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The 'iceberg' reveals its size

When The Herald's Aug. 18 front page alerted readers to growing concern over new province-wide aggregate mapping, no one in Halton Hills really knew how alarming the proposals were.

Although the Federation for Aggregate Studies, which provided us with our initial information about the new maps, had warned that up to 40 per cent of the town could be earmarked for eventual gravel extraction and pointed out how the proposed policies contravene Cabinet rulings, we were still only seeing the tip of the iceberg at that time.

Last Thursday night, something of the true scale of the iceberg was revealed. More residents than were anticipated jammed the town council chamber to find out about and challenge or support proposals for a 14,000-acre aggregate protection package that would exert grave restrictions on the future use of much of Halton Hills and part of Milton.

Coun. Pam Sheldon, drawing on years of experience contemplating the effects of urbanizing rural land, was quick to note the political nature of the proposal. Property rights, including the right to do what you please with the land you've honestly earned, might well be undermined by draft policies which proponents are defending in some singularly unhumanitarian ways. Why?

Acton's Coun. Ross Knechtel, representing a ward that might be drastically repressed in growth if such a plan is approved, pointed out that Halton's official plans acknowledge environmentally-sensitive areas worthy of

special protection. By the same token, he said, they should also acknowledge "people-sensitive areas".

Such is the nature of Ontario's plans for the future, from hydro super-corridors and nuclear power to brand new cities where yesterday there was pasture.

As Mayor Pete Pomeroy has said, Halton Hills is prepared to commit much of its natural resources to that kind of planning, but where do we draw the line? Projected demand for aggregate, as outlined in the new mappings, is far too excessive, according to the Federation for Aggregate Studies. Do we blindly allow the aggregate industry to set extraction goals the same way we allowed Ontario Hydro to predict consumer demand ten and 20 years ago? We're still paying for Hydro's vast overestimation.

And will we idly watch the democratic process eroded here in Halton as provincial and regional planners shore up their joint defences in the name of aggregate plans for the future, the true value of which has yet to be established? As the two parties move to align the area's official plans, thus clearing obstacles to the aggregate industry's suspicious goals, will the voices of residents attending the local public meetings be heard?

Another public meeting is being arranged for Acton this week or next. Pay close attention and watch for any possible political motivation - on anyone's part. Serious concerns have arisen, but like the proposals themselves, we may yet realize the true scale of those concerns.

Third in a series

Anti-nuke films pack quite a punch

Herald Special
In the major public event of its current campaign, the Halton Hills "Vote Yes for Disarmament" group is presenting free public screenings next week of a new film about the effects of nuclear war.

"If You Love This Planet", a National Film Board production, has been drawing large audiences wherever it is shown, and those who see it come away changed people.

The film features Dr. Helen Caldicott, a former U.S. pediatrician and instructor at Harvard who gave up her practice to work full-time for peace, as head of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

In the film, Dr. Caldicott describes the chaos and destruction that would ensue after a nuclear attack, and presents figures which suggest the likelihood of such a strike, accidental or not, within this decade.

The lucky ones would die, she says, and "the living would envy the dead."



IF YOU LOVE THIS PLANET

Survivors would be burned and blinded, and forced to live underground.

"Huge doses of radiation would reduce their resistance to disease, which would abound because of the heaps of rotting corpses." Yet the two superpowers continue to build up arms, to the tune of \$600 billion a year, adding seven or eight new nuclear weapons every day.

Included in the film are heartbreaking clips of people who survived the atomic blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. These alone are enough to convince most viewers that it's worth any effort to prevent the same thing happening to themselves and their children.

"If You Love This Planet" is terrifying and gloomy, but it ends on a note of hope. Dr. Caldicott leaves her audience with suggestions, some light-hearted and some serious, for starting their own peace movement at home. And she leaves us with the feeling that each of us can do something, and that it is worth the effort. Already thousands of people have been spurred to action by this film, and it has been seen even in Russia.

You can see this half-hour film here in Halton Hills on any of three nights: Sunday, Oct. 17 at Norval United Church, 7:30 p.m.; Monday Oct. 18 at Trinity United Church in Acton, 8 p.m., or Tuesday Oct. 19 at St. John's United Church in Georgetown, 8 p.m. All three churches are on Highway 7.

Organizers suggest that you cancel all other engagements to attend one of these free screenings - nothing could be more important! Following the film, Monday and Tuesday evenings, special guest Dwight Burkhardt will be present to answer questions and lead discussion, and coffee will be served.

Mr. Burkhardt is a research assistant with Project Ploughshares, and a graduate of the University of Waterloo with a degree in religion and peace studies. On the Sunday evening in Norval, Norman Ball of the Christian Movement for Peace will lead discussion.

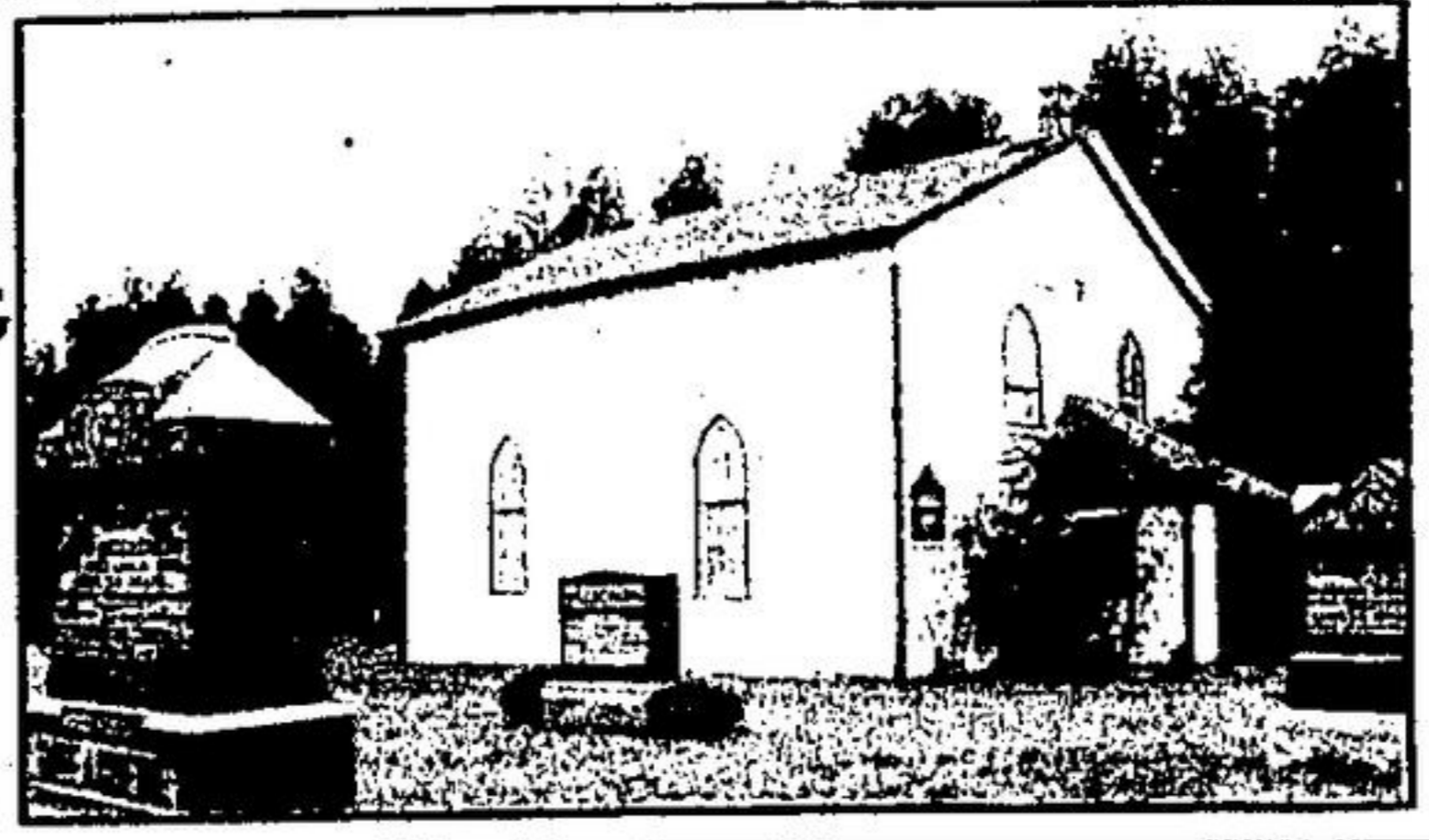
Organizers hope for full attendance on each of the three nights. If you have not yet decided how to vote in the referendum to be held here Nov. 8, or even if you have, don't miss this film! It is not recommended for children, but it should be "required viewing" for all adults.



A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING

Dozens of worshippers gathered inside the historic White Church south of Belfontain for a special commemorative Thanksgiving Sunday service. The service was led by Norval United Church minister Walter Ridley and featured the Norval youth choir "Forever One".

(Herald photos by Chris Aagaard)



Just ignore the 'rah-rah' about new Cabinet shuffle

Ottawa Report
By Stewart MacLeod

I am sitting here, being swirled around by journalistic excitement over Prime Minister Trudeau's latest cabinet shuffle, perhaps feeling just a bit guilty because I can't seem to get in the spirit of things. Ever since Energy Minister Jean Chretien told us to stop bitching and start feeling positive, I've been trying to get into a rah-rah frame of mind.

But I am having trouble with this 13-person cabinet shuffle, which Trudeau described as "the bigger jewel" - presumably to separate it from the earlier "little jewel" which affected only five ministers. And already there is talk of still another such gem, perhaps a "January jewel".

It's not that I have any negative reaction to this latest shuffle, or the earlier one for that matter - it's more a case of being somewhat skeptical about the significance of a shuffle that involves only existing ministers. It's a bit like the frequent reorganization, and renaming, of existing government departments - after the process has been completed they go on doing roughly the same thing. And, by the same token, when Trudeau next slings his gavel to bring a cabinet meeting to

order, he will be sitting at the same table, with exactly the same faces, considering exactly the same issues.

WIDE VIEWS
For the last couple of hours I've been listening to colleagues, along with assorted ministerial aides, offer a wholesale assortment of views on what it all means. And, I must admit, it's tantalizingly tempting to pass along some of this as incisive personal insight. For instance, it would be easy to write that the change in senior economic portfolios means a nudge to the right for the Trudeau government, and it would be similarly easy to talk about which ministers were promoted or demoted. Just about everyone is saying that former Trade Minister Herb Gray has been demoted to President of Treasury Board. Yet when Robert Andras assumed that portfolio in 1976 everyone was saying he had become the most influential minister in cabinet.

Now, that's what most are saying about Donald Johnston as he leaves Treasury Board to become minister of state for economic development - which is not to be confused with the apparent promotion of Ed Lumley to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It's an apparent promotion because Lumley has done a bang-up job in international trade; by the same method, we have decided that Paul Cosgrove, because he didn't fare well as minister of public works, has been "demoted" to secretary of state for finance.

Perhaps so, but it could also be argued that any portfolio dealing with finance these days represents an automatic increase in importance.

From what I can gather about the functions of cabinet, it's not too much the portfolio as the personality when it comes to wielding personal clout. And try as I might, I can't figure out how Serge Joyal's influence might be altered by his move from Minister of State to Secretary of State. Nor can I decide whether William Romkey will be more powerful as Minister of Small Business than as Minister of Revenue.

NOTEASY
In fact, surprisingly few people seem to know whether Romeo LeBlanc is moving upward or downward as he goes from fisheries to public works, and until we settle this we naturally can't decide on the direction of his successor Pierre de Bane, who had been in charge of francophone external relations.

About the only conclusion I would want to reach without fear of contradiction is that Bud Olson, who moves from Minister of Economic Development to Government Leader in the Senate is not, as they say, on an upwardly mobile course. But then, despite the prestige of his previous portfolio, he was never considered the economic czar that Johnston now is supposed to be.

You see, it isn't easy to evaluate cabinet shuffles.

A great deal, of course, depends on how the ministers now will perform in Parliament with their new portfolios, and any conclusions on this question are a couple of months away.

In the meantime, so far as the image or ability of the Trudeau cabinet is concerned, our views, whether complimentary or critical, are unlikely to be altered significantly by this latest shuffle. It's the same deck.

Of the government's 'gifts' and our 1984 bicentennial

Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

One of the quaint delusions under which many of us labor is that if we have \$10 in our pocket it belongs to us. In many eyes, in fact, it is really a gift from the government.

To most people, whether they work on the shop floor or own the executive suite, money is something one earns. Governments take a proportion of those earnings to spend in ways either wise or foolish.

One may approve or disapprove of who gets the cash, but one assumes that what government doesn't grab is ours.

This idea, however, clashes with a delightful new concept that seems to be gaining increasing acceptance in bureaucratic and political circles.

This new approach describes that portion of personal or corporate income not taken by government as "another form of government expenditure, a tax expenditure."

It is as much a drain on the Treasury as any new or expanded program. But this is true only if one assumes the Treasury is entitled to all money you have and what it lets you keep is an expenditure.

(The quotes above are from the text of a speech by NDP Leader Bob Rae, but I've heard similar sentiments from those in other parties.)

Makes one wonder, doesn't it?
ARARSHERE
The Jewish world chutzpah - meaning lots of nerve - received living illustration here at a recent demon-

stration on the steps of the Legislature. Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) supporters and their allies were complaining about massacres in Lebanon, which has to set some kind of record for hypocrisy.

Fortunately the politicians at Queen's Park haven't yet stooped to pandering for terrorist votes and the demonstration was ignored.

But looking on should have been the ghosts of the Christians butchered in Damour and other towns conquered by the PLO in the Lebanese Civil War.

And parked in the background might be rows of Jewish women and children slaughtered by the fighters of the PLO, who never fight the Israeli Army if civilian targets are at hand.

The blood of Bashir Geyamel, the first true Lebanese nationalist, lies thick on their hands too.

BICENTENNIAL ROW

One has to be sympathetic to a portion of Acting NDP Leader Jim Foulds' objections to a bicentennial celebration in Ontario in 1984.

As Foulds said, it smacks of being a pre-election (expected in 1985) extravaganza intended simply to make

people feel good about Ontario, and, by extension, the Conservative government.

Moreover, the year picked is artificial, in that United Empire Loyalists, whose arrival is the linchpin for the proposed celebrations, came both before and after the year 1784.

Lastly, cancelling such unnecessary expenditures would be a good example of restraint.

To those arguments I would add one of my own, in that the coming of the Loyalists is something for their descendants to celebrate - and that includes organizing and paying for it - and not the provincial government.

But then Foulds, who worships at the shrine of multiculturalism as do all politicians in Ontario, has never objected to cash flowing from the Treasury to other ethnic and cultural festivals.

So why not UELs?

Personally I'd be more happy if our educational system would teach the relevance of Loyalists like William Merritt and Colonel John Butler, who opened and saved Ontario for the Crown.

POET'S CORNER

White Valentine

Snowflakes always make me, think of you; gently folded in my arms. Drifting on through the night; seeking safety against alarms.

So now my love, I say thanks. You've been so understanding. Your heart is pure, your spirit white, there's never been demanding.

Thank God for loving hide-aways: joy is peace of mind. If all the world is here and now, we could leave it, all behind.

Each year this day I'll pray, that we'll return once more. We'll reminisce 'bout yesterday, and plan for what's in store.

—By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RR2 Beeton

Halton's History from our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO—After six years in the taxi business, Clarence Kennedy has sold his Arrow Taxi Company to Elgin Bradley. Mr. Kennedy left his position at Smith and Stone to establish business here. He operated from his home on Guelph Street for some time then purchased Simpson's Taxi and took over a location on Main Street. Last March he sold the business to Jack Morrow who now operates it as Jack's Taxi and transferred his Arrow Taxi to Brampton.

TWENTY YEARS AGO—Representatives from the Harrison Home and School Association were told by the public school board last Wednesday night that the problem of shifting pupils back and forth between Wrigglesworth and Harrison Schools would not exist if the developer had built homes in a logical progression and not left a pocket of vacant land between Sargent Road and the far east end. Board chairman Edwin Wilson explained that the enrolment number at Harrison and Wrigglesworth varies each term and for that reason, the boundaries of each school are altered slightly.

TEN YEARS AGO—Critics of the Liberal government's economic management are little more than "bellyaching reactionaries" and "poor mouther" who are afraid to look toward Canada's future. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau charged Saturday in a visit to Halton riding. Speaking before an enthusiastic crowd of 2,500 at a rally in Oakville, Trudeau lashed out at opposition spokesmen for concentrating on minor details of policy administration while refusing to take part in a broad dialogue over the challenges of Canada's future. "I'm told the welfare backlash is strong in these parts, that some people are annoyed that a certain number of those drawing unemployment aid welfare don't deserve it and that some even say it's my fault," he said.

Takin' it to the streets

The Herald asks

For the second time in less than three weeks, body-building and fitness were an attraction at the Halton Hills library-cultural centre last weekend. The Herald asked youngsters whether they think fitness is important.



INGER JACKSON: "It's nice to be healthy. You feel good after you've had a good workout. If we didn't have fitness, we'd really be out of shape."



SHERRI McINTYRE: "I think fitness is important because if you're not fit, you can't participate in sports as much. At school I like pin Dodgeball and cross country running."



PAUL GARDINER: "I think fitness is important for quite a few people, like athletes. I play soccer and baseball and I feel really loosened up after a game."



MICHELLE TIMMONS: "Yes, I think fitness is important. If we didn't have it, we'd be out of shape. If you're out of shape, you get fat and you have to diet. You won't live as long, either."