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Croatian confrontations

Unfortunate circumstance

It's an unfortunate series of misunderstandings and mistaken assumptions that again brought town council into rather tense confrontation with spokesmen for the Croatian cultural centre near Norval Monday night.

Unlike the Yugoslavian-Canadians who get together at a centre south of Acton and invariably have problems controlling their more rowdy celebrants, the Croatian-Canadians strike us as a cohesive enough community of mostly Metro residents who've made sincere and sweeping efforts to meet Halton Hills' expectations of them.

There has, however, been one serious shortcoming, one which led to the confrontation at Monday's general committee meeting. Almost a year after council asked the Croatians to publicly state their long-range intentions for the social-recreational centre on Winston Churchill Boulevard, they have not done so. The comprehensive site plan which the town requested during its consideration of a proposed Croatian cemetery has not been submitted.

The request was not out of line. The site plan seems just as relevant now that the Croatians are completing a secondary access road into the grounds, even though simple driveway construction wouldn't normally necessitate such elaborate background before receiving approval.

To their credit, the

Croatians have had to quietly accept council's negative rulings, first on the massive recreational complex once envisioned for the pastoral site and second on the nine-acre cemetery proposed early this year.

It appears from many accounts that the Croatians also readily accommodate requests from neighbors and civic officials to keep festive weekend celebrations relatively quiet although a serious problem still exists regarding amplifiers; nor have they complained, as was originally feared, about noise or odors from adjacent farm operations.

Now they've complied with a fire department request to build a strong entranceway into the site able to support firefighting vehicles if needs be.

It seems to us the Croatians are indeed good neighbors, a run-in with police over misuse of firearms notwithstanding (a basically internal squabble with employees, subsequently ironed out by the courts).

Nevertheless, council's need for a comprehensive site plan is clear and not negotiable. Apart from the fire department's request, is there any further use planned for the access driveway that might entail bigger and more disturbing events at the centre? Prevented from erecting an Olympic-style recreational complex, what do the Croatians plan for their centre beyond its currently passive format?



ELSIE NOT EASILY A-MOO-SED

Among the dairy cattle judged at the Georgetown fall fair, these cows were out to milk the event for whatever prizes they could get. They were solely concerned with the agricultural competitions taking place at the Fairgrounds' western end and the other events passed on without holding their interest for very long.

Liberals' 6-and-5 wage plan may be Trudeau's ticket out



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Rightly or wrongly, the Liberals are convinced that they have a winning issue in their 6-and-5 wage restraints program. And since Prime Minister Trudeau has cancelled a scheduled Asian tour to promote the program, we can assume he is equally convinced. Trudeau doesn't like cancelling Asian tours.

But his closest advisors - which include Senator Keith Davey - have told him that the party's political fortunes rest on the restraints program and that it should be carried to the people with the intensity of an election campaign. And Trudeau, as the party leader, must lead that campaign.

So, with unusual haste he rattled off apologies to the governments of Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, and said that domestic economic conditions are forcing him to cancel his scheduled two-week tour to these countries. His trip was to have begun on Sept. 19.

"Many of us felt the timing of the trip would have been unfortunate," said Liberal Party President Norman MacLeod. "The government program is beginning to come across to the people. It would have been unfortunate to lose momentum."

PLANS INCOMPLETE

At last reports, Trudeau's people still haven't decided exactly how the prime minister would campaign on behalf of the restraints program. There had been talk originally of an elaborate cross-Canada tour which would take Trudeau into every province, preaching on behalf of 6-and-5. But some of his advisors favor more limited appearances in major centres such as Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

And MacLeod is fully convinced that, despite the public opinion polls, which show the Liberals trailing the Tories by a whopping 19 percentage points, that Trudeau is still the best thing the party has going for it. "I travel across the country on a regular basis and the prime minister is still the most popular Liberal in the country," MacLeod described the prime minister as "a positive political force wherever he goes."

This may come as somewhat of a surprise to many Canadians, particularly those in western Canada. But the top party strategists are obviously convinced themselves, otherwise they would not have pressured Trudeau into cancelling that Asian tour - a trip he had been thinking about with a great deal of enthusiasm. Under normal

conditions, it's unlikely that the prime minister would have altered his plans.

PLANS RETIREMENT

But present conditions are far from normal, and one of the factors that might have weighed heavily on Trudeau's mind is his own personal future. He has already made it clear that he has no plans to fight another election, so this is not a preoccupation with him, but he is not the type who would want to take his leave while he appears to be a lost cause. I think we can safely assume that he would be inclined to hang in there until the polls turn around and the Liberals are on the upsurge.

And the party brass feels that the turnaround can come through the restraints program - not because it is necessarily popular, but because it happens to be the only such initiative that the people can grasp. The Conservatives, by keeping their economic strategies secret until the next election campaign are letting the Liberals have this field all to themselves.

In the circumstances, it's quite possible that Trudeau and his Liberals can reverse the trend in the public opinion polls, and if this happens there are a good many people who would expect the prime minister to make a fall announcement on his own retirement plans - perhaps leading toward a leadership convention early in 1983. While party officials may be preoccupied with the next general election, I suspect that Trudeau spends more time thinking about his own dignified departure. Now, perhaps, he feels he has found the answer.

They did it!

We had a feeling about this time last week that we'd be extending well-deserved congratulations to the Georgetown Agricultural Society on its 136th fall fair.

The fair board has earned the community's praise and admiration with a huge jump forward in terms of the number and scale of the attractions offered. The key, it became obvious, was getting more people involved, not just those saddled with the onerous job of running an event by themselves, but those who pitched in a half-hour's time here and there.

Yes, there were flaws, even on an Indian summer weekend amid a crowd estimated at

12,000 over the three days. The Georgetown fall fair mustered all its resources, picked up a dozen or more new attractions and did indeed make that big jump into the big time; we can easily forgive a handful of shortcomings and gaps in the proceedings - they're just bugs to be worked out for next year.

And therein lies the crux of the matter: by no stretch of the imagination will the fair board be considering retirement, as was the case last fall. There will be a 137th Georgetown fall fair, thanks to the success of its predecessor and the interest shown by the community. Our thanks and congratulations to all involved.

Meet you at the Acton fair

Now that the Georgetown fair board is breathing a little easier again, we can all just sit back and enjoy the fair's "Halton Hills twin" in Acton.

There's no need to worry when it comes to the 69th Acton fall fair, coming Friday night through Sunday in Prospect Park. This one's been a big three-day success story for years.

Maybe it's something about the people of Acton and area, because they sure don't need much coaxing to attend and enjoy the annual event. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that Acton is just that little bit further away from Toronto, enough to allow its rural character a bit more room to

flourish and, thus, enhance the fall fair.

Then again, maybe it's just the astounding job the Acton Agricultural Society does every year in mounting a full roster of varied events and attractions. There's the Queen of the Fair pageant and the marvellous Variety Night showcase, the ever-popular beer tent, the baby show, pet show, model boating on Fairy Lake, the antique tractor pull and - just to get things rolling - a parade into the fairgrounds.

Actonians never miss it; our readers in Georgetown and Esquesing shouldn't either. We'd love to see Halton Hills get together again for the second weekend in a row - this time at the Acton fall fair.

It's Peterson vs. Macaulay on acid rain rights, remedies



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Should Ontario Hydro be forced to install scrubbers on all its coal-fired generating stations as part of the effort to reduce emissions that contribute to acid rain falling on our lakes and forests?

Liberal Leader David Peterson believes so. Ontario Hydro Chairman Hugh Macaulay believes not.

And the Canadian Bar Association had the clever idea of having both of them make speeches at its convention under the formal title of "acid rain - Canadian rights and remedies".

Insofar as coal-fired plants are concerned, scrubbers are to acid rain as soap is to dirty jeans.

Electricity generating stations that burn coal produce oxides of nitrogen and sulphur that combine in ways still unclear to fall as acid rain.

Scrubbers remove the sulphur dioxide (although not the nitrogen). Liberal Party policy is that Ontario Hydro must install best available scrubber technology on all its coal-fired generating stations.

HYDRO QUIT Ontario Hydro likes to fudge its answers to questions about scrubbers, but it seems clear that - barring major growth in the economy in the next few years - scrubbers are last on Hydro's list of priorities.

This means a 1981 commitment to put scrubbers on two of Hydro's 20 such units has been shelved. Nor does Hydro intend to put scrubbers on its new two-unit thermal station in northwestern Ontario.

To Peterson these are examples of a monolithic, out-of-control Crown corporation that leads Ontario government policy rather than following it.

Moreover, it damages our credibility in the U.S., where scrubbers are seen as a symbol of a utility's commitment to clean air. There 222 scrubbers for new coal-fired plants have reached

the planning stage or better. HYDRO VIEW Naturally, Macaulay sees things differently.

To him the aim is to reduce total emissions. The methods can vary. He stands by the decision to get Hydro's totals down to 300,000 tonnes annually by 1990, a cut of 50 per cent from 1982 figures.

(Peterson argues that the base year should be 1980, which means the actual reduction, if it occurs, will only be 37 per cent).

Macaulay notes scrubbers are cost-effective only when used on new plants that burn high-sulphur coal and operate a lot of the time, characteristics that fit generating stations in the eastern U.S.

But in Ontario coal has diminishing importance in providing electricity except at peak periods as more and more nuclear generating stations come

on-stream. And what coal is used will likely be washed and at least partially low-sulphur.

Macaulay also claims major technical problems and high costs for retrofitting scrubbers, as opposed to installing them in new plants where the boilers are designed with scrubbers in mind.

So far as symbolism is concerned, Macaulay thinks the promise to reduce emissions 50 per cent (or 37 per cent) is as useful as putting in scrubbers in the attempt to forge an acid rain agreement with the U.S.

He might be right. It will be interesting to see the conclusions a coming tour of heavyweight U.S. journalists make in regard to Ontario Hydro's anti-acid rain commitment.

The best defence against acid rain is to use nothing but nuclear and water power.

TERRY'S SPIRIT LIVES AGAIN



Students at Holy Cross Roman Catholic School were busy with crayons and glue recently, making posters to publicize the Terry Fox Run in Georgetown Sunday. Three of the winners in the school's poster contest were (left to right) Lee Anderson, 12, Kathryn Frazer, 10, and Jennifer Needham, 8. You can see the posters in shops and buildings around town. The Terry Fox Run is also being held at Acton High School. Organizers of the event cannot be held responsible for any damages or injuries incurred at the event.

(Herald photo)

Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO - Jane Anne Emmerson and Richard Jenner were prize babies in the six months to one year class in the Robinson Baby Show at the Georgetown fall fair. Little Jane Anne lives in Terra Cotta and Richard was born in Windsor. Topping the three to six months class were Lorraine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ledwidge and Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Prouse. A special \$5 prize for the best twins went to Ronald and Donald Darch, sons of PC and Mrs. Ken Darch of Brampton. Their mother is the former Violet Louth of Georgetown.

TWENTY YEARS AGO - The high school population in Georgetown has doubled in the last two years. Records show there were 435 students attending GHS two years ago. Latest figures from this fall's registration point to a total attendance of approximately 860 this year. Public schools are teaching about 100 more children this year, bringing the number of pupils to just under 2,100. Breakdown is as follows: Harrison, 610; Wrigglesworth, 428; Chapel Street, 339; Park, 303; Kennedy, 409; Holy Cross school has 496 pupils registered to date. Last year there were 436. Total enrollment in Georgetown schools is 3,450.

TEN YEARS AGO - Halton County's seven municipalities took a big step forward Saturday when elected representatives agreed on a regional government structure they would like the province to implement. At a combined meeting of towns and townships the idea of a five-area second tier set-up as recommended by the June technical co-ordinating committee report, was rejected and creation of three areas was recommended. North Halton, comprised of Nassagaweya and Esquesing Townships, along with Acton, Georgetown and towns, and Milton made up the northern area. Oakville and Burlington made up the other two areas.

ONE YEAR AGO - There were 198 runners in Acton and 164 runners in Georgetown Sunday morning participating in the first Terry Fox run. Together, they raised over \$19,000, including approximately \$1,200 raised by Halton Hills councillors. As many as 400,000 Canadians ran in the ten-kilometre marathon and between three and five million pledged money. The run should raise a total of at least \$4 million for cancer research. Held in memory of Terry Fox, the young one-legged runner who raised almost \$24 million for cancer research before dying of cancer last June, the run was attended by an eight-member team from The Herald.

POET'S CORNER

Our Mother

We look to our Mother, with pride and joy,
She has the same love, for girl or boy,
Look to our Mother, with high respect,
She gave us great care without any neglect.

As a child with your Mother you grow,
They are the best days, you ever did know,
If you have a good Mother, a great treasure she be,
Her greatest dream, give the world to me.

Live and let live, as she would say,
Not to be greedy, but use fair play,
You think of your Mother, when she has passed on,
And all those great memories, they have gone,
We cannot return to those childhood days,
A treasured thought of her love now stays.

—By Albert Brooks, Halton Hills

Animal to Man

Drawing blood from fangs sunk deep into flesh
It turned upon its next victim of prey
To kill for joy and flee the bloody mesh
But it's going to meet its judgement day.

To murder for no reason, but its land
It destroys its own and has no mind
To lie on its back and lan in the sand
Its life will not end, at the end of time.

It has no emotionalistic thought
Nor does it have a sense of affection
It makes itself out to be what it's not
And tries to attempt its perfection.

It tries to construct its utopia
Where time and space are concealed in sand
This dream is a myopic idea
And this tormented beast is called man.

—By PAUL SMITH, AHS student