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## 'Good Neighbor' needed

# This tall order must be filled

Halton Hills is lucky to have a wealth of charitable organizations and community service clubs devoting much time, energy and money to improving the lot of our less fortunate neighbors, both here in town and abroad.

The Red Cross, UNICEF and the Georgetown Y's efforts on behalf of others near and far spring first to mind, followed closely by the altruism of the Kinsmen, Lions, Rotarians and others. Very occasionally, it is the work of a single individual that warrants public praise, but personal time and financial constraints make these people rare birds indeed.

Nevertheless, that was the case with Georgetown's Roma Timpson, who up until last year guided the collection and delivery of Christmas goodwill parcels to dozens of local residents in need, a project she'd handled almost single-handedly for ten years.

Roma's Good Neighbor Service had many helpers, including the local Kinettes, police officers, high school students and other service club members who pitched in here and there, plus a few good friends. Yet it was really Roma herself who ran the show, and a fine job she always did.

Ten years is long enough for any individual to be associated to that extent with a good cause. Roma retired last winter after making a public

appeal for some keen person to take her place. Alas, no such soul has come forward.

Yes, it is a formidable job, involving several weeks of preparations, late hours of packing the parcels, numerous phonecalls to put the delivery system in gear and strenuous co-ordinating between the agencies that know which people and families are truly deserving of the packages, and those dispatched with deliveries.

No one's fooling anyone about the scale of the job. It's the stuff grey hairs are made of. Ah, but the reward of personal satisfaction - and the community's awed respect. Maybe that makes it all worthwhile.

This year, the Kinettes have indicated their readiness to continue their toy drive. Doubtless the others who've helped in the past will also carry on their good work. Certainly, the "needy" are still in need.

All that's left to find is another Roma, maybe a small group of Romas, but a local spearhead of concerned citizens who share enthusiasm, energy, a basic knowledge of the community - and genuine affection for their fellow residents who otherwise may do without Christmas toys for the youngsters and a good meal for Christmas dinner.

Won't you consider?

## Surprises on the local scene

# Are we prepared for nuclear attack?

EDITOR'S NOTE: What would Halton Hills' civic officials and emergency services do if an atomic warhead fell on Toronto? Georgetown's Janet Duval, a member of the local "Vote 'Yes'" committee which is urging support for a nuclear disarmament in the Nov. 5 referendum, checked with the mayor, police, hospital and other key people, to find out how well prepared this area is. Among other surprising things, she discovered that federal agents were recently scouting the area for potential public shelters, available barriers, that is, where large groups might be directed as part of Halton's emergency plan.

By JANET DUVAL  
 Herald Special

One of the great nightmares of living in this age is the prospect of nuclear attack. If an atomic bomb were dropped on Toronto or the Welland Canal, the most likely targets in our area, it seems that Halton Hills would be ill-prepared to deal with the chaos that would follow.

Experts envision two possible scenarios. One is a gradual build-up of world hostilities over a period of weeks, during which the possibility of attack and counter-attack would become increasingly likely, and citizens would have some chance to prepare themselves and their families. The other possibility is an accidental nuclear strike, caused by human error or technical malfunction, for which, of course, there could be no preparation.

By the end of the 1960s, a third possibility will emerge. As more and more countries develop their own nuclear technology, one can envision a poorer nation with unstable leadership threatening the richer nations with a "What have we got to lose?" mentality.

Imagine that an "average" modern bomb of one megaton were dropped over Toronto city hall one afternoon. Such a bomb, about 80 times larger than the Hiroshima bomb, would instantly vapor-

ize everyone in the city core, and would create hot winds of 600 miles an hour blasting outwards over many miles. Within a radius of 20 miles of the epicentre, fire storms would ignite houses and trees, and up to 40 miles out, people would suffer from second and third degree skin burns and possible blindness, if they turned to look at the fireball. Certainly animals and young children, unable to understand the danger of looking at the blast, would be blinded. Georgetown is just under 30 miles from Toronto city core, on a direct line. Acton is about 35 miles away.

Additional hazards would include radiation sickness over large population areas, lowered resistance to infection, and the spread of disease caused by ruptured sewer systems and rotting corpses.

Dr. Frank Sommers, president of Canadian Physicians for Social Responsibility, says "the best civil defence measures would be to supply everybody, in advance, with morphine or cyanide tablets." Or in the words of Nikita Khrushchev, "The survivors would envy the dead."

Barring an accidental nuclear attack, Halton Hills residents would probably have some advance warning. Air raid sirens have been in place at Wrigglesworth and George Kennedy Schools in Georgetown, and at Acton's Heller plant, for about 20 years now, according to a recent article by Herald reporter Ann Pedlerian.

These sirens are tested "annually - but silently". They would be activated by a provincial warning officer on instructions from the Prime Minister. Unfortunately, they are only audible for about one and a half miles, so rural residents would be unaware of the emergency. Emergency Planning Canada is now considering a warning system by which TVs and radios would emit a loud screech if left on low volume.

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# Post-election punditry: N.B. voters liked riskiness



Ottawa Report  
 By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

One of the least difficult aspects of political punditry - or armchair politics - comes a day or two after elections when one can look back and, with absolute certainty, decide what message the voters were trying to convey.

It's easy because it doesn't much matter what one says. No one can disprove it. It's perfectly safe to conclude that the vote was anti-Trudeau, anti-socialist, anti-acid rain, anti-Joe Clark, anti-establishment or anti-anarchy. By the same token, it can be pro all of those things.

And after those three by-elections, we have heard them all along with some compelling arguments over what might have happened "if". Even from just one of the by-elections, in Broadview-Greenwood, we have heard that the outcome reflected an anti-Trudeau sentiment, that the poor showing of the official Tory candidate was a reflection on Joe Clark, that if Peter Worthington had not entered that the Tories would have won; that if he had not entered the race, the successful NDP candidate would have increased her margin of

victory, etc.

And various analysts have decided that the voters were saying that (a) Trudeau must go, that (b) the most pressing problem is unemployment, that (c) the entire political system must be changed, that (d) the people of Broadview-Greenwood displayed their absolute faith in true democracy, and that (e) Joe Clark has no influence.

All of this is to make the point that I don't really know why the people of New Brunswick returned Premier Richard Hatfield's Conservative government with a landslide victory. His win probably involved many local issues I haven't even heard about, but as one who views things from Ottawa, I would like to think his win had something to do with his contribution to the strengthening of the country. Premier Hatfield has played a prominent role in this respect over the last few years - sometimes taking stands that were unpopular both with the federal Conservatives and with the public at large, and it would be comforting to know that he was reaping his rewards for these particular efforts.

Regardless of the premier's performance within his province - and his electorate would seem to be somewhat satisfied - his contribution to the country as a whole has been immense. And even those who disagreed with some of his initiatives must have admired his untiring determination his courage and his unabashed devotion to the country.

It might not be stretching a point to suggest that we would not have our new constitution now had it not been for Premier Hatfield's efforts over the

last few years. He and Ontario Premier William Davis were the only premiers to encourage Prime Minister Trudeau on his path to unilateral patriation of the constitution, and without the support of these two Conservatives it is doubtful whether Trudeau could have persisted. Hatfield, at considerable risk to his own credibility, took his campaign not only across Canada but right to the steps of Westminster.

## VALUABLE ALLY

And, what was even more important, he was willing to take the considerable risk of declaring New Brunswick to be officially bilingual - something that Premier Davis has no inclination to do. Premier Hatfield, who traditionally got his support from the English-language area of the province, could easily have delayed this step beyond another election. Furthermore, in no uncertain terms, the New Brunswick premier called on the Ontario government to follow his example.

There have been other examples of him putting the interests of Canada ahead of political expediency, or partisan popularity. Good Heavens, the man didn't even object to being photographed with Pierre Trudeau.

So, without pretending to know what the people of New Brunswick were really saying in that election, and given the rather restricted view one gets from Ottawa, I am going to go on thinking that the voters were giving their approval to someone who is prepared to take some risks on behalf of a country he clearly loves. It makes me feel better.

# Everyone loves to make patronage appointments



Queen's Park  
 By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Anyone observing opposition politicians' outrage over the Progressive Conservative government's patronage appointments should take such protests with a grain of salt.

If they were in power they would be doing exactly the same thing.

That fact should be kept in mind as the Liberals in the Legislature continue to whine about Tory appointments to the several hundred boards and commissions the government controls.

Basically, they are jealous. But there is a fundamental difference between the appointment of Kitchener Mayor Morley Rosenberg to the Ontario Municipal Board and someone's normal promotion for being a good party man.

Rosenberg, who used to run for provincial and federal office on the NDP ticket, switched to the Tories and ran for them in the last provincial election. He lost.

On June 18 this year he sent a letter to Premier Bill Davis saying he'd been promised a judgeship if he ran - and where was it?

## LEAKED OUT

The letter was leaked to the Toronto Star, and a few days later Rosenberg called a press conference where he read a statement saying his comments in the letter were untrue. He wouldn't answer questions.

Opposition MPs here had the

matter referred to the Legislature Justice committee, where they tried to call witnesses to testify about the letter.

The Conservative majority on committee voted them down. Although Rosenberg did not get a judgeship after sending his letter, he did receive a \$60,000 a year appointment to the Ontario Municipal Board effective Jan. 1, 1983. It was announced before the Star published his letter to Davis.

Observers were left with the obvious conclusion: either Rosenberg lied in the letter or he lied in the denial.

In either case, as MPP Sean Conway (L-Renfrew North) said, "the issue is not patronage. The issue is the appointment of a self-confessed liar to the OMB."

## MUCH DOUBT

The underlying doubt many have concerns the credibility Rosenberg would have while sitting in the quasi-judicial chambers of the OMB and ruling on the many politically contentious matters that will come before him.

MPP Phil Gillies (PC-Brantford) defended the Rosenberg appointment before the committee as being quite normal. Patronage exists, and while "I'm not saying it is right, I accept it

as part of the system."

Actually, as a small "I" liberal in the Conservative Party, Gillies is being his usual wishy-washy self about fundamentals.

There is nothing wrong with patronage so long as it is combined with efficiency and competence. A smart government wants people in tune with its thoughts doing the interpretation and decision-making on those issues brought before the various boards and commissions.

## NDP TOO

No one has questioned Rosenberg's knowledge and talent when it comes to municipal affairs, although his background as a New Democrat should have given the Tories room for pause.

Doing the deed of running in 1981 probably entitled him to some reward, and that's fine, but what should disqualify him from the OMB post is the stupidity of writing the letter to Davis.

However, it appears clear the government is going to ride out the negative publicity on the grounds it will all go away with time, and those Tory brass thinking that way are probably right.

In the meantime the Rosenberg affair allows ample scope for the opposition to play hypocrite on the broader question of patronage.

## POET'S CORNER

### Years Go By

Tears of sorrow,  
 Tears of pain,  
 Years go by,  
 And tears remain,  
 Tears of loneliness,  
 Tears of unhappiness,  
 Years go by,  
 The tears unfold

Tears your precious eyes had  
 cried,  
 Tears the tragic day you died,  
 Years go by, and tears go by,  
 There'll always be tears that  
 haven't yet been cried.

—By HEATHER MACLEOD,  
 AHS student

# Halton's History

from our files

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**—An addition to the Smith and Stone plant will give employment to 70 additional people next spring. The news was announced this week by John Bell, general manager of the company, who said that the new plant will house a plastic division presently located in the Duplate Canada Limited plant in Oshawa. Up to the present, Smith and Stone has done only "thermosetting" plastic moulding and all "thermo-plastic" injection moulding has been in the associated company in Oshawa.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**—Setting up of a parking authority for Georgetown came a step closer Monday when council, on a 5-4 vote gave third reading to a bylaw for its establishment. While council is in agreement to provide better downtown parking facilities, some councillors expressed concern that parking meters might be installed in the lot. "I'm opposed to meters in what should be a free parking area," Coun. Jim Emmerston said. Coun. Harrison pointed out that no local parking area is free.

**TEN YEARS AGO**—Reeve Ric Morrow tossed his hat in the municipal election ring Monday night when he announced he would again run for the reeveship. He said he thought it was only fair to let the people, including any potential candidates, know what he intended to do. He openly admitted he is going after the top position in the county by trying for the warden's chair. Warden Jim Swanborough of Burlington presently presides over Halton County Council.

# Takin' it to the streets

## The Herald asks

Asked at the 13th annual Sacre Coeur Church Christmas bazaar Saturday: "Are you looking forward to winter?"



Sister Bernice: "Yeah, I like it! I like the snow, the beauty of nature. I like being able to go skiing and tobogganing."



Raoul Taulin: "I like the winter with lots of snow. I'm from out east and I've been raised in the snow. I like lots of white!"



Jeanine Houselle: "No, I'm NOT looking forward to it. Apparently we're supposed to have a very cold winter. I don't care too much for snow either."



Rich Landry: "You bet! I love winter running and all the winter sports. Cold and snow doesn't bother me. I think it's going to be a great winter with lots of snow."

Cable TV to air 'Planet' film

Halton Cable TV continues to offer additional chances to view "If You Love This Planet", the acclaimed film advocating nuclear disarmament on the basis of documentary evidence showing the effects of an atomic explosion. Screened at three recent public meetings, the movie was aired on Cable 4 last week and appears again tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. and next Tuesday (Nov. 2) at 7 p.m.