

Ignoring town, citizen rights

Bill Davis has given Ontario its best demonstration in years of how dangerous majority government can be.

Entrusted with the Conservative majority at Queen's Park, the premier seems to have borrowed a page from the prime minister's book and ungratefully showered us with political arrogance.

Complete disdain for other levels of government is the central issue behind the province's newly-proposed Mineral Aggregate Policy outlined in a series of maps and reports compiled by ministry of natural resources staff working throughout the Golden Horseshoe.

On those maps, almost 40 per cent of the Halton Hills land area is designated for gravel extraction. In other words, if the maps and the new mineral policy are approved at Queen's Park following several public hearings and appeals, all manner of development on those earmarked lands will be frozen and future development will be severely restricted if not outright prevented.

Keep in mind these are not public lands we're discussing.

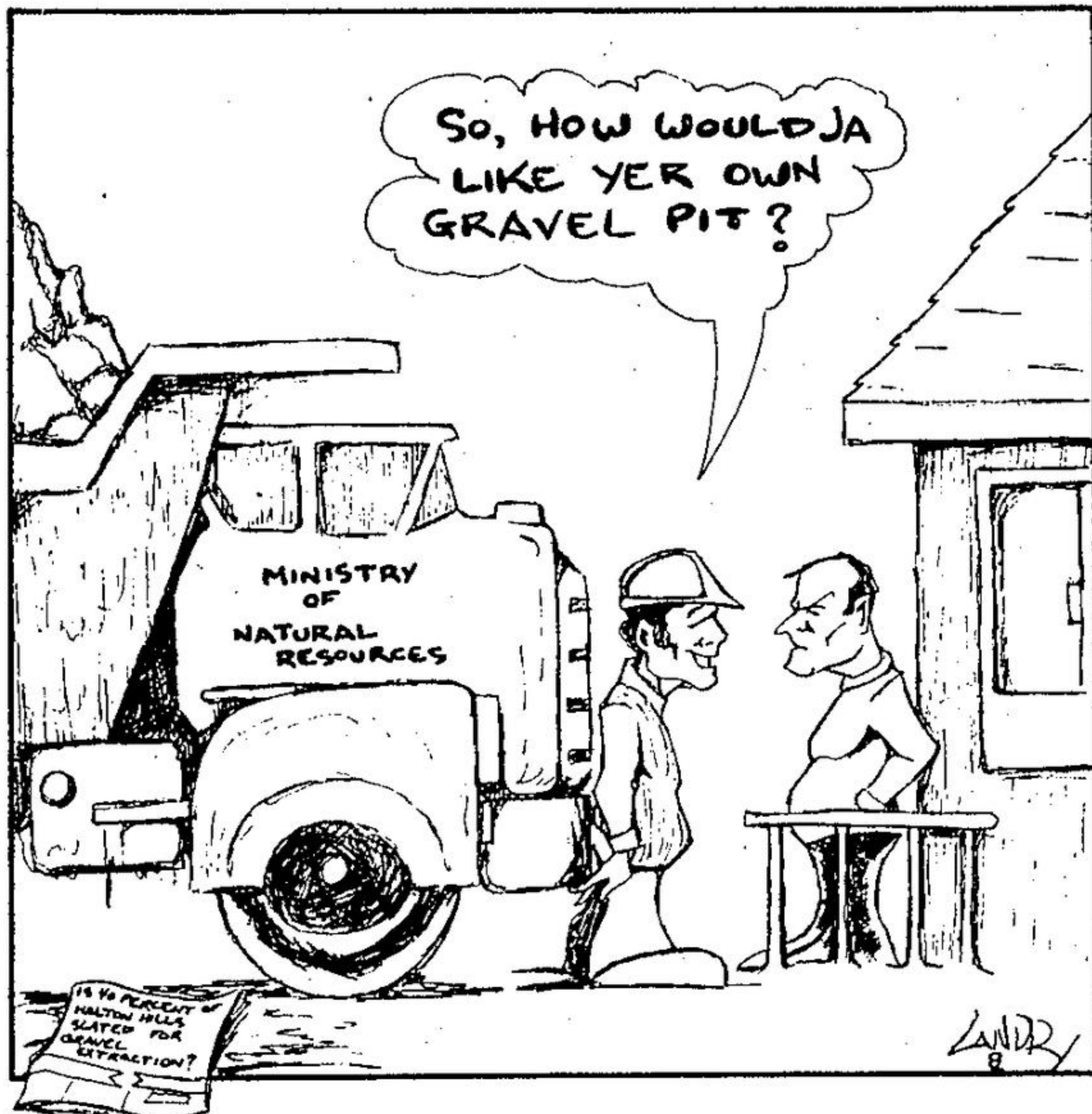
Such is the nature of majority government that years of heated confrontation between Halton Hills and Queen's Park over limited ex-

traction work has failed to deter the new policy's authors one bit. The mining of aggregate in Halton Hills for highway construction projects scores of miles away has been tolerated marginally because much of the town, after all, is traversed by the mineral-rich Niagara Escarpment.

Even so, town council had to strenuously defend the rights of its citizens when digging went on too long at night and when gravel trucks raced too quickly along quiet rural roads. Months of trying finally got some restrictions on the mining, but clearly council was merely whittling down the tip of the iceberg.

Let's not just grit our teeth and accept what the province demands: Why is so much gravel necessary? How long will supplies last anyway? Is the right to own private property being undermined? Would a development freeze seriously curtail the town's progress? What kind of restrictions can the municipality impose on actual operations?

The long-range impact of this policy's approval must not be underestimated in any case. Whether the province is asking for too much aggregate from Halton Hills is a secondary issue; municipal rights, and especially citizens' rights, are what must be considered first.



Ryan's many shortcomings overshadow contributions



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Now that Claude Ryan has thrown in the towel as leader of the Liberal Party in Quebec, there is a natural temptation to recite all the personal shortcomings that led to the painful decision - his austere inflexibility, his aloofness, his platform lectures, his lack of warmth, etc. History is never kind to politicians who have failed the only test that seems to count - winning an election.

But it would be a pity if historians overlook the enormous contribution that Claude Ryan has made to the party he has led for six years. Whoever succeeds the 57-year old former publisher will inherit a party that's far different from the one he began rebuilding back in 1978.

In fact, were it not for Claude Ryan there might not even be a Liberal Party in Quebec today.

It's easy to forget the disastrous state of Liberalism in Quebec when the remnants of that party turned to Ryan for salvation. As the exciting new regime of Rene Levesque created a state of electoral euphoria throughout

the province, the discredited Liberals stumbled from one disaster to another.

BECAME JOKE

Former premier Robert Bourassa left the country to do some consultative work in Europe, and most of his key ministers quit politics altogether. Hardly a day went by between 1976 and 1978 that you didn't read some story of alleged political sleaziness that had happened under the Bourassa government.

Not only had that government been turfed out of office, but the provincial Liberal Party became a virtual joke. Memberships plunged, donations slowed to a trickle, no one wanted to lead the troops.

Only two candidates came forward, and both of them - Ryan and former finance minister Raymond Garneau - had to be coaxed into the ring. The challenge facing the winner would be monumental, perhaps even impossible.

If there was one thing the Quebec Liberal Party needed in 1978 it was integrity. And if there was one thing that Claude Ryan could offer it was integrity - not to mention credibility and intellectual honesty. Sure, it would have been nice if he could also be a vote-grabber, but an enormous amount of work had to be done before the party could even think of appealing for votes.

Apart from everything else, before an election would be held there would be a referendum on Quebec independence, and the person heading the "No" campaign against Rene Levesque would have to be the new Liberal leader.

It's little wonder there were few volunteers for the job.

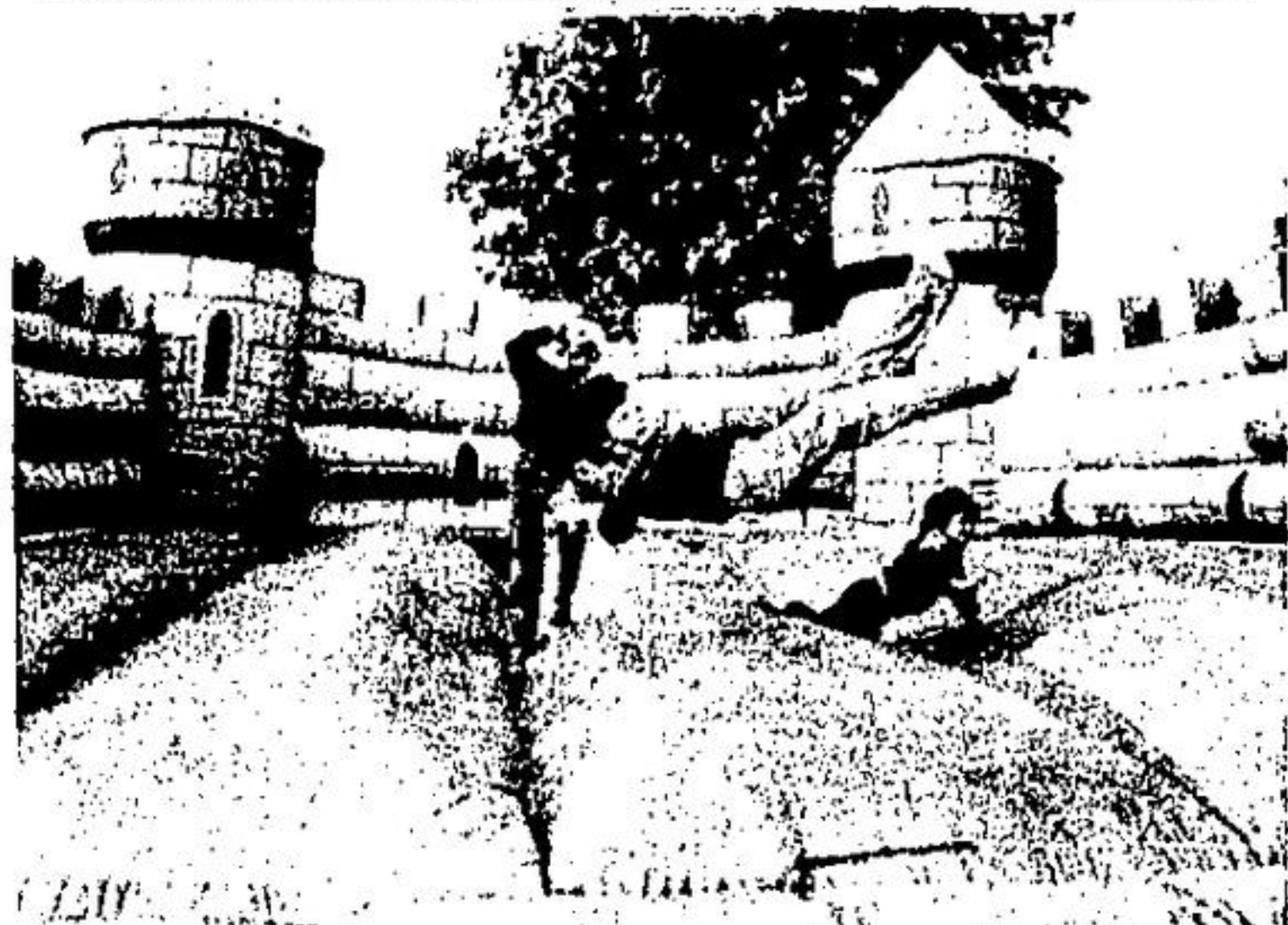
The way Claude Ryan tackled his assignment astonished even his most severe critics. Moving from a publisher's office to the backrooms of constituency offices, this lofty intellectual expended incredible energy on the massive rebuilding project. And within a few short months the Liberal Party had not only clearly survived the disasters of preceding years, it had taken on an unprecedented credibility in the eyes of the voters. Under Ryan's leadership, the Liberals won 11 straight byelections, and under the general direction of Ryan, the Parti Quebecois was defeated in the independence referendum. It was assured that, when the subsequent election was held, Ryan would automatically become premier of Quebec.

WORKED HARD

But it didn't happen. In the 1981 election, with Levesque promising not to bother the people with another referendum in a new term, he managed to whomp Ryan on the hustings. When it came to actual campaigning it was simply no contest between the two.

Politics is a very unforgiving business, and having led his party to defeat, Ryan's future became rather fragile. When surveys indicated that only a fourth of the delegates might support him at next month's convention, he had little choice but to step aside rather than risk humiliation. That's the reality of politics.

But at least Ryan will have the satisfaction of watching potential successors - including his predecessor - line up for the privilege of leading a party that had to go begging for such candidates just six years ago.



WHAT TIME IS IT?

If your calendars aren't already marked, don't forget that it's fall fair time in Halton Hills, and both the Acton and Georgetown agricultural societies are pulling out all the stops this year to make 1982 the best season ever for fair-goers of all ages. Bumped ahead from October, the Georgetown fair takes place Sept. 10, 11 and 12, offering exciting greyhound races as a new attraction. The Acton fair follows the next weekend, also for three days, and features the Miss Acton pageant and a gala variety show. And, oh yes, both fairs will highlight the midway, as if anyone could do without!

(Herald file photo)



Letter from the editor

Paul Dorsey

Hurtin' music

Got a lovely note the other day from the president of the Vokes Information Center, which seems to represent something of a mini-industry built up around the talent of one Howard Vokes, "Pennsylvania's King of Country Music" (country fans should pardon my ignorance regarding Mr. Vokes).

Signing herself "Always Country, Kitty White", the president just wanted to compliment The Herald on its write-up about Michael T. Wall, "The Singing Newfoundland", who visited Georgetown recently.

She also sent along a bulletin about the latest releases on Country Boy Records ("the Vokes Brand of Country Music") which describes one particularly heavy record. Perhaps if I mention the Vokes Center address (5304 Butler St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15201), Ms. White won't mind us all having a little laugh at the expense of the Man Himself: "Real country music fans of Howard

Vokes can get his album "Tragedy and Disaster in Country Songs" (Starday Records 258) by mail order...The LP is heavy with fiddle and dobro and contains Howard's hits of Old Shep, Willie Roy the Crippled Boy, The Miner, Put My Little Shoes Away, The Sinking of the Titanic, Death of Kathy Fiscus, His Last Ride, The Tragedy of Chicago, Cyclone at Rycove, Death on the Highway, Engineer's Last Ride, Yellow Tomb, Mommy Please Stay Home With Me and Don't Make Me Go to Bed and I'll Be Good. On the back cover of the LP are photos of Howard with Roy Acuff, Buck Owens and WSM DJ Grant Turner. This album is a real collector's gem."

Sounds like real hurtin' music to me, real cryin' in yer beer country blues. Other Vokes albums are titled "Hank Williams Isn't Dead" and "Songs of Broken Love Affairs".

Keep it country, Kitty.

Meet the Legislature's chief moralist - John Sweeney



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

In terms of willingness to speak about moral matters, there is no one in the Ontario Legislature within hailing distance of MPP John Sweeney (L-Kitchener-Wilmot).

There is almost a crusader quality to Sweeney's utterances on matters as diverse as abortion, mind-controlling cults, and values in education.

And it was Sweeney last year, in an exchange with Education Minister Bette Stephenson, who got to the crux of the matter in any discussion of morality in the schools.

On the one hand, churches and the home ("hopefully", he wisely added) Howard's hits of Old Shep, Willie Roy the Crippled Boy, The Miner, Put My Little Shoes Away, The Sinking of the Titanic, Death of Kathy Fiscus, His Last Ride, The Tragedy of Chicago, Cyclone at Rycove, Death on the Highway, Engineer's Last Ride, Yellow Tomb, Mommy Please Stay Home With Me and Don't Make Me Go to Bed and I'll Be Good. On the back cover of the LP are photos of Howard with Roy Acuff, Buck Owens and WSM DJ Grant Turner. This album is a real collector's gem."

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and we should be damned well brave enough to say so in the educational system.

"And you are probably going to hear a whole lot of noise from people who object strenuously to our movement in that direction, but it seems to me that we have been hanging out there on the leaf for long enough," she said.

In response the ministry is drawing up "new guidelines" for teachers to use in the classroom in helping children choose the "appropriate moral path to follow".

In the meantime the ministry has recommended against using such value training examples of relative morality as the "lifeboat situation".

TWO DIE

This is where a group of 10 children, for example, are told they are on a lifeboat in the Atlantic Ocean where only eight can survive. Who gets thrown overboard?

Stephenson noted that while the lifeboat drill could be an interesting exercise for those with "some experience in making decisions related to moral structure or human activity (adults), most kids lack that

experience".

Unfortunately, she said that a year ago, and the new "guidelines" were supposedly under development a year before that. Yet nothing has shown up at the school level for use by teachers.

It is doubtful schools can actually teach morality - the old saying that values are caught, not taught has validity - but at least the education system should refrain from undermining basic Judeo-Christian morality.

GOD TOO

As Sweeney notes, the "traditional belief" within Ontario is that one appeals to an "outside authority" to justify what we do (ranging from God to parents), while some educators argue instead "all authority rests within yourself."

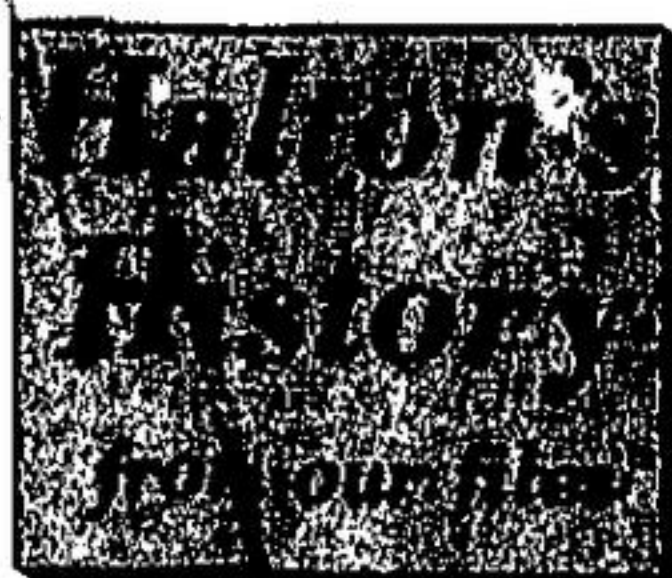
He left the point there, when he might have gone further.

As someone once said, morality is an affair of the heart as well as the head. Look at Sweeney. He feels his values. He knows right and wrong. He would approach a lifeboat situation, a rare happening far from the heart of a moral life, from a strong moral base.

I'd sooner be in the lifeboat with him than a moral relativist.

GLT finds a new 'home'

Norma Elliott and daughters Brenda Sisset and Lois Fraser, owners of Terminal Warehousing in Georgetown, continue to patronize the local arts community with a "very reasonable" rental agreement for a Georgetown Little Theatre rehearsal area. Mrs. Fraser and the GLT's John Roe worked out details for rehearsals at the Armstrong Avenue warehouse as well as some set building space. A big financial boost from the Elliott family last fall inspired the town to name its new library-cultural centre theatre after Mrs. Elliott's late husband, John, a former council member.



THIRTY YEARS AGO-The reopening of the public library has been delayed until Sept. 3. The library has been closed for the last few weeks while remodelling is in progress. The "facelift" of the building includes putting asphalt shingles on a portion of the roof and the inclusion of the old auditorium in the library proper. The former auditorium will now house the adult section of popular fiction and non-fiction. Battleship polo has been placed on the floor and enough space allowed in the centre for meetings of cultural organizations. The old section of the library will be used for children's books and a reference room. Considerable redecorating has been done and workroom and washroom facilities for the librarian have also been added to the building.

TWENTY YEARS AGO-Gibraltar school in Limehouse closed its doors for possibly the last time in June after 117 years and pupils will enroll in a new six classroom school in the village in September. Just in case demand exceeds supply, the old building will be retained for a few years if the new school becomes overcrowded. Saturday, the school had a reunion attended by 329 former pupils.

TEN YEARS AGO-A trial bus service running from the east end to downtown but excluding Moore Park is the recommendation of De Leuw Cather consultants who have carried out a transit study of the town. The lengthy report forecasts a deficit ranging between \$18,000 and \$36,000 for the bus service, without Moore Park, and an additional deficit, ranging between \$30,000 and \$40,000 if Moore Park is included. The town would pay half the deficit and the department of transportation and communication pay the other half. However, the government has a maximum subsidy of around \$17,000. The route proposed in the report shows the bus starting at a loop in Delrex and Gairry Drive, along Weber to Mountainview, up to Campbell Gate, along Prince Charles to Edward up to Guelph, along to Mill Street, to the downtown area.

ONE YEAR AGO-The Glen teamers beat Erin twice this past week to take an early 2-0 lead in their last of five Intercounty quarter-finals. Tuesday night in the Glen saw the teams rally early in the game to a quick 3-0 lead over Erin. Terry Haines threw a steady game giving up two walks, four hits and striking out eight of the Erin batters. Terry's pitching and the good defensive play by the Glen team left the final score at 3-0. Friday night, with a win under their belt, the players travelled to Erin for one of the most exciting games this area has seen all year. They won 3-2.

POET'S CORNER

Lime Kilns in Lime-house

First came the set Kilns, in Limehouse still remain. They made lump lime shipped it by train. Piles and piles of cord wood for fuel in their yard. Men with hammers breaking stone, work was very hard.

Some with drills, were drilling through the rock. When the charge was set, men would shelter from the shock. They used horse carts for drawing wood and stone. Firing up the lime kilns, men worked alone.

From the quarry to the lime kilns was car and track. Horses drew the load up, empty cars they ran back. The product was a lump lime shipped on the rail. Forty-eight hours it was ready, to shovel on and scale.

Those days they slacked the lump lime, it took a lot of water. It made a putty, to be mixed with sand, to use for mortar. Then came the draw kiln, a better working way. It produced lump lime, a quantity every day.

Soldiers from the Boer War, an old lady told me so. Came here to work the lime kilns, a long time ago. In 1915, the kilns moved to a new location, a mile or so away. They called it "Dolly Varden", at that time of date.

A few years later, the Alabastine Company bought, to close the kilns. Disappointed, workers thought they would build new grinding mills. At this present location, they are crushing stone. A million dollar outfit, not so far from home.

-By Albert Brooks
Halton Hills