 which found Mr. Heslop guilty of offering a reward or consideration to former Mayor Ern Hyde to aid in procuring adoption by council of a measure of resolution contrary to the Criminal Code. Crown attorney Peter McWilliams termed the bribery charge a crime against the state, difficult to prove and important for the state to prosecute. The advantage sought was release of building lots which could have changed the town's financial picture and brought a serious financial condition to the town, he said.

TEN YEARS AGO-Ceremonies in Cedarvale Community Centre tomorrow night kick off a weekend that Georgetowners have been looking forward to with anticipation for months. Georgetown's Golden Year Celebration marking 50 years as an incorporated town, will be officially launched when the last of 50 runners relaying a scroll from Queen's Park into Cedarvale and hands it to Mayor Bill Smith. The scroll will start its journey at about 4 p.m. Friday when Halton East MPP Jim Snow dispatches it from the provincial parliament buildings with the first runner.

ONE YEAR AGO-Terry Fox, the British Columbian university student and cancer amputee who captured the nation's heart and the world's admiration when he ran half way across Canada to raise funds for the battle against cancer died Sunday. Millions are grieving his death, including Halton Hills residents who can recall the young man's marathon last July 22, 23 and 24 along Highway 7. All share the shock over news of his death in New Westminster's Royal Columbian Hospital. There are a number of new research programs being funded thanks to Terry that probably would never have been considered without his Marathon of Hope.

POET'S CORNER

My Red Valentine

You'll always be my valentine;
no matter the date.
Summer breezes make
your hair
smell
like red roses.
The pale glow of your quiet face,
make lilies of the field,
seem artificial.
Your warm smile
makes love
erupt.
The gentle caress of your loving
fingers,
soothes baby tears,
angry words,
lonely nights,
and daily fears.
Thank you.
-By MARLOWE C. DICKSON
RR2 Beeton

To Write a Poem

The hardest task of all
is to write a poem
For it is made
Of thoughts and feelings
Written in a rhythmic style
For all the world to easily read.
Poetry is a style slow to come
An art of which the mood
is all important
Each line is separate
Yet part of the whole
A paradise of words
So difficult to create.
-By GINA MANCINI
AHS student

Writing on a Snake

It is far easier to write on the
topic of a snake
than to write on an actual snake.
Because no matter how quickly
you write on a snake
only a few words, maybe a
sentence, is all a snake can take.
Sooner or later, though probably
sooner
the snake will attempt to flee,
Which will serve you right, as he
squirms out of sight,
For you really should have let
him be.
Then onward you may trudge to
find another victim
be he: a horse, a pig, or a hen,
but I think you should know
(before another animal further
you go),
None of them will stand still for
a long, cold ball-point pen.
-By JAY SANKEY
AHS student