

# Election signal

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water...

Since May we've been spoiled: no elections, no candidates pounding on our doors, no polls or reporter's predictions.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller broke the quiet of the summer Saturday with his formal announcement that he'll be running for mayor in the November municipal elections.

Sorry folks, but soon you'll find a line-up of other mayoralty candidates and would-be councillors making headlines.

It's a symbolic ending of the summer, reminding us that the carefree days are behind us.

Now it's time to start investigating the choices of candidates as they become known to the public.

Several issues will make the election race more interesting and more important than ever before.

Former Mayor Peter Pomeroy in 1982 had only one opponent with no town council experience.

Russ Miller, an appointed mayor in 1983, will now face challenges from his fellow councillors.

At issue will be problems common to other municipalities: the need for more improvements such as roads and sidewalks, the need to keep taxes down and trim government waste.

Each councillor and mayoralty candidate will have to stage his or her platforms on constructing a new municipal centre, and the expansion of Georgetown and Acton. They'll have to convince us why they're the best man or woman for the job.

Don't get caught when it's time for an all-candidates' meeting or when politicians start canvassing for your vote.

Form your questions now, sort out your opinions on what you feel are the issues for your community.

Start early and judge fairly - there's a lot at stake, not withstanding the future of your community.

# State of 'a-fairs'

Halton Hills is alive with news about our state of 'a-fairs'.

This week has been particularly good to us in terms of news about fair days.

Fairs and festivals give us a chance to mingle with the crowds and strut our stuff - to entertain and be entertained.

Here's four reasons to smile as we anxiously hang on to the precious few months left before snow, hockey and staying warm become a pre-occupation.

1. Halton Hills Day at the CNE Thursday was another success by all reports we've received. It's a great way for local talent to get exposure while, at the same time, it lets people know what Halton Hills is all about. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce deserves a pat on the back along with all its helpers for the efforts.

2. Members of the Georgetown Highland Games committee just received word they've been given permission to hold a "Champion Supreme" class competition next year. This will mean their June festival will attract bigger and better bands, and more crowds.

3. Save your money for Acton's Leathertown Market and Ciderfest. Even people from outside the region flock to this event with a small-town atmosphere where the food, fun and entertainment are hard to beat. Mark it on your calendar: Aug. 31.

4. Back in Georgetown the annual fall fair Sept. 8 will be action-packed and sporting some new crowd-pleasers in the way of a demolition derby and craft tent. Later in the month the Acton Fall Fair will bring us more carnival fare including the popular Miss Acton Fall Fair competition.



"As a political protest, Otis drained every bottle of South African brandy and sherry in the house."

# Full throttle patronage



## Ottawa Report

By Stewart McLeod

As some critics suggest, the Mulroney government may be keeping a keen eye on public opinion polls as it ponders each decision - but a clear exception seems to be its patronage appointments.

In this area, there is no reason to believe that opinion polls are given more than a passing glance. Either that or the government is assuming, perhaps rightly, that since nearly half the respondents are likely to be Liberal, the over-all public opinion is automatically loaded against Tory patronage.

In any event, Prime Minister Mulroney and his advisers seem to be cheerfully ignoring that poll which indicated that 52 per cent of Canadians disapprove of the way the government is handling its appointments. Despite the summer doldrums, the federal patronage machine continues to operate at full throttle. Well over 100 patronage jobs have been dished out in the last few weeks, most of them to well-established Tories.

In most cases, it should be noted, they replace well-established Liberals.

MANY OTHERS

The appointments we are talking about are those made by the Privy Council office, under the direct control of the prime minister. We have long since lost track of the countless ministerial appointments which do not require cabinet approval. Recent ones in this category included new board members to the Canada Development Investment Corporation, de Havilland, Canadair, and other crown corporations. Then there are the lawyers, agents, etc., who are given often lucrative assignments to represent various government agencies and departments.

Taken together, we're talking about thousands, not hundreds, of patronage jobs.

But it's those 100-plus high-profile appointments, made with cabinet approval, that tend to attract our attention. They include new members for the National Parole Board, jobs which pay up to nearly \$70,000 a year, and for the Royal Canadian Mint, the Unemployment Insurance Commission, and various advisory boards which sometimes offer only a per diem stipend for services rendered. This would apply to someone like Harvey Atkinson, a Morinville, Alta., archi-

tect, who becomes a member of the Canada Pension Plan Advisory Board. He had worked on the election campaign of MP Peter Elzinga, the Tory party president.

Another well-known recent appointment, to the National Parole Board, was former Hamilton, Ont. mayor Jack MacDonald, an unsuccessful Tory candidate in the last federal election.

Edmonton lawyer Robert Lloyd, a well-established Tory, becomes a director of Teleglobe. And George Cross, a temporary member of the same board of directors, was a former Conservative member of the Newfoundland legislature.

The overwhelming majority of the appointments have Tory connections.

## PUBLIC CYNICISM

And while the opinion polls indicate that Canadians generally disapprove of the way patronage is dispensed - or that it is dispensed at all - the prime minister can draw comfort from the fact that a majority of respondents didn't like the way the Liberals handled this business either.

In disclosing results of a rather comprehensive survey, pollster Angus Reid said this issue was a "major loser" for the Tories. However, "the catch is that only about 20 per cent of Canadians perceive the performance of the Conservatives on this issue to be worse than that of their Liberal predecessors."

Another 15 per cent actually thought the Tory performance was better than the Griffs, while the majority, 55 per cent, felt it was about the same.

So when all factors are considered, it's probably not surprising that the prime minister is not concerned that a majority of Canadians are opposed to his handling of patronage. In fact, given his campaign rhetoric about cleaning up the system - "there has to be a better way" - he might well feel encouraged by the lack of public opposition. In any event, it's full speed ahead. And at the present rate, it won't be long before federally-appointed Liberals will be placed on the endangered species list.

# We dislike unknowns



## CLERGY COMMENT

By REV. JEFFREY C. DAVISON, B.Sc., B.D., St. John's United Church of Georgetown and Glen Williams  
All my life I have been brought up to beware of people who think they have all the answers to life. Along with a healthy respect for skill and knowledge there is always been a sense that there is so much that we do not know.

It has been said that for every discovery we make in science three more unknowns immediately appear. You will understand then why one of my favorite bible verses is 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see in a mirror dimly..."

As a minister, I have discovered that people do not want very much to do with uncertainty. We ministers are called to preach the firm truth of God's Word with a certainty which scatters all unbelief, and most of the time I hope that we do.

However, I am also acutely conscious that while God's Word is firm and sure, our human interpretation of it is not. I stand with St. Augustine who said, "Anything which your intellect is able to comprehend is not God."

Any human understanding of religious truth will always fall short of completeness, and all of us must live with questions we cannot answer and problems we cannot solve.

It is also sad to see, as William Sloane Coffin says, that "People never do evil so cheerfully as when they do it from absolute conviction."

There was no visible uncertainty with Adolf Hitler, nor is there with the Ayatollahs in Iran, yet though millions find leadership through such people, the resulting evil is enormous. Beware of believing too much and of thinking you know the answers to all the questions of life. "Now we see through a mirror dimly."

It was Harry Emerson Fosdick who described his dialogue between doubt and certainty by saying: "Most of my life I've lived in the woods, but there has always been a piece of cleared ground in the woods."

"As I've grown older the piece of cleared ground has grown larger. In my preaching I've always preached out of the cleared ground and not out of the woods." What the church and the world needs today is not an arrogant and narrow dogmatism either religiously or politically, but a broad understanding of the cleared ground.

The deep certainties are there in the gospel. A God who loves us revealed in Jesus of Nazareth.

# Helpers deserve pat on the back

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Georgetown Ladies Powder League I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped to make our Fifth Annual Tournament the big success it was.

Friday night's entertainment was provided by our coaches playing Town Merchants. The men played a very tight game despite the number of distractions. The merchants put a very strong team together consisting of John Vieira - J.V. Clothing; Fred Harris - Smoke Shop; Glen Sproule - C and S Plumbing; Ken Sproule - Ken's Auto Body; Chris Milne - North Halton Sports; Ron Yates - Brackets; Bill Smith - Bill Smith Auto Parts; Golden Bear - Barry Whitworth - Georgetown Chrysler; Art Crowe - Auto Wreckers; Frank Van de Valk - Mavak; Al Gardiner - Georgetown Pontiac; Fred Harrison - ReMax.

Thanks to Brad Smith for organizing the game. The majority of games were played Saturday. The tournament dance was held Saturday night

and final games Sunday. Many individuals and businesses helped make both events a roaring success:

- Activity Van, Bakery Delite, Beaver Lumber, Burger King, McDonalds, Neilson's, Pompeii Pizza, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120, St. John's Ambulance, Umpires, S.O.B.'s, Wayne King - Tournament Chairman, Jim Tuck, Steve Gemel - Park Attendant, Dave Hill - D.J., Donna Randall, Roger Gervais, Bob Weaver, Colleen Davis, Pat Scarborough, Gerry Perkins, Cor Osterhof, Floyd Foster, Wayne Sproule, Bud Hayes, Mario Santos, Pete Ward, Pete Wanner, Larry Peterson, Brad Edgar, Al Moore, Bob Ingalls, Niner, Penny Butterworth, Joyce Hutchins, Pat Morey, Debbie Lindsay.

With the help of all these people the G.L.P.L. Fifth Annual Tournament is something we can all be proud of.

Debbie Tatham, Tournament Director

# Hard to follow Hiroshima repercussions

Dear Sir,

We found it hard to follow the logic of Mr. Earl Ryder on the bombing of Hiroshima and its consequent repercussions, printed in last week's (August 7) edition of The Herald.

The war with Germany was over when the atomic bomb was first dropped, therefore, we only had one enemy and not "enemies" as Mr. Ryder stated. Whether the allied casualties would have been enormous without dropping the atom bomb is debatable. Even if an atomic bomb blast was deemed necessary to demonstrate the enormous power then available to the U.S.A., surely a Japanese island could have been found with a much lower population.

The total devastation alone would certainly have proved the point. Dropping a second bomb on Nagasaki was totally unnecessary. Given Mr. Ryder's emphasis on the long term survival of one victim and his attempt to

downplay the dangers of radio-activity in the aftermath of the explosion, maybe he is unable to distinguish between the well known politeness of the Japanese people and their true feelings on the dropping of the bombs.

As for Mr. Ryder's head-in-the-sand statement that "since that time the risk of nuclear war has been handled successfully by the U.S. government and their allies and the risk seems to be diminishing", the political posturing of both the U.S.A. and Russia, the massive build up of weapons and the reliance on computers (which are known to have brought us to the edge of the holocaust on more than one occasion), do nothing to lessen the risk.

Israel, China, France and even South Africa are known to have the bomb, would Mr. Ryder consider all of these countries to have "stable governments"? Should we feel safe knowing our destiny (was) is in the hands of such dispensers of the "sensible use of

diplomacy" (as Nixon), as Reagan with all their cowboy western confrontational approach to international affairs?

Anyone watching the film "Speaking our Peace" on CBC TV on August 6 must remember the remark made that World War Three has already begun. The U.S.A. has exploded over 500 nuclear bombs underground, the Russians over 400.

France is still atmospherically testing, as we were tragically reminded by the bomb-

# No sense in global arms race

Dear Sir,

I read with interest the article written by Mr. Earl Ryder recalling Hiroshima. This weekend I, like many others, was discussing and trying to understand Hiroshima with my family and with a veteran, my father.

I wish I could share Mr. Ryder's assurance that "we have avoided

the subsequent possibility of atomic warfare not by accident but by the sensible use of diplomacy." Sense is the last thing I see in the arms race!

When a war-games tape was mistakenly plugged into a computer the whole Western world was put on nuclear alert for six minutes. (November, 1979). My goodness,

even a lock of geese has mistakenly been interpreted as a fleet of Soviet missiles!

Truly, with thoughts of my three children's future in mind, unlike Mr. Ryder, I have more concern for another Hiroshima than for a failing economy. (I realize how closely linked the economy and world militarism are).

ground nuclear explosion inevitably spews its radio-activity into the ground eventually to be delivered into our environment. Contrast the apparent silence on this with the high publicity attended by every effort to find safe and responsible methods for disposal of nuclear waste from power stations by isolating it permanently in rock formations proven stable through geological times.

The outright dismissal by the U.S.A. of the

Soviet's invitation to join them in cessation of nuclear testing is the most recent example of an opportunity missed.

The reason given that testing is necessary to allow the U.S.A. to catch up with the Russians is clearly nonsense. With the current ability of both super-powers to destroy the world many times over, each and every increase in the nuclear arsenal and in the sophistication of the bombs and their delivery systems increases the danger.

A recent British Columbia survey indicates 80 per cent of children (9-18 years) fear they will die in a nuclear holocaust. (Toronto Star, Aug. 6, 1985).

Eugene Rostow, arms control chief for the first two years of the Reagan administration has said, "We are living in a pre-

Therefore, we do not have Mr. Ryder's confidence that 40 years after Hiroshima we can all sleep soundly in our beds. Indeed, our only hope of survival is multi-lateral disarmament, for which all the peoples of this planet must work unstintingly. Sitting back and stating all is well with our world is very dangerous indeed at this point of time.

Yours truly,  
Peggy Bowhay,  
George Bowhay,  
RR3, Georgetown

# Sincerely, Cheryl Lightowers, Georgetown