

Acton drop-in meets issues face-to-face

It must be very gratifying to Halton Hills Ward 1 councillors to be able to expand their weekly community "drop-ins" for local citizens.

For more than two years now, the fairly regular, informal meetings at the Social Services and Information Centre on Mill Street have given Acton ratepayers the best kind of access to local government they could possibly expect.

New plans call for the drop-in to continue every Friday afternoon at the centre except the last Friday, when it switches to an evening format, probably at the public library.

Interested citizens bearing complaints or questions can sit down over coffee with a member or two from town council, a municipal department head and, on occasion, a representative of the federal or provincial government. Individual concerns are heard out and looked into; general questions are answered as best the guests can manage.

Overall, it's more a matter of dealing with "government" face-to-face, gathering personal insight into why certain decisions are made and arriving at a better understanding of some of the more complex issues.

It's too bad voters elsewhere in town don't have

the same privilege, but we're not entirely sure the politicians governing them are to blame.

The idea was tried in Georgetown at least once in the recent past, Ward 4 councillors inviting voters to a round-table meeting on issues in general. As is too often the case with such affairs, few turned out and the idea faded away.

Acton's drop-in attracts no more than a handful of citizens each week, but it continues unabated, the sessions frequently giving confused or irate taxpayers a better audience with the politicians and civil servants than they'd get as a delegate at a council meeting.

In these days of high taxes and low returns, it's that much more important to know your elected representatives on a more or less personal basis. Beyond the relative formality of the council chamber, with its restrictive rules of procedure and its abundance of grandstanding, opportunities to chat amicably about specifics with one or two councillors strike us as an effective way of making your point.

We hope Ward 1 citizens make better use of their drop-in and wish councillors representing the other three wards keep an eye out for opportunities to convene their own informal sessions.

A meeting of the minds?

Halton region's senior management team stopped by town council's Monday night meeting for a brief introductory visit. Health and social services director Debbie Oakley, public works director Bob Moores, regional planner Raj Mohammed, newly-appointed treasurer Joe Rinaldo and business development director Matt Fischer joined Halton chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin to briefly outline the responsibilities of their departments, anticipating a closer working relationship with local municipalities. Personnel director Dennis Camm, solicitor Ken Anderson and medical officer of health Peter Cole were unable to attend the meeting, the first since the regional administration was reshuffled following the recommendations of a major management study conducted two years ago.



KEEP ON TRUCKIN'!

The Georgetown Meals on Wheels program got a financial boost Jan. 18 from XI Delta Bets. The service, run entirely by volunteers using contributions from service clubs and a small provincial grant, provides meals to housebound seniors. Nora Vilkauskas (centre) accepted the \$100 cheque from Maureen Richardson (left) of the service committee and Louise Giffen, chapter president. Mrs. Vilkauskas said that for many recipients, a volunteer's visit is the only human contact they have. There are over 100 Meals on Wheels programs in Ontario.

(Herald photo)



Worthington 'wing-ding' a no-win battle for Tories



Ottawa Report
By Stewart McLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

The more you think about it, the more preposterous it becomes that 29 members of the executive committee of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada should have spent six valuable hours fighting over the proposed accreditation of Peter Worthington to this month's party convention in Winnipeg.

Apparently it was a real wing-ding battle.

In the end, the disputed decision was that Worthington should not be accredited as an official delegate from the Toronto riding of Broadview-Greenwood - although four others on the riding's delegation list had their official status restored. The national executive committee, in a split decision, held to the view that Worthington did not qualify as a party member in good standing.

There were several sound reasons for the committee's decision, one being that Worthington, the high-profile former editor-in-chief of the Toronto Sun, ran as an independent in the

October byelection in Broadview-Greenwood after losing the Tory nomination. And, in finishing second in that campaign, he might well have deprived the official Tory candidate of victory.

NO WIN

The committee was also reported to have spent a good deal of the six hours considering the fact that Worthington declared on television that if John Turner became leader of the Liberal Party he would support the dreaded Grits. I don't know how much time, if any, was spent talking about Worthington's continuing criticism of Tory Leader Joe Clark, but I suspect it preoccupied a good many committee members, especially those who are fighting against a leadership review.

Because Worthington favors a leadership convention - and so do the four reinstated delegates from Broadview-Greenwood - this is really what the accreditation fight was all about. And from the beginning, it has been a no-win battle for the party: Prevent Worthington from going to Winnipeg as an official delegate and they create a martyr who, on the leadership issue, might eventually have a bigger following on the outside than he would as a delegate; Reverse an earlier decision by the party's steering committee and accredit Worthington and there would be a furious reaction within the party. In the eyes of many Tories, particularly those who are staunch Clark supporters, Worthington surpasses any Liberal as a political enemy. Liberals at

least do all their attacking from the outside.

DIDN'T HELP

And the fact that Worthington was duly elected by the Broadview-Greenwood riding association as a delegate does not mollify them. The way these party establishment people tell it, Worthington and his supporters pretty well wrecked the Tory riding apparatus when they pulled out to establish an independent campaign in October. And after the byelection, in which the official Tory candidate ran a disastrous third, Worthington and his supporters regained control of the association. When the Gang of Five was elected to go to Winnipeg, the fat was in the fire.

When the six-hour committee marathon ended and four of the five delegates were reinstated it was seen by many as a victory of sorts for the anti-Clark forces. As I said, it was basically a leadership issue.

But it still strikes me as preposterous that the brains of 29 leading Tories could be effectively tied up for six weekend hours fighting over the delegate qualifications of someone who, just three months ago, was on the hustings running against the official Conservative candidate.

If the potential delegate in question had been, say, a service station attendant and not the crusading Peter Worthington, do you really think the party's national executive would spend six hours of a Saturday debating his qualifications. Fat chance. Six minutes perhaps. And the guy would never be heard from again.

Grits' Peterson finds chinks in Davis' economic armor



Queen's
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

David Peterson as premier? A Liberal as premier?

One can never be positive about these things, because in politics situations change rapidly, with today's wisdom being tomorrow's nonsense, but as a threat to Ontario's 40-year Conservative dynasty Peterson looks better all the time.

What is amazing is how Peterson, in the less than one year since he became leader, has succeeded in boosting not only his own image but the party's as well.

It would not be unfair to say that if Ontario politics during the past 40 years were portrayed on film, the Liberals most of the time would end up in the out-takes.

Fractious. Disorganized. Broke. Those three words could have been applied to Ontario Liberalism across most of those years with a great deal of accuracy.

Accepting that such descriptions tend to be matters of degree rather than absolutes, it is still obvious Peterson has made a difference.

LITTLE THINGS

And it is not so much in the matter of the big ticket news items where Peterson shines, but in the results of a series of actions and decisions of varying type.

No one, for example, would claim that Peterson is a star performer in question period in the Assembly. He can be good or bad on any given day, but rarely fails.

Nor is he the world's best formal speaker, although on average he is far better now than he used to be. He also performs unevenly in media appearances.

But put him up against those ancient Ontario Grit criteria of fractious, disorganized and broke and he comes out way ahead.

Liberal caucus' have been far less public in the last few years about their disagreements than they were in the early days (at one point two Liberal

MPPs were threatening to sue each other), but my impression is their current support for Peterson is real and heartfelt.

And I know party regulars are impressed by him.

Partly this is his personality, an ability to project a liking for life, a warmth, that I am more and more convinced is one of the secrets of Tory success in Ontario over the years. Their leaders had and have it.

EVEN MONEY

Partly it is that Peterson is tackling those two great Grit weaknesses of organization and lack of cash with both skill and success.

In a year the Grits have paid off debts running back to 1974, and perhaps more important, have in place or being placed a system for raising consistent amounts of cash over consistent periods of time.

In 1982 they raised almost \$1 million, double a year earlier.

Beyond that, of course, there is how Peterson is handling the various political issues that arise. He makes no secret that his aim is essentially the building of credibility and recognition simply by handling each in a responsible "loyal opposition" and "government-in-waiting" manner.

In the Greymac trust company affair, what has made an impact upon me is not so much that the Liberals have usually out-classed the NDP in the quality of their opposition - and made the government squirm - but what the Grits chose not to do.

The easy Liberal road, the one their MPPs would have invariably travelled in years past, would have been to hint at Tory corruption and to drop names of known Conservatives linked to trust companies.

But as a tactic that doesn't work in Ontario. The hard route, and the one Peterson is following, is to hammer the Conservatives in what has always been their strong suit: economic management - and how now they are falling.

Very clever. And it has only been a year.



THIRTY YEARS AGO—Dr. Charles Herbert Best, co-discoverer of insulin and one of the world's great medical scientists was presented with the Alpha Omega Achievement Medal during the dental fraternity's 45th annual convention dinner. "I feel greatly honored," said Dr. Best as he received the plaque from fraternity president Dr. H.M. Jolley, "especially since it is the first time the award has been made to a Canadian." Dr. Albert Einstein was last year's winner. Dr. Best, director of the Banting and Best department of medical research at the University of Toronto, worked with Dr. Banting to discover insulin. He has also discovered enzyme histaminase, vitamins choline and its effect on liver cirrhosis and the effect of heparin in preventing thrombosis. Recently returned to his country home near Georgetown, after a 40,000 mile world lecture tour, Dr. Best told delegates there is much dental work to be done in all parts of the world.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—Trees removed from the new public school site will be used to make standards for the town's new street signs. A by-law was ordered prepared to allow a future charge equal to 50 per cent of water rates as a new service rate to help pay for the new disposal plant. Questioning the extra charge on industry, Coun. John Elliott was told that the engineering firm which is designing the plant will survey industrial water charges and recommend a basis for charging so that those who use a lot of water which does not find its outlet in the sewers will not be paying excessively.

TEN YEARS AGO—Georgetown will be the major centre in one of four new Halton County areas announced Tuesday. North Halton (a temporary name) will be composed of Georgetown, Acton and the northern two-thirds of Equestrian, and Nassagaweya townships. A 23-member regional council will be created with North Halton sending four members to it. The regional proposal was revealed in speeches by the Hon. John White, Ontario treasurer and minister of economics and inter-governmental affairs. The other three municipalities joining to form Halton region are Central Halton, embracing Milton and the northern part of Oakville; Oakville; and Burlington.

ONE YEAR AGO—Serious problems experienced in putting on last year's Georgetown fall fair have put the future of the 135 year old event in question. Bettyanne Wellstead, in charge of publicity and promotion for the fair over the last two years, asked the Georgetown Agricultural Society Monday night how worthwhile an event members see the fair being. "Just because a venture is considered worthwhile back in the 1930s doesn't mean it's still worthwhile in the 1980s," she said. She complained that the fair had experienced a decline in workers and was put on by about a dozen people in 1980. More workers are needed she said.

POET'S CORNER In Search of Free Verse

Here I sit thinking things I shouldn't think. I think... Or so they say. Whoever or whatever "they" are, is for them to know, and for me to not.

As I tilt my head up to stare upwards, (which is the logical direction to stare considering I tilted my head that way) I feel the dull pressure of the back of my head against my neck...? Or...the pressure of my neck against the back of my head...? Which one I'm not sure.

All the while the clouds are... "covering" the sun. Like a child's foot... "covers" an ant.

—By JAY SANKEY, AHS student

Escape

I like this moment, I don't wanna let it go. I wish I could hold it in my hands, or at least, make time go slow.

At other time, when things just don't go right, I wish I could fall into a deep long sleep. Where things go by not missing me, and I wake up with a brand new morn and miss the dreaded night.

But, things won't always go my way. So I am afraid. Yes, I must face each and every day.

—By KIM McMULLEN, AHS student

Drug round-up

Two McIntyre Crescent men are among four men charged in a drug investigation by Halton regional police this weekend. The four were arrested Saturday and will be appearing in Milton provincial court March 14. Charged with trafficking in narcotics and with possession of marijuana was Lindsay Wilson, 19, of Kimberly, Ontario. Charged with two counts of possession of a narcotic were Michael Norton, 23, and Douglas Sims, 23, both of McIntyre Crescent, Georgetown. Charged with one count of possession is Robert Brown, 18, of Flesherton, Ontario. A total of 23 grams marijuana

POLICE IN

and eight grams of hashish were confiscated by police.

Assault charge

A 33-year old Georgetown man was charged with assault causing bodily harm Thursday night when he attacked his 29-year old brother. The brother suffered cuts to the face, eyes and some broken teeth, Halton regional police report. The fight took place at a Main Street residence in Glen Williams. George Sheppard will be appearing in Milton provincial court Feb. 21.

Impaired driving

Charged with impaired driving, a Milton man was taken to Milton District Hospital by ambulance Jan. 18 after suffering minor injuries in a one-car collision. Martin McDonnell was westbound along Sideroad 10 at the Third Line when he lost control of his vehicle, left the roadway and struck a tree on the north side. There was \$1,500 damage to his car.

Hotel door smashed

Kicking in the glass door of the McGibbon Hotel in Georgetown Friday at 1 a.m. earned a local man a charge of wilful damage.