

It's not enough

A school consolidation committee will be having a public meeting Oct. 22 to discuss their progress. But that's not enough.

The only other scheduled meeting for the public will be sometime in March, after a report has been presented to the Halton Board of Education for information.

The committee is discussing the possible closure of schools because of declining enrollment in Halton Hills.

Fourteen schools are being evaluated by a 45 member committee. Parents concerned about the committee process may feel that's not enough meetings.

There's no doubt the consolidation committee is working extremely hard at coming to grips with tackling the school closure issue.

We've got a talented bunch of parents and taxpayers working for the board of education on a volunteer basis. They've been elected by the people to serve each of the schools' interests.

The process on paper is more than fair. Other school boards haven't been as democratic when considering school closings.

But the public needs more reassurance the meetings are being conducted in a fair and reasonable manner.

Excluding the press and public from the once per week committee meetings creates an aura of suspicion - warranted or otherwise.

By not holding more information sessions, the public will feel later that they've been left out in the dark.

To prevent bad feelings in March, we suggest the consolidation committee offer to hold a public meeting a month or so before they go to the school board.

Protests are best quelled when there's still time for changes to be considered. No one likes a fait accompli.

Workers come first

Brian Mulroney's government once promised Canadians "Jobs, jobs, jobs."

But instead, he's got the public chanting "Tuna, tuna, tuna."

That was the response to his introduction at the opening ceremonies during the Blue Jays series against Kansas City.

The Prime Minister was seen at the game with an entourage which included Halton's own MP Otto Jelinek.

Mr. Jelinek has problems, similar to the prime minister's concerns about rotting fish and ministerial responsibility.

Our local MP forfeited a chance to meet with workers from an Oakville shoe manufacturing firm who were laid off and had requested a meeting.

He cancelled the meeting (indicating the meeting was postponed, not cancelled) to attend a Blue Jays game.

We do not believe his duties as Minister of Amateur Sport and Fitness required him to attend the opening Blue Jay game against Kansas City. If our MP had a prior commitment to talk to laid off workers, he should not have broken that appointment.

We wonder if the Conservatives' talk about providing more jobs for Canadians is just smoke and mirrors.

Or does Mr. Jelinek's attendance at the game just show how a Toronto sports team had distracted us all from attending to more important day-to-day concerns.

Join the bandwagon

By sometime next year, perhaps by October, the familiar United Way logo may be flying on the flagstaves of town offices.

Halton Hills is the lone holdout when it comes to adopting a United Way.

Every other community in the Region of Halton has a United Way. It's no secret a number of people outside Halton Hills have been overzealous in their attempts to have us join the rest of the crowd.

It's time for members of the community here to show some enthusiasm for a United Way.

With so many commuters giving to the United Way in Toronto or elsewhere, the town is suffering a charity funding drain. Funds that could be allocated here for local projects and organizations are put into a general fund.

By banding together we can jointly solicit public financial support.

By putting all our resources towards a major campaign, the town can share the benefits made possible through the vast talents of volunteers in the community.

Let's give United Way a try. And don't wait until it gets here to lend a hand.



"Your wife was in labor longer than I've ever been!"

Erratic cannons for P.M.

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has the reputation of being somewhat of a media junkie - i.e., that he reads everything written about him - but it would not be surprising if he soon changes his habits.

Seldom, if ever before, has there been a period when so many unrelated incidents have cropped up to embarrass a government. Since Parliament resumed on Sept. 9, scarcely a day has gone by without some newspaper offering up something to make the prime minister cringe.

In many respects it is even worse than the terminal days of the Diefenbaker government. At that time, at least, all the bad news centred around the virtual disintegration of cabinet solidarity. The assorted disasters were pretty well confined to Parliament Hill.

But now we are bouncing from rancid tuna in New Brunswick to the collapse of banks in Alberta. And every time you pick up a newspaper around here, there seems to be another cabinet minister, a backbench MP, or a party official "clarifying" an earlier comment.

You sometimes get the impression the whole country is being over-run by erratic Tory cannons.

And we're not just talking about major issues like the collapse of those Alberta-based banks. In fact, so many little things have cropped up we scarcely have time to think about the fact that the bank bailout will probably cost us over \$1 billion. This, incidentally, will more than wipe-out the proposed deficit reduction in Finance Minister Michael Wilson's last budget. It is a colossal calamity.

SMALL THINGS
But, as I said, we haven't had much time to think about that. We've been too busy keeping up on that

continuing serial of just how many New Brunswick Tory MPs knew about the rancid tuna before that issue became public knowledge. As to who knew what, it depends largely on what day you happened to pick up your newspaper.

Even these revised versions tend to get lost in the shuffle of other revisions.

Let's just take one very recent day - the day in which newspapers told us that Deputy Prime Minister Erik Nielsen had backtracked on his accusation that critics of cabinet minister Suzanne Blais-Grenier were, in effect, racists.

Assuming the prime minister got his fix of newspapers that day, he would not only have been reminded of this incident, but he would have found himself under severe attack for not following Nielsen's example in retracting a statement. The prime minister had earlier talked about "the opinions of anglophones" in relation to Blais-Grenier's problems.

But there would be other items to seize the attention of the prime minister that day.

There was a columnist from Edmonton - of all sympathetic places - who wrote that "the Tories are too stupid - or maybe too desperate - to care what demons they unleash on the country."

What a way to begin the day!
And after wading through all that stuff on the bank collapses, the prime minister could read about the NDP seeking an RCMP investigation into the Tories' national campaign spending. Or there was that stuff about a South Korean lobby and its connections to the Conservatives.

STILL MORE
Then - and it's still the same day - there was that story quoting Justice Minister John Crosbie as saying that Mulroney's aides are not politically

astute. Later newspaper editions featured Crosbie's denial and then still-later editions carried excerpts of the taped interview to back up the original version. Once again a controversy was being carried to needless extremes.

And as Crosbie was correcting press reports about his comments, Small Business Minister Andre Bissonnette was busy trying to detach himself from a rather embarrassing advertisement in the Journal de Montreal.

The ad was an open letter to Mulroney from a union, and other sympathizers, concerned with the loss of jobs in Quebec shipyards. The letter referred to "the Canadian government's inertia in economic matters" and among the sponsors of this mislabeled was the name of Andre Bissonnette.

Aides said his name was used without authorization and that, naturally, the letter did not reflect the views of the minister.

The story was just below the latest update on which New Brunswick Tory MPs might have met with the tuna people in St. Andrew's. And was it at the plant, the legion hall, or some front lawn?

This was also the day that a Toronto newspaper revealed that former defence minister Robert Coates, for the five months that he was in office, ran up personal expenses of more than \$70,000.

There was just no escape for Mulroney on this day. Even if he turned to the international pages, Mulroney would come face to face with a Canadian columnist in London offering views on the Canadian prime minister. "Can we impeach him or try for some sort of restraining order?" asked the writer.

No, it was no day for the prime minister to start his autobiography. And just about now he must be wondering whether it will ever end.

Fact finding in S. Africa



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau of The Herald

Prime Minister Mulroney announced rather suddenly a week or so ago that Bernard Wood, director of the North-South Institute, had just been appointed as his personal representative to undertake an immediate fact-finding mission in southern Africa.

Wood is to report back before Oct. 12 so the prime minister can have the benefit of his findings prior to the Commonwealth heads-of-government conference in Nassau.

Strikes me as somewhat of a rush job. And since Wood is not going to South Africa itself - the source of the major unrest in the region - it also strikes me as an inevitably incomplete job. It strikes me, in fact, as more show than substance.

This is not taking anything away from Bernard Wood, whose personal abilities and dedication are beyond reproach. But given his mandate, his time frame and his itinerary, I would be surprised if he were to return with any new and inspirational ideas about how we should approach problems in the area. There is no evidence that the Canadian government is in the dark about events there.

TIMING SUSPECT

The timing of the prime minister's announcement also invites a slight sprinkling of cynicism. It came as Mulroney was meeting in Ottawa with President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, who wants Canada to take stronger measures against South Africa's apartheid policies. The two men, according to the prime minister, had an "excellent dialogue" and the Tanzanian president was clearly pleased when Mulroney announced the appointment of his personal fact-finding mission.

But, privately, I suspect he would have expressed even more leasure had the prime minister asked Wood to undertake this mission months ago.

And he certainly should have been asked to go to South Africa. Since the prime minister had such an excellent dialogue with Nyerere it's not obvious to me why, when time is so precious, Wood is going to Tanzania. The prime minister should have a pretty clear idea of that country's views on the situation in southern Africa.

But Wood will make a swift visit to that country, along with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia. His particular concern will be ending apartheid in South Africa and bringing about independence for Zambia.

There are officials at the external affairs department who have devoted years to these problems and the countries on Wood's itinerary have been visited countless times. Another 10 days spread over four countries, even for someone of Wood's acknowledged ability, is unlikely to result in a major revision of the heavy briefing books.

NOT HELPFUL

And while the initiative may indicate a keen prime ministerial interest in the region, prior to the Commonwealth Conference, it seems a bit silly to bypass South Africa. If we are to have any influence in bringing about a peaceful change in that country, surely it makes sense to be interested, or at least appear to be interested, in talking with its government.

It's in South Africa that the change has to occur. And even if we find apartheid absolutely abhorrent, it's probably not very constructive to give the impression that only outsiders have the proper solutions. What are the South Africans supposed to think about a Canadian emissary who appears to be doing all his fact-finding about the country outside its borders?

Even is, as seems likely, absolutely nothing would be discovered in the few days available, it wouldn't do any harm to lubricate the lines of communication.

To the casual observer it might seem impressive to have the prime minister head off to the Commonwealth Conference armed with a specially-commissioned and freshly-minted report from Bernard Wood. But I imagine that most serious observers will take the view that just about everything Mulroney says in Nassau was pretty well settled long before Wood fastened his seat belt.

That's one reason we have diplomatic missions assigned to foreign countries.



THIRTY YEARS AGO-Quarterback David Hart and receiver brother Peter combined for an 11-0 victory over Milton. Georgetown has a two point lead over Preston and Acton after two games this season.

Terra Cotta artist Jordanus van der Vliet had his oil paintings featured in the Toronto Star rotogravure section. His pictures will appear in the Star.

The Georgetown Business and Professional Women's Club held their first dinner meeting at the McGibbon House. President Joyce Nevitt and vice-president Marion Robinson greeted special speaker Cecil Chinn from Brampton.

At the Roxy this week Bob Hope stars as Eddie Foy in The Seven Little Foyes. Ann Blyth, Howard Keel and Fernando Lamas star in Rose Marie, and the star feature of the week is Hell and High Water with Richard Widmark, Bella Darvi and David Wayne.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-Mr. and Mrs. Frank Asbeck's 39 year-old goose, Toulouse, died. The goose who was a wedding present outlived the last of its three goslings by seven years.

The Georgetown Georgetownes won their third straight Ladies Rural Softball Championship. Joanne Marchment got a grand slam home run in the 29-9 romp over Glen Williams.

The 1969-70 Music Program Council wants the county board of education to introduce singing to the high school curriculum. Paul Chabot, chairman of the Music Council, told the board more teachers would be needed but not an additional teacher for each school.

TEN YEARS AGO-Chodura and Sharon Tucko, both of Georgetown, competed in the Mississauga Beauty Contest held at Sheridan Mall. The girls are taking a modelling course at Sheridan College. Neither girl was a finalist but Bernice Codura is a finalist in the Miss Argonaut contest which finishes this week.

FIVE YEARS AGO-Varian Canada celebrated its 25th anniversary at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Varian was the first Klystron manufacturing and development company in Canada when it opened Oct. 21, 1955.

Georgetown resident and defensive star for the Toronto Maple Leaf, Dave Burrows, may be leaving town as talks of trading him continue. The Toronto native called the day traded to the Leafs from Pittsburgh in 1978 "one of the happiest days of my life."

The 28-day strike at Maple Lodge Farms in Norval ended this weekend with a 189-3 vote in favor of a new two year contract.



By PAT WOODE
Herald Columnist

Do you have a flair for acting, a compassion for children with a disability and time available to become a puppeteer for the "Kids on the Block", North Halton?

This committee is now actively seeking volunteers who are willing to be trained in the art of handling a disabled puppet (whether it may have spina bifida, epilepsy, or a mental handicap). In order to create awareness among school children, the puppet show must be presented during the day affording everyone the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the puppets.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Dianne Anderson (877-7062) or Darlawn Baisille (877-3419). Donations to purchase the puppets will be gratefully received as well.

The Advocacy Resource Centre For the Handicapped (ARCH) recently won some important victories. The Nagler case involved Revenue Canada. Professor Nagler, who has cerebral palsy which has prevented him from writing or typing, had hired a secretary out of his own income to fulfill the requirements of his job. As it was costing him between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year for extra expenses, professor Nagler had deducted this cost from his taxable income for 10 years.

Unfortunately Revenue Canada reviewed his returns and decided to disallow his claims for this expense. According to section 8 (1)(f)(ii) of the income tax act, the amounts payable to an assistant must be required by the contract of employment and this was not the case here.

An appeal was launched in the tax appeal court. With a trial date approaching and after careful consideration of the implications of accepting the argument that Professor Nagler's terms of employment implied that he must hire a secretary, Revenue Canada confirmed that they were prepared to consent to the allowance of his appeal.

This victory will have far reaching impact on the employability of other disabled people. The deaf who require sign interpreters, blind employees who require a reader, or physically disabled who require services of an attendant may claim the deduction.

Technical aids, however, like other expenses, do not fall under this section. Therefore, it is likely this issue will arise again. At present all employees are entitled to a standard deduction of \$500. This situation treats everyone the same but does not allow for the fact that the person with the handicap may have expenses in addition to regular expenses that directly relate to the disability.

The solution is to either allow all employees to itemize their expenditures of earning income (as is the case in most other countries) or allow disabled people to itemize their disability related expenses and continue to claim the standard deduction as well.

A tom-tom for Georgetown

Clergy Comment



By DR. JOHN M. DRICKAMER
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Dr. Wilbert Kreisa, a theologian from France, recently spoke in Toronto about mission work in Zaire. He showed a slide of a man beating a tom-tom, a drum-like instrument made out of a hollow log. It is used for mass communication.

The church service in a village had been delayed by a storm. When they were ready to begin, the man beat the tom-tom for several minutes. The message he sent was roughly this: "The rain is over. The preacher is here. Come immediately. Bring your Bibles." Hundreds of people assembled quickly.

The difference between Zaire and

Canada is not the tom-tom. Those people have a genuine hunger for the Word of God and a real desire to worship together. Most Canadians today know nothing of such hunger and thirst.

It was lovely to hear Dr. Kreisa describe the worship services in Zaire. Those poverty-stricken people have to work hard for their daily bread. But they know whom to thank for it! They are eager to assemble for Word and worship not only once a week but almost on a daily basis.

They hear hour-long sermons instructing them in the Word of God. They stand and sit and sing through three-hour services. Just about every group within the congregation (men, women, youth, children) has its own choir.

Those people could sing the psalms as expressing their own faith. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1). "I was glad when they

said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).

This work was not conducted by foreign missionaries but by people from Zaire. They had appealed to French Lutherans for educational help because of one excellent Lutheran book in French that some of them had been using.

We keep hearing reports about active interest in Christianity in Africa. According to reliable reports, twenty-two thousand people are converted to Christianity in Africa every day. But so many in Canada turn a deaf ear and a blind eye to the Word of God. Why is that?

Most Africans believe that spiritual things are real. Most Canadians are practical atheists, no matter what they tell StatsCan. They live as if there were no God.

Most Africans are taught to be afraid of whatever gods they have heard about. Most Canadians learn the attitude that God, if He exists, is very

kindly and does not mind if we ignore Him and His will.

So, while most Canadians say "Ho-hum", the Africans are glad and grateful to hear the truth that there is only one God and that He loves all people in spite of their sins. They rejoice to learn that Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, died for their sins. They are greatly relieved to be freed from fear by the message of God's love in Christ.

In the not-too-distant future, African Christians may well be sending preachers to do mission work among the heathen in Canada.

Bible digest

"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49

There is no business like God's business. Like Jesus, let's get in it. Take Him into the market place of life, and change the market.