

## Prompt study required for intersection

Residents at a recent Ward 3 (Georgetown) drop in session voiced their concerns over the Maple Avenue-Delrex Boulevard intersection. We support their stand that the intersection is not safe and steadfastly hope a planned traffic study is carried forward without delay.

A town council recommendation to proceed with a traffic study specifically referring to the intersection was passed. The region is responsible for Maple Avenue and would have to participate in the study.

A traffic light is needed for the intersection. The site is arguably one of the most dangerous in the area. Motorists and pedestrians from Delrex cannot readily see traffic travelling up the steep Maple Avenue hill.

To compound the problem, the intersection is a crossing point for students attending Ecole Sacre Coeur and Holy Cross Separate Schools, Georgetown District High School and Howard Wrigglesworth Public School. Last week an eight-year old

student in Acton was struck by a car and received minor injuries when he ran into a car's path on Main St. North at River Road.

The potential is even greater for a similar occurrence at the Maple-Delrex intersection which offers an obstructed view of children.

Although a crossing guard is on duty in the morning, at noon and during school hours, there are other times when the intersection is unattended and unprotected.

The number of cars and trucks using Maple Avenue has surely increased over the past ten years. Delrex Boulevard continues to be a street where many people drive at speeds hazardous to other motorists and pedestrians.

While we depend on our police to watch over motorists who insist on driving through sidestreets at excessive speeds, we can do more. Traffic lights are needed on the Maple Avenue-Delrex Boulevard intersection. We hope a planned traffic study report comes to the same conclusion.

## Red Cross: friends for all seasons

March is Red Cross month. Through the generosity of the public during the Red Cross campaign for funds, vast numbers of life saving programmes and health and community services are available to those who need help.

Red Cross is not a "fair weather" friend. Despite inflation, unemployment and recession, the Red Cross continues to work with volunteer donors to ensure that blood and blood products are available when needed.

Red Cross volunteers continue to help prevent accidents and death through the teaching of first aid, water safety and health courses. In local and international disasters, Red Cross stands to provide emergency services.

The Red Cross provide training for volunteers to respond to community disaster needs. Emergency aid is given in time of fire and floods in the

form of food, shelter and clothing.

Individual emergency aid is also available on a short term basis for items such as food, clothing and shelter. Most countries have a tracing and reunion division to search for missing persons.

The Red Cross teaches first aid and water safety through swimming classes taught by qualified Red Cross instructors. Films stress ice and water safety to schools. In addition sickroom supplies such as hospital beds, wheelchairs and other health care items can be borrowed free of charge for a limited time.

The Red Cross works hard to live up to its aim of relieving human suffering and promoting health. But it can't do it alone. When you voluntarily support the Red Cross in your community everyone helps and everyone benefits.

### Staff Comment

By Chris Aagaard

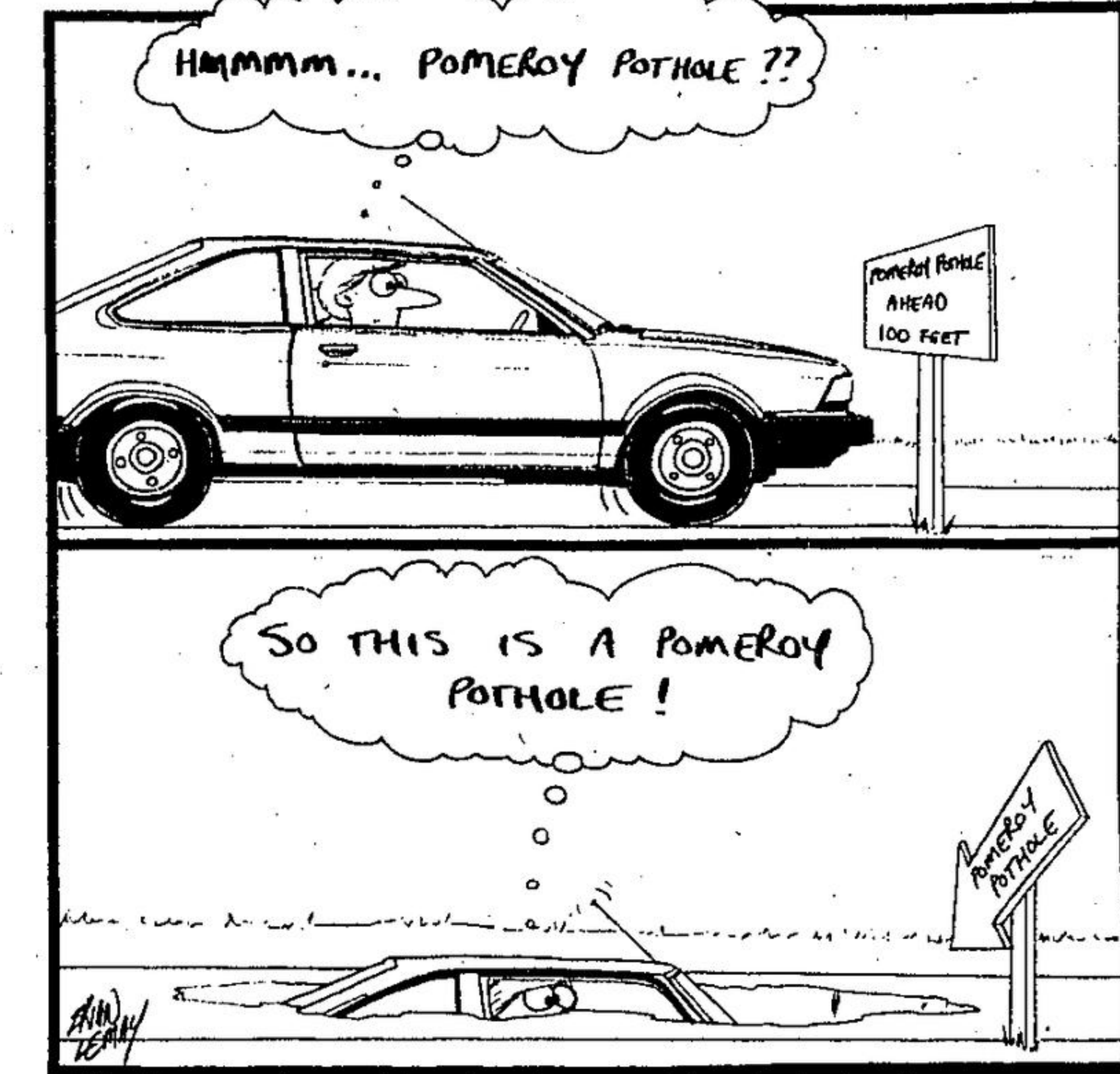
## Real chairmen aren't quiche-eaters

By Bruce Feirstein's (author of Real Men Don't Eat Quiche) definition, regional chairman Jack Rafits can count himself among Halton's "real men": he has an acclaimed directness with people and he makes short work of the "quiche-eaters" on council who would mire proceedings with tiresome grandstanding.

Least Mr. Rafits is prone to bank in the still untested success of his first regional housing conference, held last Thursday in Burlington, he should be wary of terms used to describe the event to colleagues who missed it.

Indeed, through comments made by developers, government representatives and social services spokesmen, it is clear that Halton is being left behind neighboring Hamilton-Wentworth and Peel regions in the provision of just about all forms of housing.

**ACTIVE ROLE**  
All of the interest groups represented at the conference urged the region to take an active role in seeing that, for the private developer, conditions for building homes here are a little more inviting and, for social services interests, the housing mosaic fit



## Time worn excuses for those seeking leadership



Ottawa Report  
By Stewart McLeod

Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

Even after all these years of watching politicians, I am still absolutely awestruck that so many of them can say, without cracking a smile, that they haven't had time to think about their leadership aspirations.

Have you ever noticed? It has become a classic line over the years. And after seeing that Tory leadership hopeful Brian Mulrooney now has joined the countless users of the cliché, I wish that I had carefully recorded all the times I've heard it over the last 20 years. The moment that Mulrooney declared that he has not yet found time to think about running for the Conservative leadership, I had that funny feeling that I was reliving the past. You know that strange sensation that something is happening for the second - or 20th - time.

Then through a haze of history, it began coming back. Yes, I remember hearing Paul Martin make such a comment in the mid-1960s when there was talk of Lester Pearson resigning, I

remember Paul Hellyer saying the same thing. I am sure Eric Klerans was another who said he didn't have the time to think about it.

John Turner certainly didn't have time to think about it until a few months before the 1968 convention - and it doesn't cross his mind now - and the late Robert Winters was another who didn't give his future a thought.

**TRUDEAU TOO**  
The most notable of all of course was Pierre Elliott Theatre, just a few weeks before entering the race for the Liberal leadership in 1968, he declared that he wasn't even thinking of it.

Makes you wonder what ambitious politicians think about, doesn't it? And the most interesting aspect of this is that, without exception, every politician who says he hasn't had time to think about his future is the very politician who runs for his party's leadership. It never fails.

On the other hand, you might have noticed that all politicians who decided not to run for the leadership always say they gave the matter a great deal of thought. In fact, without exception, they have agonized over the decision.

No politician gives his future a little bit of thought. It's all or nothing. Their collected quotes on the subject would indicate that either leadership thoughts never entered their mind or else they wrestled painfully with the decision.

It's also worth noting that, when a politician decides against running, it's never because there is a possibility of

losing. In fact, in all cases, they have been heartened by the potential support.

**NO EXCUSE**  
The reason politicians decide against seeking the leadership is always out of consideration for the family. This is one reason why it's so difficult for bachelors to justify staying out of leadership races.

Brian Mulrooney's I-haven't-found-the-time-to-think-about-it, is more remarkable than most other similar, and historic. Pronouncements simply because of his activities over the last year. Not only is he plugged into a well-established organization, he has also carried out a coast-to-coast speaking tour that has had more than a passing interest in politics. One would think that, even if for a few moments as he flew over the Rockies, the subject of Tory leadership would enter his mind.

"When a leadership convention is called, I will then, of course, begin to take a look at it," says Mulrooney.

Sure, sure. Somehow I have a feeling that tradition will be maintained and that Brian Mulrooney will be another of those people who, not having had time to give the matter any thought, will decide to run for the Tory leadership.

And later on, I suspect that John Turner, who hasn't found a spare moment to think about politics, will also decide to run for the Liberal leadership.

I'd still like to know what these people think about.

## Question of establishing an entity has split communities



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

By DEREK NELSON  
Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

**TORONTO** - If there is one political issue in Ontario that never goes away, it has to be disputes involving the extent of French language education in this province.

It erupts in different ways and different places, from Essex County to Hamilton to Penetanguishene, each of which caused the Conservatives political difficulty locally.

But in some places the question of establishing an entity has split the community, and not just between Anglophone and Francophone, but so that Francophone has become pitted against Francophones.

That is what has happened in Mattawa and Iroquois Falls, where bilingual high schools currently exist.

**NEXT STEP**  
Interestingly, the debate appears to have narrowed itself to two issues: democracy on one side and the principle of "where numbers warrant" on the other.

The democrats, like the two school boards in question and (in Mattawa's case) local Tory MPP Ernie Eves, say that they will abide by whatever the majority of Francophones want.

It also made good anti-Canada propaganda for the separatist Quebec media.

And now the boil is feasting again, this time in towns such as Mattawa near North Bay and Iroquois Falls in northeastern Ontario. The issue now is

whether to establish French-language entities in what are currently bilingual schools.

French-language entities were Education Minister Bette Stephenson's answer to the problem of how to give Francophones a school in their language where their numbers do not justify a new building.

**VERY DISTINCT**  
Within the same physical structure would be two separate schools or entities, each with their own principal and courses and operating in their own language.

It was a solution she recommended for Penetanguishene, although she eventually lost that fight and had to fund a separate "temporary" building for the Francophone students there.

But the entity idea caught on, and not just among Francophones. In Smooth Rock Falls, for example, the English minority (48 students) established an English-language entity.

But what has caused great dispute is over how one should define "majority", whether it should mean a survey of all ratepayers or just those with children in high school, or what?

And if 60 per cent won't vote one way or another, as happened in Iroquois Falls, what does that mean? How should they be counted?

**OTHER SIDE**  
The other view, as expressed by Liberal MPP Don Boudria (Prescott-Russell) who visited the towns in question, is that regardless of majority opinion an entity should be established if "numbers warrant".

He doesn't have a figure per se, but notes the 48 students in the Anglophone entity in Smooth Rock Falls could be a guideline. He accepts this could mean forcing an unwilling Francophone majority into attending an entity they didn't want.

Boudria's argument is that bilingual high schools are assimilation factories, that Francophones must be segregated from Anglophones on a daily basis in the schools if the students are to graduate still "French".

Maybe. In any case the entity idea, a solution to one problem is generating a slew of its own. One suspects it will always be that way in Ontario.



**THIRTY YEARS AGO**-Town council received partial plans for a new fire hall as prepared by architect W. Hall of Brampton. The blueprint calls for a complete new building on the present site and will consist of a three bay garage, club room and apartment. A rough estimate of the cost is between \$22,000 and \$25,000. The matter of wrecking the old town hall came in for considerable discussion after two tenders had been received for this work.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**-Acton's Main Street, park and Free Press office were used in a TV "Perspective" program Feb. 16. It was used in a 30-minute film entitled "The Editor" televised by the National Film Board for their Perspective series. The story portrayed the role of a weekly newspaper in community affairs and Acton became "Middletown". Written by Charles E. Israel, it starred Rex Devlin, Winifred Dennis and Len Birman, all professional actors. Several Acton people were in street shots and Margie Mackenzie, a child on a swing in the park, had a speaking part. It examined the close bond of common interests between the staff of a weekly newspaper and the readers who may freely praise or criticize, but always look forward to their weekly news.

**TEN YEARS AGO**-Peggy Treahy of Carole Street has been named citizen of the year by the Georgetown Lions Club. The closely kept secret was revealed Friday at a dinner dance in the Legion auditorium. Mrs. Treahy received her award, an engraved plaque, before club members, council members and representatives of various Georgetown organizations. Her years of work with retarded children and adults earned her the unanimous choice. Now an employee of the adult workshop for the retarded at Hornby, Mrs. Treahy was instrumental in the building of the Sunshine School for children, creation of the workshop and formation of a Georgetown auxiliary. She promoted classes for those with learning disabilities, and has been director of the North Halton Association.

**ONE YEAR AGO**-Erecting a fence along the lot line between the Kingham Road housing development in Acton and private property containing a pond in which a three year old drowned last fall was endorsed Friday by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA). The Authority was replying to recommendations made early in January by a coroner's jury investigating the drowning death of Derek Jones. Rejecting the jury's other recommendations that the pond should be filled in or that the pond and adjacent swamp area must be drained by ditches and culverts, the CVCA claimed the pond is an environmentally sensitive area.

### Letter to The Editor

## 'Escarpment plan in tatters'

The long-awaited report on the Niagara Escarpment Plan, which comes after two years of hearings, negates fifteen years of provincial initiatives and wastes millions of dollars of taxpayers' money. It does nothing to preserve the escarpment but is squarely on the side of development.

"An orderly plan for this magnificent provincial heritage is now in tatters" says Lyn MacMillan, President of CONE (The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, which consists of nine of the leading conservation groups in Ontario plus concerned individuals and landowners).

The Hearing Officers demonstrate their lack of understanding of the principles of environmental planning and of the provincial objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. They clearly consider landowners' and local municipalities' development interests to be sacrosanct. Their recommendations include:

- new lots and new houses in the most sensitive areas in the Escarpment;
- rural subdivisions, including condominiums, in the "protected" areas;
- unlimited expansion for minor urban areas even into the most unspoiled escarpment land;
- looser severance policies, gravel extraction and condominiums in agricultural areas;
- implementation of the plan by local municipal zoning by-laws, without any continuing provincial overseeing role despite the Hearing Officers' refusal to hear evidence on implementation of the Plan;
- approval of development in the three major individual controversies, the Speyside Quarry, the Fonthill Kame Gravel Pit (Steed and Evans), and the Epping Commons condominium development in the Beaver Valley, despite sustained local opposition and expert testimony;
- removal of Jordan Harbour and many of the rural areas in Grimsby from the plan.

The Hearing Officers' report publishes only one side of the evidence in many controversial issues such as "Epping Commons". The evidence of those opposed is not even noted.

Gratuitous and insulting comments towards the Niagara Escarpment Commission staff and members of the public who took the time and energy to attend the hearings and support the government's initiatives also mar the Report. Not the least of these was the reprimand given to

Continued on page A5