

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown L7G 3Z6, Ontario
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Second Class Mail Registered Number - 0943
Page 4 - SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, April 20, 1983

Straight talk

The swelling ranks of Conservative association members in both Halton and Brampton-Georgetown ridings illustrate a healthy sign of people newly interested in politics.

Betty Fisher was elected at the Brampton-Georgetown meeting last Wednesday as a delegate for the June 8-12 Conservative leadership convention. She attributed her victory in claiming a spot as a delegate to a "grassroots movement deciding who should win the leadership race."

If this new input of power from the grassroots level is to have any effect on politics in Canada, we can only hope their vitality and interest remains.

Mrs. Fisher's speech exemplifies how we can be successful by being decisive, straight-forward and forceful in outlining our needs and commitments.

Increasing numbers at a riding association meeting cannot be totally meaningful unless delegate candidates offer voters a clear choice.

Fostered by the electronic media, more specifically television, politics in the past 15 years has consistently relied more on personality, image and delivery of speeches, rather than the content of those same speeches.

In both the Halton and Brampton-Georgetown riding association meetings, the vast majority of delegate candidates did not commit themselves to voting for one par-

ticular leadership candidate.

In many cases, long-standing Tory delegate candidates asked for support based on their allegiance to the party over a number of years - they did not say who they would vote for.

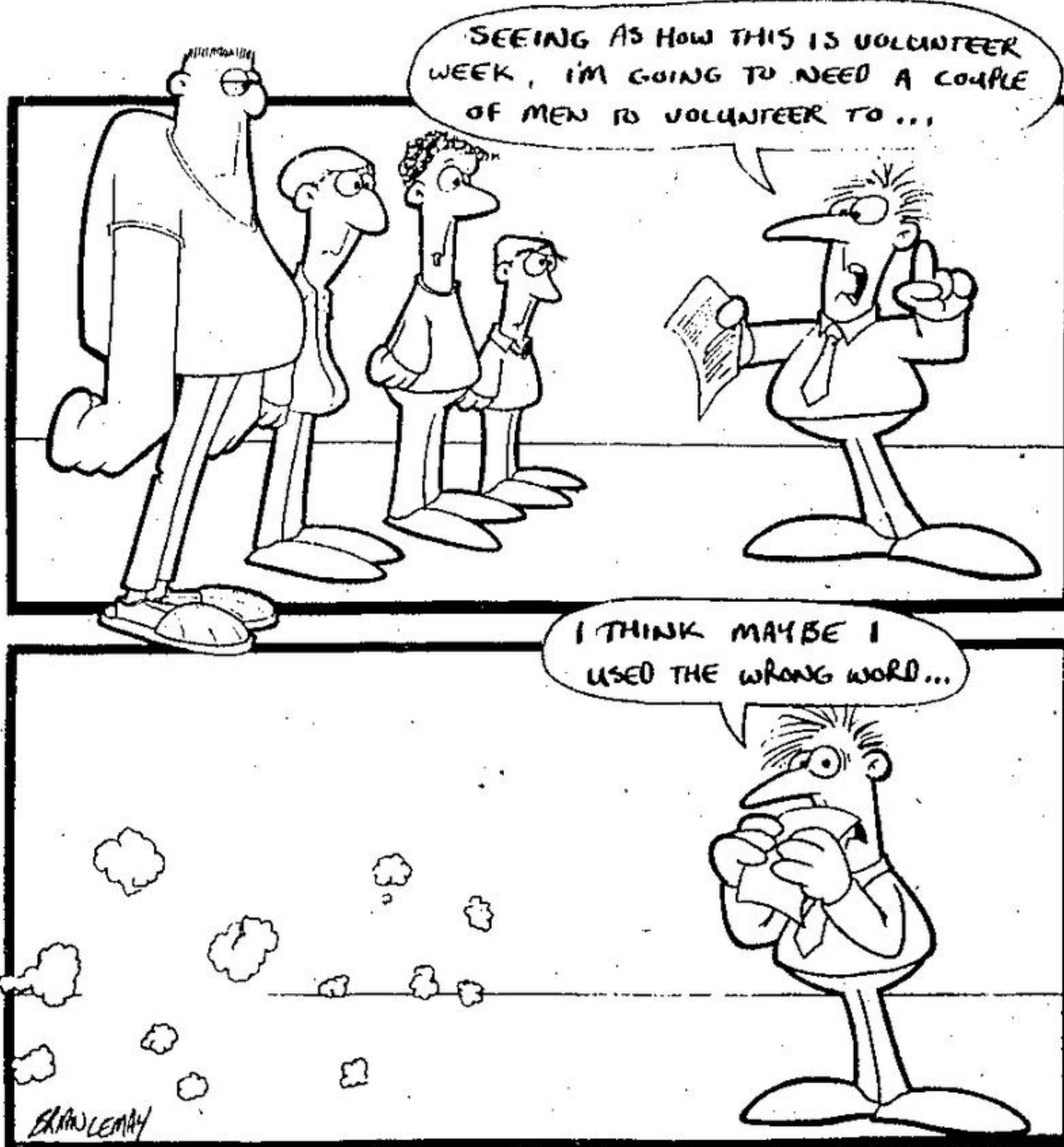
The following are some comments from uncommitted delegate candidates: "It will be important for the history of Canada. I'm waiting for all the candidates to declare themselves. I want to talk to all of the leadership candidates before I make up my mind."

Delegate candidates who ask for support based on their image as an able decision-maker do not serve those people well who want more from a delegate than a self-assured smile and a handshake.

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDerimid said he hopes new members will stay around and help after the leadership convention to challenge the Liberals in an election.

Who knows what new riding members thought about these delegate meetings. Will they return to help? We hope they will help out with activities in the Conservative camp. We hope this interest will also extend to their counterparts representing the other federal parties.

The more decisive and clear politics are, the better chance riding associations have of wooing - and keeping - new members.



New success formula for leaderless conservatives



Ottawa Report
By Stewart McLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Perhaps, just perhaps, the Progressive Conservative Party has stumbled - as it is wont to do - onto a new formula for success - being leaderless.

As startling as it may seem, the latest Gallup poll shows that the popularity of the Tory party has risen to its highest level since the Diefenbaker landslide of 1958. And for the first time in Canadian history - I dare say in world history - a democratic party has achieved a 50 per cent popularity rating without the luxury of a leader.

Even with a leader this is no mean feat.

It makes you wonder, doesn't it, just how popular the Tories might be if they happened to be headed by a highly-popular, charismatic figure - something like a 1968 model Pierre Trudeau. It clearly boggles the mind.

It also boggles the mind when one tries to assess the relative popularity, or unpopularity, of the Trudeau government right now. If the headless Tories can command 50 per cent support, while the Trudeau-headed Grits are supported by only 30 per cent of the voters, what's the message? If I were a Liberal election strategist, I

would pop a Vallum.

In fact, I might become an addict.

TIMING CRUCIAL

And it's worth noting that we are simply not dealing with a leaderless Tory party. What the voters were contemplating when the survey was taken was a Tory party that had divided itself, in a rather messy way over the leadership of Joe Clark and forced him to call for a convention. The party seemed in disarray, with the dump-Clark forces and the pro-Clark forces screaming at each other and assorted armies being formed for the looming leadership race. It was widely assumed that, after building a solid lead over the Liberals for 18 straight months that, now, the Tory popularity would plummet.

After what the delegates did at that January convention in Winnipeg, what else could one expect? Pierre Trudeau might be unpopular, but even the most bitter voter must think he is better than nothing. So, it was just a question of how far the Liberals would rise as the Tories went for the high jump.

Just before that Winnipeg convention, the polls showed that the Clark-led Tories were supported by 49 per cent of the people, while the Trudeau Grits commanded only 31 per cent support. Then, a month later, as expected, the slide began. The Tories dipped to 45 per cent while the Liberals rose to 34.

Ah, ha, everyone said, just wait for the next one. This would certainly reflect the vicious Tory infighting, not to mention the fact that the party was not only leaderless but it tended to resemble - with all due respect - a group of monkeys scrambling around in search of an organ grinder.

It didn't seem inconceivable that the Tories could drop below the Grits in one gloomy month. Some Tory MPs actually talked this way, and I suspect that some Liberal strategists actually thought this way.

In fact, there was even renewed speculation that Trudeau now would be talked into staying on and leading the relatively revitalized Liberals into another campaign. And much of this speculation was based on the expectation of the forthcoming poll. Somehow, I think that Dr. Galup's latest work will have a dampening effect on this talk.

When the polls suggest rather strongly that a Tory party, in a state of democratic anarchy, could form a "minority government without benefit of a leader, it says something about the present government. Matter of fact, it says a great deal.

Assuming the Tories have indeed stumbled on a new secret success formula, perhaps they should set up a roster of leaders, changing them every month for the benefit of the pollsters.

Or, better still, they could deal with leadership as they have been dealing with their economic policy - keep it under wraps until the next election campaign actually starts. This way, the Liberals won't know whom to attack until the unveiling ceremony.

In any event, if these polls results are maintained, it will certainly throw a new twist into the June leadership convention. For the first time in history, instead of looking for a leader to inspire confidence, delegates will be searching for the one least likely to tarnish the image of a beheaded party. Think about it.

VOLUNTEERING: A Great Way To Grow

In recognition of Volunteer Week in Canada, The Herald talked to the co-ordinator for the Halton Hills Volunteer Centre, Maureen McCallum. Mrs. McCallum started as a volunteer in the summer of 1981, but was hired shortly after to co-ordinate a North Halton Volunteer Centre. In the first year, the centre referred about 80 volunteers to other agencies. The following article is based on excerpts from a taped interview.

The Herald: "Could you explain some of the duties you might become involved with in the course of a week?" Mrs. McCallum: "A lot of the PR type of thing, I guess, is getting out to the agencies or talking to them on the phone to the people who deal directly with their volunteers. Some of them are kind of sceptical at first; what is this place going to do, are we not going to be able to look for volunteers on our own? - you know, that kind of thing."

Really we're just there to supplement - we have to try and let people know what volunteering is all about, and save them the trouble of maybe

Generally when a call comes in, I get some basic information and find where they live and if they're working, what hours they're available... At that point I try to find a little bit about their background and what their interests are - if they've done volunteer work before, what they did and didn't like about it. A lot of people still feel that as a volunteer they're going to get all the "Joe jobs" to do, stuffing envelopes and that kind of thing. And certainly, if that's the kind of thing they're interested in we'll find it for them, but because they're a volunteer they don't have to get the lowest job on the scale."

The Herald: "What sort of things would the volunteer centre like to portray to people, in terms of awareness, of what volunteers can provide to the community. This being Volunteer Week in Canada, is there any sort of message you would like to get across to everyone?" Mrs. McCallum: "I'd like to get the point across that volunteering is something that you do for yourself, it's just not for the community. And again when we're interviewing people it's a point that we try to make that we want them to volunteer first and foremost to be happy. If they're not happy they're not going to continue with the job or they're not going to do an adequate job as far as the agency is concerned."

And I think because they're giving up the time or using their time that they should get as much out of it as they can. Now a lot of people think that's a selfish way of looking at it - that they should think of themselves first, but I think it's got to be that way if we want good quality volunteers."

And Volunteer Week, I think, is just the awareness - letting people know that volunteers are still very active in the community and it's not something that was done fifty years ago - it's an ongoing need.

The Herald: "You certainly can't stereotype who volunteers are, but is there a certain type of person you might see more of, devoting their time as a volunteer?" Mrs. McCallum: "Certainly you do get the housewife who is looking for hours away from home - that's fairly common. But certainly we get kids of all ages, teenagers doing volunteer work, seniors, men and women at work five days a week who still fit into all kinds of jobs."

I suppose the women working in the hospital is the typical volunteer or working at the library is typical, but you have all these coaches on sporting teams, your crosswalk guards and just hundreds of things that people just don't necessarily think of as the traditional volunteer."

You get people working with schools, kids helping out after school with different groups. Last year we



MAUREEN McCALLUM

having ten people coming to them looking for volunteer work and finding out that only one is really interested in what they have to offer. We can direct them to whatever organization is going to fulfill those expectations. So it saves a lot of running around for both the volunteer and for the agency."

'Neanderthal Right' oppose self-styled Tory pragmatists



Queen's Park
By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Hugh Segal, Premier Bill Davis' Boy Wonder former advisor, has written that he is worried "pondering to the Neanderthal Right" at the coming federal Progressive Conservative leadership convention could "destroy the Tories as a national instrument."

And I'll wager money now that he will be saying the same thing in a couple of years when a leadership convention is called provincially to find a successor to Davis himself.

In both cases what Segal is and will be saying is that the PCs can't afford to allow any conservatism to creep into their policies and beliefs.

After all, the current bunch of self-styled "pragmatists" and "moderates" and "managers" control a party of "consensus and moderation" that holds some supposed middle ground.

Their opponents are the "Neanderthal Right" and "space cadets" and "true believers" caught up in "rigid neoconservative simplicity", or so Segal says.

STRAW MEN

It is the rhetoric of fear, of course, full of emotive words rather than rational discourse, a McCarthyite attack on those who think the Progressive Conservative Party is badly

served by its "pragmatists".

After all, it was the "pragmatists" in the Tory Party at Queen's Park who wanted to buy part of an oil company and the "space cadets" who thought the idea belonged in orbit.

One wonders whether the current media assault by Segal and like-minded PCs such as Dalton Camp is a measure of their worry that the PC Party might actually stop sounding like the Liberals and New Democrats.

True, the Segal-Camp approach appears to have guaranteed power in Ontario, if not Ottawa, in past years. But it begs the fundamental question of what a political party is for.

Is it simply a vehicle for power or is it a means of achieving a greater end?

NDP TOO

Other parties have to face the same question too.

The Ontario New Democratic Party, for example, periodically goes through an internal debate on the degree to which it should be "ideological" versus "pragmatic."

Right now the NDP's "pragmatists" are in the ascendancy, which may explain why the NDP is in the doldrums. Who needs a third "moderate middle" party that stands for

nothing but power?

True, the Segals and their ilk argue that this pragmatic fuzziness, this lack of belief in anything but winning, is the only way to get elected and is therefore a necessity.

THOSE ELSEWHERE

Since we don't have a conservative party in Canada it is hard to prove or disprove such a thesis. But conservatives have won elections in United Kingdom, United States and Germany in recent years.

Perhaps more important, the lack of a conservative option in Canada is a prime ingredient in the tendency of governments to drift rather than act. This is the theory of the (Segal's words) "relevant option", which in translation seems to mean gaining power by promising more of the same.

Without policy choices there is little debate or new thinking, just the ineffective continuation of what has gone before.

No. Give me a conservative party that will, for instance, fight for a private sector oil industry. And give me an NDP that'll nationalize them all openly. Let us have a few Political decisions based on principles - win or lose - rather than mush or the back door sneak.

Poet's Corner

BEST WISHES

You did it again without even knowing your gentle thoughts brought fortune to my hands.

May sweet charity grant you peace Let your loving nature

be as oil on troubled waters.

I wish you the love I feel now

May my God grant you understanding.

-By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, RRL, Beeton



THIRTY YEARS AGO-Total local donations to the Britain-Holland flood relief fund were \$2,732.35. Town clerk John Kelly closed the fund April 1 and the money was dispatched to central headquarters in Ottawa. Statistics show that Georgetown people donated to the fund much more generously per capita than most other Canadian municipalities and local people can be proud of their help to others in a time of need.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO-An historic announcement for Anglicans in Georgetown and Glen Williams came last week in a letter from Bishop W.E. Bagnall in which he informed the wardens of St. Alban the Martyr, Glen Williams, George Sargent and Doug Townsend that a full-time ministry will be available in the parish beginning May 1. Appointment of a full-time rector in the Glen will sever a half century connection during which the two churches have been in charge of a resident Georgetown rector. Mr. John Rathbone will be deacon-in-charge of the new work. He is a married man with two small children and at present is completing his studies at a Toronto theological college. He will be ordained to the deaconate in May. The Rathbones are expecting to take up residence in the Glen soon. St. Alban's building committee under chairman William Korzack, has studied plans and have developed church extension over the past year. Tenders for construction of a rectory adjacent to the church are now being called. The church was built in 1903 under the guidance of the late Rev. T.G. Wallace.

TEN YEARS AGO-Public school supporters in Esquew township will see a drop of 1.44 mills in their taxes this year, but separate school supporters will have a slight increase of .51 mills. Esquew council passed the bylaw fixing the mill rate Monday night. The mill rate for public school supporters dropped from 62.02 mills to 60.58 mills for farm and residential property, while the separate school rate increased from 59.97 mills to 60.58 mills, bringing them to the same rate as public school supporters. Last year the separate school rate was lower than the public schools.

ONE YEAR AGO-The British monarch may have reigned supreme Saturday in Ottawa but the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders captured the hearts and imaginations of local hockey fans Sunday night by winning the Canadian Intermediate "A" championships. The Raiders bounced the Quesnel (B.C.) Kangaroos 4-1 at Gordon Alcott arena to sweep their best of five series in three straight games. For the Georgetown Raiders, who have been in operation for 58 years, it was their first national title. In the 15-year history of the Intermediate "A" national championships, only one other Ontario team (Embrun, near Ottawa) has won the Hardy Cup. In winning the final series in games of 4-2, 3-2, and 4-1, the Raiders capped off a playoff schedule that saw them do battle with Orillia, Collingwood, Timmins, Thunder Bay and Cap Pele from New Brunswick to earn their way into the championship round.

By PAT WOODS Herald Special

Acton ramp

On March 30, 1983 I asked for names of people who wished to have a consultation regarding the modification of their premises to accommodate the handicapped. I have forwarded the names and addresses of those who contacted me to Accessible Services and they will be getting in touch with you directly.

You will be pleased to know that the federal government has approved funding for the first three years of a project to gather and disseminate information on disabled persons. Statistics Canada also intends to include questions concerning disabilities on the 1986 census.

Future government programs will be based in large part by the information gathered from this survey. Only by asking the right questions can the results reflect the needs of the disabled. I'm sure the Disability Database Development Group would benefit from any assistance you might want to provide.

Back on February 16, 1983 I mentioned Bill C-141. It has now been passed with some alterations. We do not know how effective it will be as the regulations that govern its implementation have not been published.

In January Mr. Shepard of the recreation department was asked at a "meet the councillors" night in Acton about the latches on the library doors in Georgetown. We have been advised that they have been altered for easier operation. Unfortunately for those in wheelchairs the doors swing only one way and it is still awkward to gain access. They are also looking into altering the step at the back door that leads to the elevator.

What ever happened to the ramp at the Acton arena you may wonder. The province and the town are to split the cost on a percentage basis for special projects. Halton Hills sent in their outline which the province was to consider. Subsequent local budget cuts altered the total.

The province then asked for a new list of priorities as their dollar input would also drop. Mr. Shepard informs me that plans for the ramp are currently being drawn up.