#### theHERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

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Page 4 - SECTION A. THE HERALD, Wednesday, April 4, 1984

income assessment

# System creates distrust, anger

It's distressing to know that horror stories we've heard about Revenue Canada can be matched by an incident in our own backyard;

This time we can shoulder the blame on the provincial government for a regional assessment of a local business.

and expense information for a tax assessment review, the government has overstepped their bounds. It is a dangerous and precedent-setting move for Halton Hills and a threat to our business community.

To justify their inquiries a senior assessor has quoted a loosely worded section of the Assessment Act, which says: "...shall upon-request give to such person all the information that will assist such person to make a

proper assessment..." As assessment manager for Halton Hills says the "income approach" is one of three ways in which they may assess the value of a business property. An income approach isn't necessary and it's dangerously reminiscent of

Orwell's 1984 and Big Brother. By asking for financial statements a business is being put on the spot. If they have a profitable year, does that mean the assessors will penalize them for being good

businessmen? If business profits are down, will the government

allow for a tax break? The system creates distrust, anger and humiliation for businesses. It could lead to owners simply lying about their profits and losses. Worse yet, it could take away the incentive for owners to expand their business and work harder.

Small businesses do not need any more hardships than the economy has already brought them. When they thrive, our town thrives.

Provincial tax assessment can be fair without asking for financial statements from business owners.

We suggest our assessment managers take another look before linking property values to profits.

\$42,000 goal

#### Cancer chairman asks for support

Editors Note: This lettter was filed with The Herald for publication. Dear fellow citizens:

During April (Cancer month), the local branch of the Canadian Cancer Society will be appealing for the support necessary for them to carry on and also contribute to the National Research effort.

As chairman of the campaign, I appeal for help to make our campaign successful and reach our target of \$42,000.

We have a volunteer work force of over 500 individuals who will be canvassing the area. Please receive them with kindness and generosity. They are giving time as well as money.

The financial support you gave last year has been well spent. The funding for research has produced a steady stream of advancements for the cure or control of cancer.

Your local cancer soclety also used part of your contribution to assist and comfort local cancer patients. This work included looking after transportation to treatment centres. For those in financial need. they supplied drugs,

dressings, housekeeping and home nursing. There is also an active volunteer group for the education of our youth as well as adults.

Due to the fact that Cancer probably affects all of us in one way or another, your donation will not only help others, but will help yourself.

Make your donation meaningful. Get enjoyment out of your contribution, knowing it will be used well and is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Society, I thank you in advance for your much needed support.

Yours very truly, William McNally. Chairman of the Fundraising Committee Georgetown Cancer Society

# Newcastle letter doesn't address our tax problems

-Dear Sir, Lost week a letter was published in the local

press, written by a Mr. Slyfield from the Town of Newcastle. This letter is a long list of complaints about the inequity of using a Section 63 re-assessment. Unfortunately, most of his complaints have nothing to do with Section 63.

Let me list a few: The Assessment Act assigns punitive values to small hold-

ings. He seems to be objec-'ting to the fact that a building lot (rural or urban) has a much higher assessment than farm land. This is of course true, with or without Section 63.

Some taxpayers receive refunds of their taxes from the

Province. Yes, this is true. Senior citizens are granted. up to \$500 as a refund of taxes. Also, farmers... whose gross income exceeds certain standands receive a refund of 140 per cent of their faxes, it would appear that Mr. Slyfield wants this practice stopped. It must be noted that these

refunds have nothing to do with Section 63.

Mr. Slyfield objects to the fact that homeowners pay their property tax with "after tax income". All business men and many farmers pay with "before tax income". He is correct in his statement. If this is to be changed it requires some changes in Federal and Provincial Tax Laws. It has nothing to do with Section 63 or any other section of The Assessment Act.

4. The system of property tax in Ontario provides, in general terms, that the tax is related to property in varying degrees. The tax is not related to services received, except for such things as garbage collection and sowers. This system has been used in Ontario for many years and I am not aware of any move to change this. Mr. Slyfield seems to want his

taxes directly related to

services received. He is

entitled to his opinion,

and it may have merit.

However, what it has to

do with Section 63 is a mystery to me and I'm sure it is a mystery to Mr. Slyfield also.

Mr. Slyfield makes no mention of the problems we have with our present assessment system. He seems unaware that in Acton we pay an extra 40 mills with no apparent justification, and this is just one of the present anomalles that only Section 63 can correct. Let's face facts, Mr. Slyfield says he is concerned about our problems, yet there is much evidence that he does not even know what our problems are.

Obviously, Mr. Slyfield has received a sharply increased assessment, probably on the value of his land. We are not given any facts, just a long list of complaints that for the most part have nothing

to do with Section 63. Because of this. I suggest we are entitled to assume that his previous assessment was a long standing error in

his favour. Yours truly, J.R. Knechtel, Councillor, Ward 1



"In keeping with our new policy to go easy on the public, we're allowing you to keep your children."

# government for a regional assessment of a local Jean's down home approach: By asking a Georgetown business to produce income Jean's down home approach: will it help or hinder?



Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

OTTAWA .. Now that Jean Chretien has officially tossed his hat into the ring and has effectively entered the final lap of his marathon campaign to become the next prime minister of Canada, there are even more questions being asked about the value - if any of his self-deprecating, down-home approach.

Will it be a national belp or a hinderance? The answer is far from

"The people enjoy it," Chretien has said himself, making it amply clear he has no intention of changing his style. But he is referring mainly to audiences in English-speaking Canada where, without fail, he gets a hearty round of applause when he talks about being the "little guy from Shawinigan". He goes much further than that at times, calling himself a "goddam per-souper, and proud of it" or "a little frog and proud of it".

The word proud is always there. From parts of Quebec comes word that this particular approach by

Queen's

By Derek

TORONTO - Some days, it must

You work hard criss-crossing the

hurt to be a politician, especially a

province, spend long bours away from

the family, eat some of the worst meals

in existence, talk to everyone and

sundry (some you'd like to slug

instead) and always have to appear

fresh and happy (even when you

And what do you get out of it?

as taken for the Toronto Star. not

much. The Gallup always asks what.

political party the 1,000 people survey-

ed would vote for if a provincial

polled whether they could name the

leaders of the Ontario Liberals and

Letters to the editor.

It's budget time and

along with it come the

headlines about taxes

going up again. I want to

talk about education

taxes, which are also

going up. It probably

will be just enough to

keep what wo've got but

not nearly enough to

make it significantly

You read it right. We

had better be willing to

pay for the education we

say we want our kids

I include adults

because there is an in-

creasing number of

adults who are return-

ing to day schools to

upgrade their education

or get a diploma. These

are people who went to

school in the "good ol"

days", to which we often

compare present educa-

tion and find it wanting.

the "good ol' days". It's

time we recognize that

today's educational

system is no worse than

it was, and as fer as

offering opportunities

for learning, it is a lot

It was also wanting in

and adults to have.

better.

But this time it also asked those

election were held today.

Ontario New Democrats.

According to the latest Gallup Poll.

party leader.

aren't).

Chretien is not appreciated like it is in, say, Lethbridge. Some editorial writers back home have offered the view that the minister, albeit in an amusing way, is insulting Quebecers, particularly the small-town variety. SOME APPROVAL

But the 27 Quebec MPs who formed a phalanx around the 40-year-old Chretien when he announced his candidacy obviously don't think so. They say the reported reaction to Chretien's style is blown out of all proportions. "People like his style in Quebec," says Pierre Gimaiel, who happens to support John Turner. "He's a hard worker and people know that,"

In any event, it's highly unlikely there has ever been another serious leadership contender who gets as much genuine pleasure out of being selfdeprecating. Canadian history is speckled with politicians who have gingerly dabbled in the art, but none who have tackled it with the rare. abandon of Jean Chretien.

And where he differs from all others is that he puts everything in the present tense. He doesn't say "I used to be a simple per-souper". He says, "I am a simple per-souper".

It's an important distinction. Just the other day an English

Quebec newspaper, in talking approvingly about Chretien's style, said no one thought John Diefenbaker was being servile when he bragged of his humble origins. A case was being

Two-thirds said they couldn't.

**GOOD NEWS** 

Peterson and NDP Leader Bob Rae

cent who said they could name

Peterson almost half, 16 per cent, got

his name wrong. Rae, whom 34 per

cent said they could name, did better.

Only 10 per cent got his name wrong.

that was - frankly - the good news.

And for Liberal Leader David

The bad news is, that of the 37 per

There are easier ways to carn a

Interestingly, if the Gallup is to be

The new party standings show the

believed. Rae runs ahead of his party

in name recognition, while Peterson

runs far behind. Obviously, recognition

Conservatives with 47 per cent, the

Liberals with 37 per cent and the New

Democrats with 16 per cent. In the 1981

election the Tories won 44 per cent, the

Liberals 34 per cent and the NDP 21 per

FAIRLY ACCURATE

how much the provincial polls are

being skewed by the massive publicity

surrounding Prime Minister Pierre

Trudeau's resignation announcement

Polling was under way at the time,

Stop dumping on school system

better. This costs

I speak of "offering

opportunities for learn-

ing", rather than how

much people are learn-

ing because there is a

difference. The differ-

ence is where the re-

sponsibility lies. The

schools are, by and

large, meeting their

responsibility for offer-

ing opportunities. This,

of course, is limited by

fluances since much of

the equipment necessa-

Walk into any high

school and you'll find

computers, technical

shops with modern

tools, business educati-

on rooms with word pro-

cessors and class sets of

electric typewriters;

science labs with elec-

tronic scales, ripple

tanks and the most up to

computer schools

charge 1-2 thousand

dollars to teach what is

being offered in a

computer studies course.

in high school. If kids

are not learning, it's not

private

date microscopes.

Some

ry is expensive.

for lack of opportuniti-

It is the job of teach-

ers to teach, and they

do. It is not, nor should it

be, their job to run after

students to get them to

attend class and com-

plete or hand in their

assignments, or to get

them to behave. That is

the responsibility of their

students, especially in

high schools. A student

who does not want to

learn simply does not

learn. Teachers spend a

lot of time on them, only

a few change their

Taxpayers have the

responsibility to

promote education and

that is not done suffi-

ciently. We need to

spread the idea that

education is more than

training, it's learning to

identify and solve pro-

blems related to living.

Going to school is only a

beginning in education.

We need to stop dump-

ing on the educational

system and especially

on teachers because if

we don't value them,

neither will our children

mind.

The question that has to be asked is

is not the same as support.

made that the two approaches were similar. But there is absolutely no

comparison. APPROACH UNIQUE

There is no doubt that John Diefenbaker loved to talk about his humble origins - in fact he sometimes seemed obsessed by them - but these historical nuggets were invariably related to his later achievements. It could even be argued that they were actually related to early achievements.

There aren't too many documented cases of Diefenbaker laughing at himself in the present tense although, Lord knows, his French pronunciation gave him ample opportunity to do so.

Even his successor, Lester Pearson, moved guardedly in this area. He was generally regarded as the most self-deprecating of all prime ministers, yet his best examples were restricted to earlier incarnations, such as his young days in a parsonage and his experiences in the First World War. He could also get enormous mileage out of a simple, self-inflicting laugh, that didn't require words. His chortle seemed to be always at his own expense.

But not Jean Chretlen. When he decides to let his image hang out, he doesn't fool around. "What you are looking at here," he'll says, "is a little frog from Shawinigan".

There has never been anything quite like it.

Some days it must hurt For example, provincial Conservatives claim their own polls show them consistently at better than 50 per cent. (Gallup says it is accurate in a sample

size like this within four per cent 19 times out of 20). There are two things to watch out

for in coming months. The first is whether provincial Conservative, Liberal and NDP fortunes will follow the expected trend this year of declining federal Tory percentages and rising Liberal (with static NDP) as a result of the federal Liberal leadership race.

JUNE VOTE The second is whether speculation about a June vote provincially has any hasis in reality. (I don't believe so). There is talk of going to the polls early to avoid that federal decline and what some people consider will be a spillov-

er effect on to the provincial party. There is a back-up theory that the federal Liberals might seek an August election (although the timing is tough), which would let the provincial Conser-

vatives go to the electorate in the fall. Maybe. But don't be surprised if Premier Bill Davis leads them to the ballot box

against "whats-his-name" and "other guy" a year from now.

and a lot of time and

money will be spent on

disciplining and "poli-

ticking" and less on

It costs an average of

\$3500 a year to school a

child or adult in the

public system. It costs

two times that much in

the private system and

private schools don't

spend significant time

on discipline and they

In a probably futile

effort to please the

public, the government

has just spent in the

millions of dollars re-

vising the educational

opportunities for the

intermediate and senior

This raises the price

tag of education even

more. And it's not going

to make any difference

unless taxpayers can

first convince themsel-

ves, and their children,

that education matters

and that it's worth

money to have the

schools continue a

process that should

Eva Sansom, Acton

have started at home.

schools.

have smaller classes.

teaching.

THIRTY YEARS AGO-President of the Royal Winter Fair for a second year is S.G. Bennett, RRI Georgetown, one of Canada's top Scotch Shorthorn breeders: Mr. Bennett who has been a Georgetown resident for 18. years has added to his Scotsdale Farms property since the original purchase until his acreage now totals 600 acres along the Ballinafad Road past Silvercreek.

Georgetown's 1954 tax rate is 45 mills, a 2 mill increase over last year. Taxpayers will contribute about \$190,000 to the public treasury, while gross expenditures this year are estimated at \$273,000 according to the budget adopted at Monday's council

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jones have ioined the Terra Cotta Inn staff. Mr. Jones will be maintenance man and Mrs. Jones a waitress.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-A 50 per cent jump in public school costs over last year was termed "an inequality" and "a bitter pill I intend to fight" by Georgetown's rep on the Halton County board of education, Ernie Bodnar, at council. Public school costs to the town are set at \$691,610, which is a \$230,260 increase over last year's costs.

Well wishers will give Georgetown's Juvenile hockey team a boisterous sendoff when they depart from the Georgetown station April 1 for their west coast tour.

Fifth Georgetown B Pack Cubs took a trip to the stars March 18 when they toured the Toronto McLaughlin planetarium. They were accompanied by Mrs. M.E. Servos, Mrs. Dorothy Bodnar, Ernle Rosset, Stu Cameron, Mrs. Clair Pelletier, Mrs. Evelyn Owen and Mrs. Terry Colter.

TEN YEARS AGO-Fobert real estate staff included Jon Zorge, Bruce Elmslie, Dan Timmons, Mary Jones, Erma and Ken Derose, Helen Atkinson, Harold Fobert, Bob MacDonald, Don Schenk, Millie Adams, Mary Rose Peters. Ursula Zeidler and Fred Harrison.

Georgetown minor atoms began their championship round for the tri-county league title against Milton March 28.

Wedding bells are ringing in the village, Mrs. Ric Sales was hostess for a miscellaneous shower at her home for bride to be Kathryn Sinclair.

Visitors Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Shortill and daughters were Mr. and Mrs. Don McClure of Weston. FIVE YEARS AGO-Sixteen local wrestlers went to a tournament in Clarence, New York, and eight of them went undefeated. Centennial's Jim Hall took 13 wrestlers from his school team and three from the Georgetown

District High School. Wendy Chaplin became the fourth McDonald's "Bowler of the Week" plaque winner from Georgetown this season in the central Ontario zone YBC competition. A senior bowler, she beat her three game average by 230.

Approximately 9,500 attended this year's Georgetown International Rantam Tournament.





By PAT WOODE Herald Columnist

Revenue Canada officials informed their regional staff in February of the following decision. "A taxpayer who has had a leg amputated and wears an artificial limb would qualify for the deduction (line 53 of T1) because without it the taxpayer would be confined to bed or wheelchair.

Similarly if a taxpayer wears a leg brace to obtain some mobility and without the brace would be confined to bed or wheelchair the deduction would be applicable". This applies only to permanent disabilities. Use the regular T2201 and answer

"yes" to questions re confinement to bed or wheelchair. Then have your doctor add the statement, 'This individual would be confined to bed or wheelchair if it weren't for the use of ...(brace, prosthetic, etc.)." Only those having applied for the past four . years who were turned down have. much chance, successfully, getting rebates for the previous four years. Many people have a similar

problem, but recently, a woman in Pickering decided to do something about it. She organized a shoe swap for people with odd sized feet and to her surprise, she has had a response from people across Canada. At present, ninety per cent of the

contacts are post-polios, but no doubt many other who could benefit by this service. If you want to enquire about the next shoe swap, contact Inge Shepherd at 416 294-3939 or write to her at RR2 Pickering, L1V 279.

Section 24 of the Ontario Human Rights Code permits "a reasonable and bona fide exclusion from employer group disability or life insurance. benefits because of a pre-existing handicap that substantially increases. the risk." In short, if you own group insurance and are handicapped you. may have little or no coverage.

This is in contravention of the Ontario Insurance Act. We will write: more on this later, but for now check. with your insurer and personnel dept. for your coverage if you are a memberof a group and are handicapped. Keep. their reply for future reference.

#### POETS' CORNER

Friendahlp A glit so large from one to another that can't be seen, but is feit in the exchange of a smlle

-Teresa V.