

Wildwood burr province's fault

We doubt that we've heard the last of the Wildwood Road-area citizens' group which wanted a nearby housing proposal reviewed under the lengthy official plan amendment process.

Although, much to their chagrin, council opted for the speedier "minister's modification" approach, we'll likely be hearing more from the group as the planning process in the area continues.

But as another chapter in the issue draws to a close, and the respective combatants have retired to the sides, the real culprit in all this remains unscathed.

The debate among the citizens' group, Meagan Developments Ltd. (which wants to build an estate housing development), and town council spun around and around the undefinable differences between a minister's modification and an official plan amendment process.

The only thing that appears clear is that the former process is faster than the latter.

But the irony is inescapable: realizing that the official plan amendment process is onerous for all parties concerned, bureaucrats in the housing and municipal affairs ministry came up with the minister's modification.

In effect, they've tried to curb the amount of paper work and delays provincial planning policies have themselves created.

Whether for small or larger changes to official plans, the minister's modification is ill-defined and vacuous. Vague as the modification is, Wildwood road residents rightfully wondered whether it's a silent partner for one interest, or an unseen enemy for another.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy has urged council to adopt a more pro-development stance,

realizing that unless more people move to Halton Hills, along with industry, the tax burden will become too great for residents to bear.

He reminded the citizens' group rep Ken Key several times Monday night (and on previous council sessions), that many of the residents' concerns such as traffic flow, water availability and engineering issues will be addressed when Meagan submits a draft plan of subdivision—itsself an event which could be years away.

The ministry, council argues, has more than enough safeguards in the planning process to ensure that new housing projects do not severely impact on existing residents. The minister's modification apparently circumvents costly, bureaucratic red tape at a time when the town needs to improve its housing picture.

If the safeguards are already at another stage further down the planning process, then the province's system of checks and balances are tripping over each other.

Surely, the Meagan Developments issue isn't the only indication the province has that parts of the planning process are redundant and that it's time to shake out the loose change. This kind of bureaucratic burbling lends itself severe political reactions, like the kind of extremist thinking behind a deluge of new laws in British Columbia; among them, legislation to abolish municipal official plans.

The planning process involving municipalities and the province should set down guidelines for growth.

At the moment, it's creating more problems than it's solving.



It looks like Fairy Lake has turned into 'Muscle Beach' this summer. These three dudes were patrolling the sand Sunday, impressing all the girls. From left to right, Chad Rowse, 8, Tim Briggs, 10 and Scott Rowse, 10, look like three tough guys. (Herald photo by Gerry Timbers)

Hard to pin political labels on Ontario Conservatives



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Queen's Park Bureau of The Herald

At a London policy conference two years ago — the first ever held by the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party — leading Tories, from Premier Bill Davis on down, read the Riot act to the assembled troops.

Go where we in the party establishment want you to go, they said, or we won't be going anywhere. Adapt or die.

The issues hanging in the foreground were amendments to the Human Rights Code contained in Bill 7 (amendments which changed a law against discrimination into a law supporting discrimination) and the government's purchase of part of the oil company, Suncor.

But the background against which these specifics were painted was a deep frustration and even anger that a supposedly conservative party refuses to actually stand for something conservative.

What is the point of having a party in power that claims to be conservative in philosophy but always acts liberal or worse? What is the point of just having power for power's sake?

NOT GONE

Those questions continue to bedevil the Ontario PCs today and are usually expressed in terms of a Right-Left split, or Blue versus Red Tory, or even "moderate pragmatism" against "neo-conservative ideology".

Mind you, labels more often say more about the person doing the labelling than about those being labelled, so a lot of the short-hand pigeon-holding should be treated with caution. Still, it is obvious that there are philosophic divisions within the provincial Tory party, it is equally obvious that the so-called pragmatists who are in command are also a minority of the active membership.

Every time delegate opinions are sampled they run, as jargon has it, well to the Right of the party leadership.

What prevents internal dissension becoming more prevalent and public, of course, is the soothing syrup of power. Being the government makes up for a lot.

DAVIS FACTOR

Beyond that, too, is the Bill Davis factor. So far as almost everyone in the Ontario PCs is concerned — regardless of where they sit on the political spectrum — Davis can be premier for

life if he wants.

There was a striking demonstration of that at a PC Campus provincial meeting in Kingston a while back.

A film was shown where a large number of political faces from this century appeared and the young Tories, being young, booed their villains and cheered their heroes.

Joe Clark, for example, received mixed cheers and boos, Winston Churchill only cheers and Pierre Trudeau only jeers — but Davis received the heaviest applause of all without any audible opposition.

Even though it was his government that adopted such policies as Bill 7 and Suncor that were upsetting the delegates, none of the upset had rubbed off on Davis. Amazing. It goes to show what being a winner means in terms of delegate support.

WHERE NOW?

But Davis won't be around forever. Some opinion is already firmly committed to the premise that he won't run in the election expected in 1985.

What happens then to the ideological fissures in the Ontario PCs? Do they widen and deepen, or narrow? Do Davis' potential successors take heed of the out-of-power Right, or continue to ignore them?

When the Tories convene for a second policy conference this autumn we might get some pointers about the landscape ahead.

Grit leader presses Davis to deal with unemployed



MPP report

by Julian Reed

In a recent press statement, Liberal Leader David Peterson once again called upon the provincial government to give priority to the serious problem of unemployment among Ontario's young people.

School is out, but for many thousands of students this is not a summer to be enjoyed, he said. There is great idleness among our young people and a growing sense that they are being forgotten by their political leaders.

Although there have recently been signs that Ontario, along with the rest of the country, has been pulling out of the drastic recession, young people by the thousands are feeling its lasting impact.

In the month of May, joblessness among people 15 to 24 years of age was 22,000 in Ontario — 20.2 per cent, or fully one in every five. It is worse this year than last, which up until that time was the worst year in decades. For May 1982, the jobless figure for young people was 18,000 — 16.4 per cent. This means, therefore, that the figure has increased by 4,000 or 22.8 per cent for this May compared with the same month last year. In June 1982, the number of unemployed young people went to 213,000, or 17.5 per cent.

We have no reason to suspect that unemployment among our young people will decline appreciably as the summer wears on.

Clearly, we are creating a generation without a future, with all of its dreadful social implications. Lacking leadership from government, business and labor, we risk dashing the inherent enthusiasm of our youth, which will create grave consequences in the future. Nowhere will this despair pose a greater threat of upheaval than in our major cities, where idle youth tend to concentrate.

David Peterson cited examples of what is happening:

—The University and Colleges Placement Association reports on-campus recruitment is down by 50 per cent from a year ago.

—One community college reports only 65 per cent of its 2,000 graduates this year are likely to find work in their chosen fields within the next six months — compared to 80 per cent a year ago and well over 90 per cent in better times than these.

—Last March there were 15,000 young persons holding degrees or diplomas who were unemployed — even as an additional 57,000 university and college graduates hit the job market.

—Almost one quarter of the 1982 graduates from St. Lawrence College in Kingston are still without work.

Faced with these terrible realities, it could be assumed that government would reset its priorities. This has not happened. Some Ontario government programs have actually been cut back.

The Experience '83 program will yield 300 fewer jobs than its 1982 counterpart — 8,500 compared to 8,800. The Ontario Youth Employment Program will create 2,000 fewer jobs than it was supposed to provide a year ago — 35,000 compared to 37,000.

The situation is critical. It is also tragic. The Ontario Manpower Commission continues to forecast that we will go wanting for 45,000 skilled workers each year by 1988.

We must look to Queen's Park for

answers. There is a basic need for more skills training. And we must question the effectiveness of an educational system which, as some counselors of the unemployed have reported, produces Grade 12 graduates who are often functionally illiterate.

Government must place at the top of its list of priorities the rectification of this social crisis.

You will recall that in March of this year, the Liberal Task Force on Jobs for Youth issued an update report.

That update looked at what has been done and what remains to be done in five areas: job creation programs for youth; student aid; manpower training and apprenticeship programs; opportunities for co-operative students; and job availability for graduates. In each of those areas there exists a need for new commitments, by government, the private sector and the educational institutions if the young people of Ontario are to receive the treatment they deserve.

The update acknowledged that the problems of youth unemployment and underemployment are not going to be easily resolved. But they are not going to be resolved at all if we do not begin to address them now. It is our hope that the Task Force report and the update will help to stimulate interest in the realistic steps which can be taken. While the Task Force focused on the role of the provincial government, every sector of society must do its share.

'Next best thing to being there'

The telephone has become one of our most important tools of communication. For many the standard telephone is just not practical.

Three years ago, Bell Canada opened the Telecommunication Centre for Special Needs in their ongoing effort to offer specialized equipment to customers with disabilities.



By PAT WOODS
Herald Special



Michele Gauthier, Section Manager at the Centre, informed me that for anyone using a Visual Ear or TTY the Centre is a point of contact for calls related to bills, ordering new service, or obtaining numbers from directory assistance. Approximately 950 calls are handled per week.

As last week's column concerned the deaf, I will start my description of available equipment with the Visual Ear. This unit is used in conjunction with any standard phone and provides a typewriter keyboard and displays the message to the sender and receiver of the call.

Cybertech produces a similar machine containing many other features including batteries, printer, memory and computer compatibility. Both these units are for sale only and cannot be rented. Service groups, like the Lions, occasionally purchase a number of units at one time and pass the substantial discount on.

Service clubs also raise money for converting teletypewriters into TTY's. The coupler alone for this operation costs \$250 per unit. A \$60 installation charge is all that is billed to the customer.

Potential TTY users should contact the Canadian Hearing Society and be prepared for a long wait. Bear in mind also that TTY's can only talk to TDD's and other TTY's.

Those people with partial hearing may have seen telephone handsets in plazas and other public places that have a volume control button. Domestic models are available with a greater range of amplification.

An Acoustic Coupler is a small portable unit that slips over the earpiece of any phone and assists those with hearing aids.

A variety of bells and lights (to draw attention to incoming calls) which can be placed almost anywhere in the house or work place are available from several companies.

For those who have lost the use of their vocal cords a simple device called an Artificial Larynx is available. It is the size of an electric shaver and held against the throat. It enables the user to speak by mouthing the words. The Artificial Larynx may not help if there is severe scarring or excessive sensitivity on the throat. Other units have been developed on similar principles.

Many hands free units are on the market. A microphone and speaker allow all in the room (if the volume is turned up) to hear and speak to the other party. One must learn to take turns talking as these units will not permit sender and receiver to speak at once. Dectrel is a hands free unit that allows the user to contact the operator for assistance in dialling through the use of a single switch. This switch may be proximity, touch, foot, pneumatic or wobble. Various microphones, earphones, headphones, pillow speakers, etc. may also be connected. A second use of the switch is equivalent to hanging up.

Bell Canada and many other companies have a host of devices to assist the handicapped. Not all devices will work with all telephone exchanges. If you are considering buying a communication aid, check it out for suitability, durability, ease of repair, warranty, and possible obsolescence before making any purchase.

I have recently been informed that a fully accessible house in Milton will shortly come up for sale. Consult Helping Hands 873-1177 for details.

THIRTY YEARS AGO—Georgetown will have a cabinet minister if the Progressive-Conservatives win the Aug. 10 federal election, according to well-informed sources. Mrs. R.B. Downing, Conservative ladies organizer in Ontario, stated at the Margaret Aitken tea here last week that it is an "open secret" that Halton is slated for a cabinet post if the Conservatives are in power. If enthusiasm and numbers attending mean anything, then the PC candidate in Halton is as good as elected, according to the number of people attending a tea last Thursday afternoon. The affair was arranged by the local Conservative ladies association. The crowd was of such a size that every chair in the large auditorium was taken, as well as additional seats from the main floor, and still a number were forced to stand. It is believed to be the biggest political meeting held in this part of the county in many years and the biggest one so far in the present campaign. The tea was in honor of Margaret Aitken, Toronto Telegram reporter, who spoke on her recent trip to the Coronation, as well as the political scene.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—Council reviewed progress to date in a search for new supplies of town water Monday when they discussed the work of International Water Supply, Ltd. with J.W. Kirk representing the firm. Mr. Kirk told council that the town has a very limited water source and the only possible supplies are contained in a pre-glacial valley in the region of the present town wells and the sewage disposal plant. Natural recharge from the river and rainfall is replenishment for this and he spoke of the possibility in future years of erecting a series of small dams to aid in this recharge. A total of 13 test holes have been drilled at various locations in town since the firm was engaged several months ago, total cost of which is \$2,756. The only large source of water discovered is in two holes near the present waterworks and Mr. Kirk said it is still to be determined if tapping these sources would affect the present wells. Capacity of the two new sources is estimated at half a million gallons daily each. It would cost about \$500 to complete the investigation to determine this, he said.

TEN YEARS AGO—The \$45,000 originally for engineering and drainage of the new landfill site on Armstrong Avenue will be re-allocated to roads and lighting of the tennis courts to be built in the Moore Park area, if a finance committee recommendation made Monday night is adopted by council. The expense was included in this year's budget by the town but may be assumed by Halton county to be turned over to the regional government in January. In the event this \$50,000 by Reeve Ric Morrow calls, the town has applied to the Ontario Municipal Board to debenture the cost which would be shared by the region. Reeve Morrow, chairman of the finance committee, suggested \$35,000 be allocated to works and \$5,000 to the lighting of the Moore Park tennis courts. An additional \$5,000 would be kept to cover haulage of garbage to out-of-town sites, if it becomes necessary. At a previous meeting, Coun. Phil Siddall said he was concerned about the lack of action on building the two new courts in Moore Park and the additional court at Joseph Gibbons Park. Coun. Harry Levy, a member of the recreation committee said there had been no delay and the work would be done as soon as possible.

ONE YEAR AGO—Following what they described as an "incentive" in the federal government's more recent budget, town councillors have limited their 1982 pay increase to six per cent more than their current salaries. The move parallels federal finance minister Allan MacEachen's decision to limit salary and wage increases in the public service to six per cent this year and five per cent in 1983. A six per cent year will each get an increase of \$391. Although the increase is still well below the usual annual rise of ten per cent, some councillors maintained that during the country's economic slump, there should be no increase at all for municipal politicians. Coun. Russ Miller called on his colleagues to "reject any increment for 1983" as an incentive to cut back on spending.

Remote

Where is the future I seek during night?
And why are my tomorrows, yesterday's plight?
Are moments lost memories, poltically just?
Or are they mere hopes and images of lust?

Of course it is said that you
Make what you are,
But the ingredients falter and scatter afar.

—Anthony Saxon
Acton

Meals on Wheels needs you

If you have a driver's license, a car, and about an hour or so to spare around noon there are some folks in Acton who could do with your help.

What's in it for you? For one thing you get a free ride; your mileage is paid. The big thing is that you get satisfaction from knowing that you're helping some people, about a dozen of them, get nutritious, well-balanced meals.

The Meals-On-Wheels program needs drivers this summer to cover regular drivers who are on vacations with their families. Although some assistance may be needed on getting the meals distributed within Acton, the big chore is the daily drive to and from Milton where the meals are prepared.

A round trip from the Centre to the Milton Manor, which prepares the meals, usually takes about 50 minutes. The trip must start no later than 11 in the morning because the recipients count on their meal arriving at noon hour.

The Acton Social Services and Information Centre which organizes the program, operates it five days per week. There is no service on weekends or most statutory holidays.

If you have the time and the inclination to help others, please contact Peggie Balkind or Pat Little in the Centre at 113 Main St. E., or by phoning 863-3310.