

Attitudes are changing

Addressing the aging issue

Halton region has shown a great deal of foresight by dealing with something which eventually becomes everybody's business: growing old.

While we've groaned about the abundance of studies launched previously by the region, the \$35,000 spent on the first phase of an elderly study, we have to agree, is money well spent.

To one extent or another, aging affects us all. Thankfully, the aging issue is moving from one of vanity—where we anxiously dwell on the effects of aging and how to hide them—to its rightful treatment as a social concern facing the entire country.

Census statistics tell us that a growing portion of the population is made up of people over the age of 50. Our Canadian standard of living virtually guarantees that most of these people will live past age 65.

The elderly are often victims of their own birthdays; turning 65 means automatic retirement; the end of a career as if we have less to offer than we did 24 hours earlier.

Society has too often preferred to "shelter" the elderly, depriving them of the need to function on their own long before seriously debilitating trouble sets in. It's been argued that this kind of attitude probably does more harm than good.

But there appears to be strength in numbers. As more

and more of us enter the elderly age bracket, demands for better elderly-oriented service, service which keeps us in our homes as much as possible and free to move about, are starting to take some of the tarnish off the "golden years".

The first phase of the elderly study has been spent identifying what the elderly want for a more enjoyable life: better transportation, especially for the physically handicapped elderly; easy access to public buildings; places to get together, and better institutional care when we finally reach the stage where total independence is impossible.

What the elderly are saying is that they are tired of being regarded as burdensome and ignored by those who may be a little spryer or more sharp-witted. Our responsibilities and participation in society, elderly argue, don't end magically with the arrival of a birthday.

We hope the region pays heed to the recommendations in the study, which will be made in phase two, expected to begin later this summer.

As our voice, councillors can't ignore the social concerns surrounding aging. They must be addressed now, so that solutions to them fall neatly in place for all of us to enjoy in the future.

And while our elected officials address the aging issue, the rest of us would do well to look at updating our own attitudes towards the elderly.



PM again offers an award, or reward, for past services



Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Once again, the prime minister has offered his ultimate award, or reward, to a personal friend - this time Jacques Hebert goes into the Senate - and once again we are being told this is a sure-fire indication that Pierre Trudeau's departure is imminent.

It happens every time. Whenever one of Trudeau's personal friends gets fixed up in some sinecure, it's interpreted to mean that the prime minister is merely tidying up some loose ends before he quits. And there is no question about Hebert's friendship. He and Trudeau go back to the 1940s together when they took on the regime of premier Maurice Duplessis.

Since then they have toured China together, written books together and Hebert has been given several major assignments by the prime minister. Now, he has received what the late John Diefenbaker called the easiest job in the world - a Senate seat.

And, as mentioned a few months ago, it is being interpreted as another

of the prime minister's political death-bed actions - the idea being that only a departing leader would fearlessly reward such a close personal friend.

NO INDICATOR

I'd like to differ. While there have been many indications that the prime minister may, in the relatively near future, take his leave from Parliament, the appointment of personal friends is not among them. If this were to be an indicator for his departure, he would have been gone within months of taking office 15 years ago.

Remember his old buddy Jean Marchand, one of the "three wise men" who entered politics with Gerard Pelletier and Trudeau back in 1968? Well, Marchand is doing nicely, thank you, as Speaker of the Senate. And as for Pelletier, he is comfortably ensconced as Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, having earlier served as ambassador in Paris. And there have lately been rumors that Pelletier will be the next Governor General.

Then there is Michael Pitfield, perhaps Trudeau's closest friend during his prime ministership. Pitfield was appointed to the Senate last fall - and that was viewed as irrefutable evidence that the prime minister was quitting. And a year earlier, so was the appointment to the Senate of Toronto MP Peter Stollery - to make way for the entry to Parliament of Trudeau aide Jim Coats. The humiliating defeat of Coats' complicated things,

but he is still working toward winning the Spadina seat next time round.

There is Edgar Benson. A former Trudeau minister, who first got himself an appointment as chairman of the Canadian Transport Commission and then topped that by being named by Trudeau as Canadian ambassador in Dublin. That, too, was seen as an indication of the prime minister's intention to quit a year ago.

And so was Jack Horner's appointment as chairman of Canadian National. And so was the appointment of former cabinet minister Don Jamieson to the delightful position as Canadian High Commissioner in London. And we mustn't forget the appointment of Pierre Juneau as president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and how that was seen as one of Trudeau's final rewards.

A few years earlier, before being rudely interrupted by a Tory government, there was the appointment of Bryce Mackasey as chairman of Air Canada. Another last gasp reward, we were told. A similar message was conveyed with the appointment of Charles Drury, another former minister, to the chairmanship of the national Capital Commission.

There are many reasons why it should be assumed that Trudeau may soon seek more restful pastures, but I think we can safely ignore the appointment of loyal friends. About the only thing this indicates is prime ministerial consistency.

Accolades to Mr. McMurtry for his deft balancing act



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

Full marks to Attorney-General Roy McMurtry.

And a slap on the wrists for Liberal MPP Albert Roy (Ottawa East).

McMurtry earns the accolade for the deft balancing act he performed here when announcing the royal commission under Mr. Justice Samuel Grange into the circumstances surrounding the baby deaths at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Albert Roy earns his reprimand for suggesting political interference in the Ontario Securities Commission would be a good thing.

McMurtry first. The Sick Kids' deaths, which appear to be murders, are a far too important matter to be forgotten just because the police appear incapable of developing enough evidence to charge someone with the crime.

To McMurtry's credit, all along he has said if the police investigation failed to produce results he would hold a further inquiry to find the truth.

PARENTS TOO

It is vital not only for the parents of those babies to know what happened to them, but for the reputation of the Hospital itself, long an immense source of pride for most Ontarians.

And McMurtry, fortunately, decided upon a full royal commission instead of just a coroner's inquest.

The terms of reference make sense, too. They expressly provide the inquiry is not to involve any conclusion of law regarding criminal or civil responsibility," he said. That's why we have courts.

The purpose of the commission is to tell us what happened, maybe why and especially how it can be prevented from occurring again. The "who" is another aspect (assuming the deaths were murders).

ROYNEXT

Roy next: The Liberal critic asked Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister Bob Elgie about the refusal of the Ontario Securities Commission to press charges against Norcen Energy Resources, Conrad Black's firm, even though its investigators had recommended proceeding with them.

He wanted to know why Elgie wouldn't "intervene as the minister... to proceed with charges under the Securities Act?"

In response, Elgie pointed out that the Ontario Securities Commission exists - at arms-length from his ministry - to administer and regulate the securities industry.

"It does not report to me nor submit its investigative officers' reports to me for my approval or comment before it makes administrative decisions, nor would the Assembly expect it to.

"It is inappropriate for the member from Ottawa East to suggest it."

GOOD POINT

And it certainly was. The reason organizations like the commission were set up in the first place was partly to keep political interference at a minimum. Now Roy wants the minister to dabble in its affairs.

True, Elgie does have a residual power to veto a commission's decision to lay charges. If the commission had decided to proceed in the Norcen case and Elgie had exercised that veto right, Roy might have had a case.

Whether the OSC decision was correct is one issue and open to question. What is not open is that Elgie acted correctly by staying out of it.

You know you have reached middle age, when your wife tells you to pull in your stomach and you already have.

An insert of up-dated telephone numbers for your Seniors' Directory is being prepared. A few more directories will also be made available soon.

The forum on the "Role of the Region in providing Health and Social Services for the Elderly" held in the Georgetown Library, Thursday, April 21st, was well attended and ably covered by the press.

A similar meeting will be held May 17th, in the Acton Baptist Church. All interested Seniors are urged to attend. If transportation is a problem, contact Richard Kaufman, Administrator of Halton Centennial Manor, at 878-4141, a few days prior to that date to make arrangements for a ride.

Halton's History

From our files

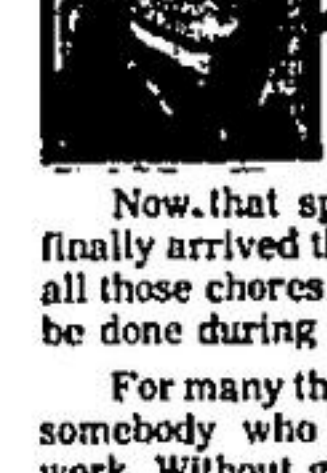
THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown public and high schools had a good share of gold medalists at Halton Music Festival last week in Milton. The festival took place all day Thursday and Friday in Knox Presbyterian Church with Dr. G. Roy Fenwick, provincial director of music, as adjudicator. It was the 22nd annual event sponsored by the association of which Ruth Evans of Georgetown is president this year. Most outstanding for Georgetown was the performance of high school entrants who won medals in every class in which they competed. Glenna Doherty was top soloist for senior girls and Anna Spitzer and Sue Crabtree won first prize for duet. Michael Armstrong and Paul Prust were gold medalists in the baritone and bass competitions.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—In the opinion of Georgetown council, every consideration should be given to dissolving the present North Halton high school district and replacing it with three districts which would centre around the towns of Georgetown, Milton and Acton. A motion to this effect was passed at the town council meeting Monday after a discussion with town representatives on the high school board, and it will be the town's recommendation to a consultative committee which is studying the high school set up in the county. The committee has called a public meeting in Milton May 14 and Mayor Armstrong and Reeve Sargent were named to represent the town.

TEN YEARS AGO—Eagle Signal of Canada will close its doors at the end of May, putting 19 people out of work, all that is left of a peak employment in 1968 of 140. Eleven women have been notified that they will be laid off May 4 and the remaining eight male employees at the end of the month. The company began operations in town in 1963 and expanded in 1967. At least two examples of their products stand in Georgetown as reminders of the company—the traffic lights and the illuminated street name lights. Georgetown was the first town to erect the street name lights and was followed by other towns throughout Ontario and South America. Other products included various vending machines. Coffee, cigarettes, magazines and pantyhoes were all sold in coin-operated machines made by Eagle Signal.

ONE YEAR AGO—The hardest thing for parents to learn is to say nothing, say two counsellors associated with Toughlove, a self-help group for parents. You insult your child's intelligence by saying something a thousand times, Jeri Elliott, a professor of social work at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, said. The wife and husband team of Jeri and Tom Elliott were out Monday night at Limehouse Public School raising parent awareness. About 150 parents paid \$5 a couple to hear what this couple had to say about raising children. Too many parents are servants in their own homes, manipulated by their own children and that's not how things should be, Mrs. Elliott said. Urging parents to use common sense to reassess themselves in the home, Mr. Elliott, a counsellor with the Toronto board of education, said it's best at the beginning to say nothing until parents are really ready to say something. "Start small", he advised.

Spring chores



By PAT WOODE
Herald Special

Now that spring appears to have finally arrived the time has come to do all those chores outside that could not be done during the winter.

For many this means trying to find somebody who is willing to do the work. Without good friends or family, finding the worker may be more difficult than the task at hand.

If your lawn or eavestrough needs attention, your shed needs cleaning or minor repair, or your windows or walls need washing, then help is at hand.

The Christian Reform Churches have a committed group of young adults who are willing workers ready and able to do those one-day tasks around the house. These trained volunteers are under the guidance of Henry Veenstra who will be coordinating their activities.

June 25, July 14 and August 20 are the three Saturdays set aside as "work days" in Halton Hills and Milton. If you are interested in this free service, contact Mrs. Stevens at Halton Helping Hands, 873-1177, office hours, any weekday except Wednesday.

Remember, all jobs will be done on a first come, first served basis.

If preparing a wholesome noontime meal has become too great a chore, call 877-1211 and someone will call on you to make arrangements for the delivery of "Meals-on-Wheels".

Congratulations are extended to Mr. George Haas, Prince Charles Dr. who celebrated his 97th birthday April 23rd.

If anyone is celebrating a special birthday or wedding anniversary, please let us know.

The years are beginning to add up when it takes longer to rest up than it took to get tired.

A Seniors' Seminar, "Seniors! Where are we now and where are we heading?" will be held Thurs. June 23, at Sheridan College (Oakville). A special effort is being made to provide transportation. The fee is \$3. More information in our June column.

The dilemma of censorship

The following article is the first in a three-part series to appear in The Herald May 4, 11, and 18. This article deals with the question of censorship and in particular the censoring of pornographic materials. The second piece will discuss existing laws on pornography and the need for new legislation, especially Bill C-53. The third article deals with protecting children from sexual abuse. It will contain pertinent statistics and views from experts on preventing a child from falling prey to a pedophile or other molesters as well as recognizing and handling existing abuse situations.

This series is written and submitted by "Citizens Against Violent Pornography". We are the group who were successful in March in having existing laws upheld with the removal of offensive video materials from local outlets. Our main concern at this time is to gain support for Bill C-53, the Child Exploitation act in an effort to have it passed into law so as to protect as many children as possible from being made victims of sexual abuse.

THE DILEMMA OF CENSORSHIP

How can one justify censorship in a democratic society? Shouldn't everyone have the freedom to view and read whatever they choose in the privacy of their own homes? We may believe we are free of censorship but we are in fact surrounded by rules.

Our society has imposed restrictions that, out of necessity, censor our activities. We do not have the freedom to murder, steal, libel, slander, or to assault or abuse one another. And yet when 50 per cent of our society (Gallup, April '83) feel some censorship of pornographic material is desirable, those opposed to censorship become very vocal about their rights. It can only be assumed that they do not recognize the effects of pornography. Does viewing violent sexual abuse actually result in like activity? Certainly advertisers believe in the effectiveness of the media in influencing the public's behavior. They spend billions on television, magazine and newspaper advertising each year. If a person can be persuaded to brush with Crest, eat Cheerios and wear mini-skirts by viewing others enjoying these products, isn't it also logical that their sexual behavior can be similarly influenced?

Drs. Hans Eysenck and D. Dias in their very comprehensive and much acclaimed book, *Sex, Violence and the Media* (1978), state that sexual behav-

ior in particular has been found to be "strongly susceptible to methods of conditioning."

Certainly current research indicates the link between pornography and sexual abuse. Information from police officials reveals that rapists frequently have collections of pornography in their homes. Theodore Bundy, convicted of the kidnapping and murder of a 12-year old and the savage sex slayings of two young students admits that he was influenced by the violent pornography he saw.

David Dobson of Mississauga, accused of raping and killing a sixteen-year old school girl, told how he mutilated her by biting, burning and stabbing her as he had "seen in a magazine". Barbara Roberts of the University of Winnipeg in her research entitled "No Safe Place", shows that areas with a high concentration of retail outlets selling x-rated materials have a higher incidence of rape than those without.

This is not to say that every person watching pornography will copy what they see. After all, not everyone uses Crest or eats Cheerios. However in a special report by Dr. S. Scorsone for Cardinal Carter on the impact of pornography, the point is made that "Viewing of such materials, particularly when they are violent and degrading, produces like effects in anyone who views them, and to a greater degree in already unbalanced individuals."

The impact of pornography on community standards can be seen by comparing what was acceptable in 1970 with what is acceptable today. Notable in this decline are the trends to accept mutilation, sexual abuse of children and incest. Dr. Judith Bat-Ada, a media expert whose specialty is pornography says that the media "... have moved into an acceptance of pedophilia and are progressing very rapidly toward the endorsement of incest. I believe the final taboo now being breached is child sadism." At the very least, pornography affects us all by condoning violence and sexual abuse.

Pornography is not immoral because it is sexually explicit but because of the dangerous attitudes and antisocial behavior it encourages. Sadistic, abusive and forced sex is immoral; it injures and violates another human being. Viewing pornography can never be a private matter because its effects finds victims among us all.

SENIOR SCENES

By Morley and Loretta Mills

877-3915

The "Belles and Beaus" Seniors' Club spent an enjoyable afternoon of bingo Monday, April 18th, as guests of the Newfoundland Club. All appreciated the kind invitation and particularly, the delicious lunch which was served.