

the HERALD

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'Rural' refers to way of life

There are a couple of stories in this week's Herald which aren't likely to draw much attention from our urban readers, but we would be remiss if they passed on without further comment.

After six years of beneficial community work and solid academic research, Guelph University's Rural Development Outreach Project (RDOP) came to an end with some frank advice for Halton's municipal decision-makers: Make room for a larger rural voice in regional planning and start showing a more whole-hearted commitment to the survival of the rural lifestyle in the area.

Nothing seems to underline RDOP's case more than the ongoing dilemma about noise, picnics and parties at the Croatian cultural centre south of Norval and at Acton's Canadian-Yugoslavian recreation centre on Highway 25. These are two bitter serials in which more long-winded chapters were hammered out in council Monday night.

True to form, there remained unsolved problems at the end of the evening.

A complex issue surrounds affairs at both centres: Does one neighbor have the right to regularly infringe on a more quiet lifestyle to which another has become accustomed? On the other hand, should the "quiet" neighbor have the right to tell celebrants across the fence how and when they can use their property?

As author of a leaky noise bylaw which failed miserably its maiden voyage through court earlier this year and as an "interested party" in the

centres' frequent applications for liquor licences, council has been drawn in to arbitrate in these conflicts between neighbors.

Next week, the town will unveil its long-awaited draft of a new official plan which will encompass all of Halton Hills. We hope there are some toothsome land use policies contained in the document. Although the town may run the risk of being accused of interfering in the use of private property, council's involvement in the centres' noise problems must come to a firm and decisive end.

Too much valuable time has been spent rehashing issues attributed to weekend festivities at both centres, time which might have been more worthily spent debating at length other items which have cropped on council agendas over the last year. Attaching conditions to liquor licence applications to prohibit the use of public address systems and amplifiers are merely band-aid solutions and unless councillors have a firmer base from which to make their decisions, the noise issues will crop up again and again.

The RDOP and its off-shoot publications, "Ruralities" and "The Invisible Giant" which scrutinize rural concerns, have gone to great lengths to show planners that rural areas are not simply vast tracks of sparsely populated land; more correctly, researchers have determined, "rural" refers to a way of life.

Policies affecting land use in the rural area must keep that in mind.

STAFF COMMENT

Hollywood north?

By Chris Aagaard

Poolside at a Beverly Hills mansion. It's getting late. The last guest at a party to celebrate two of the year's finest movies left about an hour earlier, but the host of the evening, a young and already world famous producer-director, has remained in a chaise-loungue waiting for something.

Like a call from Canada. It comes two cigarettes later and before the film virtuoso has a chance to say "Hello", the other party has breathlessly plunged into excited conversation.

"Is this Steven Spielberg? Mr. Spielberg, you don't know me; in fact, nobody knows me. But I'm a very powerful man up here in Nelson Eddy country and I think I've got an idea for a new movie, a film that could really help us out a lot up here. Got a sec?"

"Got a match?" Spielberg thought as he pawed at his jacket for another match. Finally, as he lit the cigarette and exhaled he said: "Okay, shoot."

"It's a great idea, Mr. Spielberg," the voice from the wilderness continued. "I think it would make a terrific sequel to that er, UFO-type thing you did this year, except this time it will have a distinctly Canadian flavor. We'll call it "P.E.T.""

"Why 'P.E.T.'?" Spielberg asked and for a moment imagined he could "hear" the caller shrug expressively. "And why does it have to have a distinctly Canadian flavor?"

"Well," the caller continued, "it's my idea and I need it to scare the hell out of belligerent Canadians - you know, shake 'em up a bit, the spendthrifts. Look, money is no problem, I'll give you carte blanche on this. I've got a bottomless pit from which I can borrow."

Spielbound cocked an eyebrow at this expansive proposal.

"Some of this make-up stuff we used in our UFO film costs a lot of money," he advised the caller from Canada, "especially in your currency."

"There wouldn't be any need for an elaborately made up space creature, Spielberg was told.

and his name's Allan. He hasn't done too much film work before because, well, he's just a little bit short-sighted - can't figure out what a scene will look like in the long run. Maybe you should help him in the editing room too. Allan never knows what to cut and what to save."

When the caller offered Spielberg a few federal civil servants to help out on the set, the famous director turned him down.

"Timing's important in any production," he explained. "Can't have anyone sitting around doing nothing."

"Darn," the caller said, "they're the ones I want to scare the most."

The caller was persuasive, Spielberg admitted to himself three days later as his plane touched down in Ottawa. There was chaos at the airport and he found out later that his luggage was bound for Shanghai.

"But I'm not going to Shanghai," he told the reservations clerk at the Air Canada desk.

She levelled him with a rabid glare. "Hey, who the hell do you think you are talking to me that way. Sure, you're like all the rest of them - think you can run up and down on our backs with baseball cleats just because we're only getting a six per cent pay raise this year. Well, let me tell you something, turkey..."

An RCMP constable moved in to break up the row, tripped over Spielberg's briefcase and accidentally opened his mail.

Spielbound finally reached the Parliament buildings after a taxi ride in which the driver refused to pay the premium on his American money. He got lost in one wing; someone named Joe dressed in designer jeans tried to give him directions but couldn't and it took an hour before he arrived at "the caller's" office to look over a lucrative film contract.

"Everything seems to be in order, eh?" It was the caller speaking while he uncorked a bottle of St. Catharine's finest. So they toasted the "new deal" and a bullish fellow named Allan, Spielberg's latest producer recruit, slapped everyone on the back and promised to do everything over again if the film didn't work out the first time.

Suddenly there was a thunderous crash and Spielberg was surprised to see a hinge peg plunge into his glass. "FREEZE!" - economically speaking, that is a voice through a megaphone demanded. "My god!", Spielberg's business associates cried in despair. "It's FIRA."



Arbitrary decisions do little for 'co-operative federalism'



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Regardless of how Finance Minister Allan MacEachen imposed his wage restraints on the public service there would have been an outcry of protest. But a little pre-budget consultation would have helped.

Such consultation is not one of the Trudeau government's strong points, whether it involves organized labor, big business or provincial premiers. There is a tendency for the federal government to make its own arbitrary decisions and only then express a willingness to sit down with affected groups to discuss the consequences. The process does very little for so-called "co-operative federalism."

On the other hand, organized labor has not gone out of its way to encourage such co-operation. The giant Canadian Labor Congress often appears to be speaking more as a political party than a representative of workers, and since its spokesmen are generally bitterly opposed to the Trudeau government, you get little

sense of co-operation from this side. This was apparent the day after the budget when CLC President Dennis McDermott was on national television referring to MacEachen as a "son of a bitch."

NO TALK

Apart from displaying an unnecessary rudeness, McDermott's remarks also indicate just how the lines of communication between the government and the CLC have broken down. There is virtually no consultation, and there is obviously fault on both sides.

Had MacEachen sought the co-operation of labor before imposing his stringent restraints on public servants, it is highly unlikely he would have been successful. From the beginning, most labor leaders made it clear they would never agree to the government fighting inflation "on the backs of workers." But even though agreement was well nigh impossible to achieve, the consultative process itself would have been worth the effort. It would almost certainly take some of the militancy out of the reaction.

But instead of talking with labor groups, the government threw them a surprise by announcing that wage increases in the federal public service, and Crown corporations, would be limited to six per cent this year and five per cent next year. Pre-budget rumors had forecast restraints, but unusually involving figures of seven to 10 per cent.

It's difficult to quarrel with the action itself. The government clearly had to set some example in keeping down inflation and the federal public service is the only major personnel pool directly under its control. At a time when some 1.5 million Canadians are out of work, a six per cent limit on salary increases is probably not too high a price to pay for relative job security. A good many of those 1.5 million would gladly settle for such a rate.

And with such restraints on the federal public service it's likely that the private sector will adopt similar guidelines. This will inevitably help to bring down inflation.

So there is no quarrel here with what the minister has done. It's more with the aloof, arbitrary way in which it was done - just like Prime Minister Trudeau's timing of his meeting with the premiers.

The fact that no agreement could be expected is beside the point. Since it's acknowledged by virtually everyone that the budget process is as much psychological as it is practical, why wouldn't the government at least make an effort to get the co-operation of public service unions. If nothing else it would have helped to modify the militancy of the reaction and eliminate some of that rhetoric about this being a declaration of war on workers. But for reasons that remain obscure, the government seems blissfully unaware of the fact that consultation and co-operation requires a two-way effort.

Critics say Miller's budget opted for favorable poll



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Whom to believe? Just why did Treasurer Frank Miller choose to remove some exemptions to the retail sales tax rather than raise it to eight per cent on existing items?

Liberal Finance critic Pat Reid says the answer can be found in a poll taken in late 1980 by the government.

It asked "which of the following revenue raising alternatives would you prefer in principle: raise the sales tax from seven per cent to eight per cent, or leave sales tax at seven per cent but extend to items or services currently untaxed?"

Of the 794 respondents 53 per cent favored extension rather than a raise, the latter choice appealing to only 29 per cent.

That's why Miller did what he did, Reid said.

Miller denies this logic, noting the

poll was in 1980, which is prior to last year's budget, not this year's.

EASY WAY

He told the legislative committee looking at the sales tax changes that going to eight per cent would have been easier from an administrative viewpoint.

But it would be wrong economic policy.

"The sectors of our economy that are hurting most are bit-ticket items such as autos and appliances. A raise in the sales tax which would, for example, add \$100 to the cost of a \$10,000 car would have further damaged consumer confidence and would have hurt sales," he suggested.

Moreover, he has a philosophic defence for his decision.

In the past decade more and more items have been excluded from the sales tax by various Treasurers, including Miller himself.

"The problem with this is that the perception of the tax was gradually changing from that of a tax on retail sales to that of a tax on so-called luxury items or non-essentials," he said.

BAD MOVE

But that was never its intent. If perception of the sales tax as basically a luxury tax "continued to grow, the base of the tax would continue to shrink since someone can always make an argument that practically anything is essential to

someone," he said.

Also important, he thought, was to look toward consumption taxes - like the broad sales tax - for increased provincial revenue, rather than production.

"Should we further tax goods such as refrigerators, stoves, and furniture and make employment difficulties being experienced in these industries worse, or should we spread the burden to other consumption items?" he asked.

MILLER'S CHOICE

Obviously Miller chose to remove the loopholes.

His case for doing so is persuasive, as is his preference for sales tax changes over income or corporate tax changes during a time of recession.

But one has to wonder whether Miller would have been allowed the option of removing exemptions rather than going to eight per cent if there had not been a poll showing a majority favoring such a choice?

The Progressive Conservative government lives by polls, almost totally so in the view of opposition politicians, although the art in polling is learning how to read the results properly.

From the furor the removal of exemptions has produced it appears they didn't ask the right questions this time.

Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO-The store, established by Bob Harris two years ago at Stewarttown, has been purchased by Ken Wilson of Toronto. Mr. Wilson took possession this week and moved into the house in which the store is located yesterday. Mr. and Mrs. Harris will live in town in her father's home, Mr. Fred Bralsby. Mr. Harris was employed by A.E. Farnell and Son prior to going into business for himself and before that he worked at the Dayfoot Shoe Company. The new owner formerly lived on Glencalm Avenue in East York and was employed as industrial chemist with the National Carbon Company. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have three children, and are Anglicans. The new business will operate under the name Wilson's Grocery.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Delinquent water ratepayers suffered from council's "get tough" policy Monday when the town works crew, acting on instructions, turned off water in homes of those who had ignored requests for payment arrangements. Originally planned for Friday, deputy reeve Hunter told council Monday night that a weekend of grace had been allowed and all delinquents contacted once again. Of the 50 people notified Friday, less than a dozen still stood pat and were penalized Monday.

TEN YEARS AGO-The boom year in house building was 1968, according to figures at the building inspector's office when 512 single family homes were built. The number of houses built each year has varied from the 1968 high to a low of 12, for both 1963 and 1964. The figures reflect changing financial conditions throughout the years and the effect of the 1959-60 Avro Arrow demise on building for over five years. The number of single family dwellings over the last 15 years is 2,702. A scarcity of residential lots within the town will bring house building almost to a complete stop.

ONE YEAR AGO-The province's housing ministry has given the town a \$15,000 grant for "core area" studies in Acton and Georgetown. The money, added to another provincial grant of \$10,000 for studying redevelopment possibilities in the communities' business improvement areas was the maximum amount allowable under the government program. Conducted simultaneously, the core area study aimed at establishing planning policies in the downtown sections for the town's official plan, and the redevelopment study could help Halton Hills get additional funding to help revitalize and preserve the historical character and shopping viability of the two Main Streets. In addition to the provincial funding for the studies, the town has also committed about \$35,000 to the study program.

POET'S CORNER

Hope

Have you ever walked alone,
at night?
Felt chilled with tears
chasing one another down your cheek?
The world's an empty place
when you don't have someone
to hold.
Have your thoughts ever,
tricked you?
Believing love is nearby and
finding
all the time it wasn't.
The wished upon stars fade
as wishes do.
Oh, God take me home to
someone.
-By Marlowe C. Dickson,
RR2 Beeton

Train wreck

Georgetown Train Wreck
In the days of steam, the wreck was between Highway bridge and the station.
There are some people to-day,
who can remember the place of location.
The train was on its way, the water supply was low
It stopped at the water tower to refill so the wouldn't blow.
This train was carrying cattle,
of danger, had no fear.
The flyer was heading east,
speeding close and near
Caboose man heard a whistle,
screaming very clear
He looked out and saw a light,
heading for the rear.
He left the caboose, then ran,
very much in fright
Then she struck a sudden blow,
crashing all its might,
Engineer and fireman they were
stunned with shock
It kept pushing on the wreck,
thought it would never stop.
Box cars buckled, smashed and
tossed about
Dead cattle lying there, crushed
and flattened out
Moaning, bawling cattle could
be heard, it sure was hell,
Those surviving cattle, were
laken to the nearest farmer's
corral.
There was no loss of human life,
as far as I know,
Railway men cleaned up the
mess, so other trains could go
Railways those days were kept
in shape
Schedules were changed by
some bad mistake.
-By Albert Brooks,
Halton Hills

TOTO

Toto, I get the feelin' we're not
in Kansas anymore
Through the wind and storm
We find ourselves alone
And Toto, I get the feelin' we're
not in Kansas anymore
We're on a golden road in a
moving picture show
(Chorus)
Oh, don't it feel like paradise

(and) Oh, how could somethin'
be so nice
But at least I've got company
'Cause Toto, it's you and me
And here we go

Toto, I get the feelin' we're not
in Kansas anymore
But all I want to know
Is how do we get home

Toto, we've found our way inside
a book
of dreams
Our time is almost gone, yet it
seems it's just begun
(Chorus)
Cause I wanna go home
I wanna go home...
I wanna go home...
I wanna go home...
-Song by TRACY PARKER,
AHS student.