

# the HERALD

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# Government patronage changing



Queen's Park  
By Derek Nelson

There are changes coming to the Ontario government appointments patronage system.

A legislative committee here should be ready with some recommendations by the end of April. For several months, it has been hearing from the public and examining how government appointments are made elsewhere. In Ontario, there are 530 agencies, boards and commissions with almost 2,500 job openings on them. They vary from well-paid to unpaid and are usually for a fixed term. Committee chairman New Democrat Mike Brough said there is committee consensus on several points, including having appointments in general made in a more open manner. Another is that the principle of a formal review of some kinds of appointments is necessary. Although he wasn't specific, ob-

in-depth, public scrutiny of every appointment such as takes place in the United States. What the details of the proposed changes will be, and how the Liberal government - including in its own round of patronage appointments after 42 years - will react to them we won't know for a while. But the Liberals have promised changes. There is a problem here, though, and it has to do with perception. Back when the Grits were in opposition they invariably objected to the appointment of a known Conservative to anything. They even drew up lists of "identified Conservatives" in patronage jobs, suggesting (to quote current Premier David Peterson) they weren't made on merit but on political affiliation. Never did they say a Tory deserved his appointment. "It would be quite a reach for us," Brough said. Nor will there be the same kind of

Then, of course, when the PCs appointed Liberals (Ivorn Singer, Phil Givens and so on) to various posts the Grits decried those as both "cronism" and "trying to buy a seat" by retiring the sitting Liberal incumbent. In short, every PC appointment was suspect, part of what Peterson called a "blue haze" across the province. This week, in what some call the "red mist" that now pervades Ontario, the York East by-election is taking place. York East was made vacant by the appointment of former Tory Labor Minister Bob Elgie to the workers' Compensation Board. This is the same Elgie whom the current Liberal Labor Minister Bill Wray retroactively attacks for not enforcing the law in regard to labor ministry responsibilities such as overtime and occupational health and safety. Was the appointment then "cronism"? Was it an attempt "to buy" Elgie's seat, to use Grit phrases of the past? And what of all the other appointments that have gone to known Liberals? In the new world of "red mist" are we to view them any different than the way the Liberals viewed Tory appointments in bygone days?

# Change is positive for local players

By electing Dave Kentner as president of the Gemini Junior B hockey club, shareholders have voted for change. The election of Mr. Kentner should be good for Gemini hockey.

The gregarious, former general manager of the Raiders has endless energy and a winning attitude. Outrageous, outspoken and not altogether universally liked, Mr. Kentner is, nevertheless, the glue that can bind the Gemis in to a winning team.

He has a solid understanding of minor hockey, stemming from his stint as the president of the GMHA when competitive and house league hockey merged. That should help him mend some fences between the Gemis and minor hockey administrators.

Mr. Kentner can also draw on his friendship with the Raiders to put an end to the "polite" feuding and uncooperative attitude that exists between the junior club and the Senior A Raiders.

The junior team needs a promoter and Mr. Kentner is their man. The Gemis also need someone who can find a sponsor or sponsors that are willing to finance the costs towards building a competitive Junior B franchise.

Our only concern is that our local talent can't be forgotten people in this leadership transition. Junior hockey was created in Georgetown for our local boys; that must remain its primary function and focal point.

# A long wait for beds

Yet another study informs us that services for the elderly are lacking.

A Halton Region study indicates that chronic care beds are scarce. In fact, there are no vacancies.

There are 69 patients requiring chronic care, but the Region has only 39 beds available. Eight individuals have been waiting for over a year for placement.

And still, the empty shell of a building attached to the Georgetown Bennett Health Care Centre remains dormant. The province won't provide funds necessary to increase the number of chronic care beds in Halton - not enough, at least, to open the unused wing at the BHCC.

The administrators at the Georgetown hospital had the foresight to anticipate the needs of the elderly. They did their homework well...

Perhaps what they didn't count on was the obstinance of the provincial PCs (and now the Grits).

It would be unfair not to sympathize with the government in this matter. Chronic health care is heavily subsidized by the government and the costs, once the beds are licenced, are enormous.

But here we have yet another study documenting a worsening situation. Now is the time to act.

# A little imagination

One of Georgetown's oldest landmarks may soon be given the attention it deserves.

A proposal last week to develop the Barber Mill calls for a multi-million dollar renovation.

Set in one of the nicest areas in Halton Hills, the old buildings contrast beautifully with the river, woods and the hiking trails nearby.

The Mill was neglected over the years, primarily because no one person proved wealthy enough to convert the buildings and surrounding lands into a viable tourist area.

But we're sure once the Mill is fixed up it will be known as a top attraction for locals and visitors, without any crass commercialism.

The plan calls for hotel rooms, boutiques, an outdoor patio, banquet facilities, a restaurant and much more.

The Mill, even in its state of disrepair, is a lovely site to gaze on. Just think of what can be done with a little bit of imagination and an influx of capital.

# Political arena can be entertaining



Staff Comment

By SANDY CAMPBELL, Herald Staff

Isn't it about time you dropped in to see your mayor or a councillor? It's been a long time since you last saw your trustee. Why not drop in and see them?

A visit could make a lasting difference in that relationship. I am not suggesting you invite yourself to dinner but that you go to a town council, regional government or school board meeting.

This week is local government week. This does not mean there will be a rush for seats at meetings where door prizes are awarded and stars of local government put on a special show. But it should be a reminder that if you can't get to a meeting this week you should attend one sometime.

Pretend you are going to a movie if you are not interested in politics. Remember you will be seeing the people's choice, the stars of local government. Mayor Russ Miller may not be Don Johnson, but he is an interesting man as are many of our representatives. And how they operate should be more interesting to you.

Everyone should see their representatives in action at least once. It might make you change your vote or it might reinforce your loyalty.

I cover the education beat. Recently I went to my first town council meeting. I usually work Monday nights but this Monday my editor, Dave Rowney, asked me to go to town council.

I had a seat in the stands that night and not at the press table. I looked like Mr. Campbell coming to see how his tax dollars were spent.

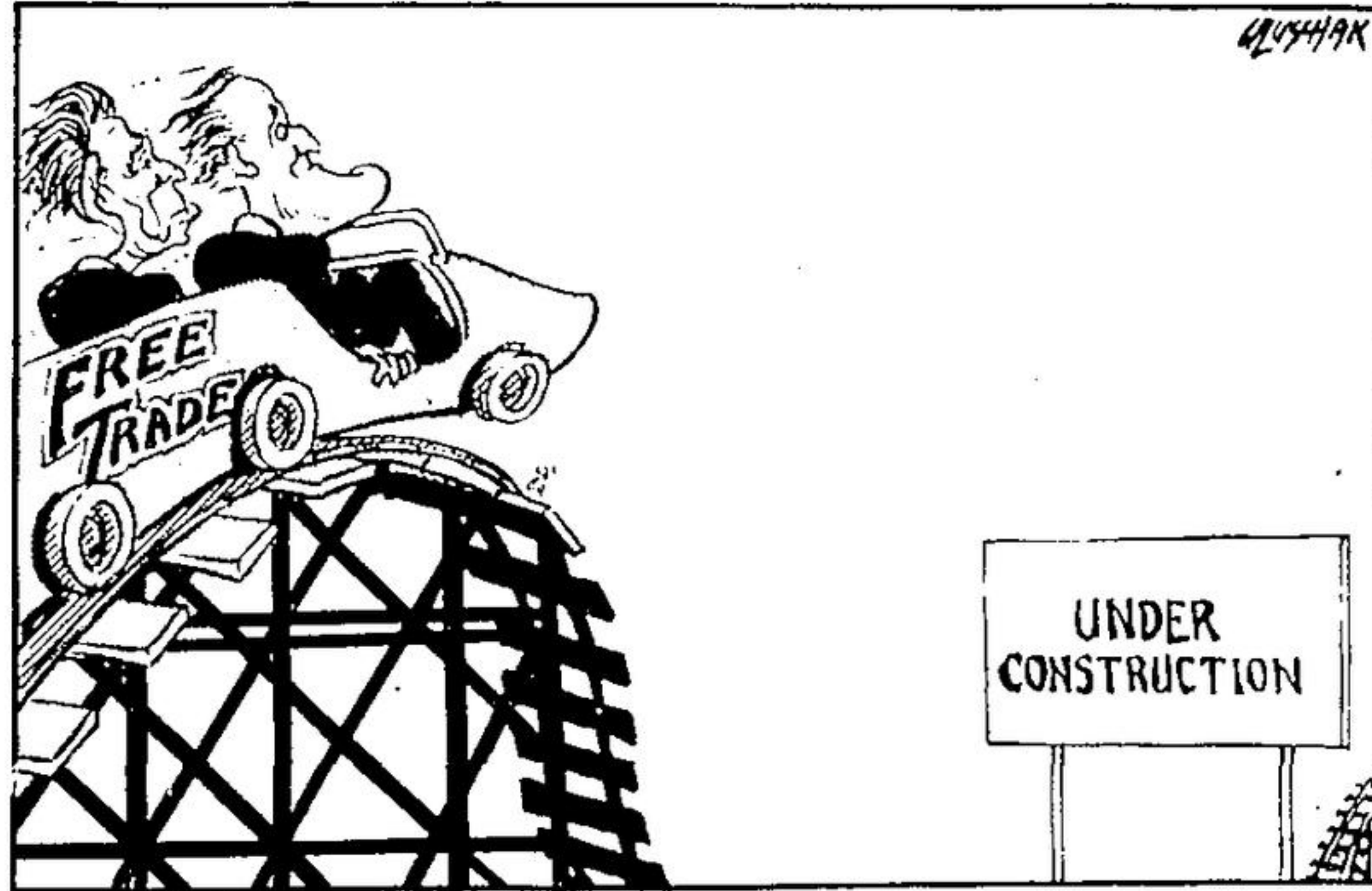
But I wasn't treated like a regular guy. I was treated better. Ian Keith, town planner, and Delmar French, deputy clerk, came to me during the evening and asked if I needed any help getting through my agenda or with any issue. I was impressed with their attentiveness.

When I told them I was an observer with The Herald the romance ended. I think they were disappointed I was not an interested citizen in those stands which were almost empty.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs just released brochures on planning, a topical issue in Halton Hills, an issue bound to come up at any meeting of local government. They are available at the town office on Trafalgar Road.

"By removing much of the jargon and explaining matters in simple terms, every citizen can learn how planning affects them and how they can have an effect on it," Municipal Affairs Minister Bernard Grand-maitre says. There are six short brochures: The Planning Act, Official Plans, Sub-Divisions, Zoning By-laws, Land Severance, and the Ontario Municipal Board.

To prepare yourself for a meeting you may find this information helpful.



# Citizen's forum

## Flashing red lights for volunteer firefighters' cars?

Dear Sir,

To some of us the sight of flashing lights and the sound of wailing sirens, clanging bells and the deep blast from powerful air-horns provides a thrilling sense of action, of excitement, while to others it sends a shiver down the spine or even creates a feeling of terror.

But to all of us it means an emergency vehicle - a police car, ambulance or fire truck - is responding to a call for help from somebody in the community.

The success or failure of the responding emergency unit very often is determined by how fast it can get to the emergency location.

The law demands that drivers on the highways and byways of the province move over to the right hand side of the road (and off the road if necessary) to make way for an approaching emergency vehicle when its flashing lights and/or sirens are in operation. It is also common sense, though my personal observations of some drivers throughout Ontario leave me with the impression that they are either deaf, blind or simply stupid and have no idea what to do in such circumstances.

In Halton Hills we have a rather unique situation. Our firefighters are all volunteers which means that when they first get the call to attend an emergency they have to get from their home, store, office, plant or gas station to the fire hall where the fire truck is kept. That adds to the overall response time of any emergency.

The fact that the volunteers do not drive to the fire hall in official emergency vehicles means they are not allowed to equip their own cars or trucks with sirens or red flashing lights. Instead they have to rely on their own driving skills and the traffic volume at that particular time of the day to get them there as fast as possible without breaking the law.

However, some of these local heroes have adapted their headlights to flash on and off alternately - something you can't miss coming up behind you while others hope that their flashing hazard signals will get them through.

I believe the Town of Halton Hills and the Fire Dept should seek

dispensation from the Ontario government to permit officially authorized volunteer firefighters to display a portable red flashing light on their personal vehicles (wind shield or roof style) for use when responding to an emergency call.

Meanwhile, if you're on the road around town, especially the access roads to the fire hall, and you've got flashing lights coming up behind you, move over to the right or get off the road.

It could make all the difference if it's your business, home or loved ones that are endangered.

Tony Taylor,  
Glen Williams

## Fish derby promotion questioned

Dear Sir,

How come Kelso Conservation Area operated by Halton Hills Region promoting a fish derby on May 3 and 4 would allow one private retail store in Milton to promote their advertising and business

without contacting other sports stores in Halton Hills to donate prizes or use the services of the region to promote their business.

L.S. Fletcher,  
Fletcher Sports,  
Acton

## Thank you, Red Cross volunteers

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Georgetown and District Red Cross Branch we would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to our Campaign-for-Funds during the month of March.

We are pleased to report that provided expected donations are received we anticipate exceeding our target of \$27,000. We appreciate the kind and generous response given to our canvassers at the door.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, many of whom have faithfully each year faced adverse weather conditions to ensure the success of our campaign. To those who took on the extra responsibility of Area Captain, District Co-ordinator, Chair-person and administrative organizer a special "thank you" for time given so willingly.

Outside those who give UNITED WAY outside Halton Hills, we would like to remind them that all the neighbouring United Ways will accept designation of funds to a specified charity and/or area. Please give consideration to this when making pledges or donations for 1987.

We appreciate the excellent coverage given us by The Herald and extend our thanks to you and your staff for their support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,  
John Wickens,  
Campaign Chairman  
Georgetown and District Branch

Continued on page A5

## Why are children in school?

Dear Sir,

Our children are in school 183 days per year, and are in the classroom for five hours a day. During this time, they must cover many subjects, including mathematics, history, reading, science, music, P.T., health, language arts.

There is also time spent on special activities such as school plays, public speaking, movie days, reading days, winter carnival day, summer play day, safety program, drug abuse program. Say No program and there could very easily be more of these activities that I am not yet aware of.

Can our children afford to take time out of their limited hours in school to go swimming, skating, skiing, trips to baseball games, sugar bush, apple farms, museums, Science Centre, Metro Zoo, Centre Island etc. etc. etc.?

## In your opinion

# Will we be victims of Libyan terrorism?



"I don't think... At home, so. Libya is because they're fighting with the wacky and will U.S.A. It doesn't hurt anyone they have anything to can." Stu Hesse do with Canada," said. "They will Tina Daquano try to get U.S. based aircraft in Canada."

"No doubt... Certainly. We fly to all parts of the world, and they operate in all parts of the world. To then the front. From their point of view, a Canadian and an American are the same thing." Cliff Zimmerman said.

"Probably... No. We're pretty well independent. We leave them alone, and they will leave us alone." Shell Lawr said.

# Halton's History

from our files

## 30 years ago

Duncan McDonald, the last member of Ballinfad's Duncan McDonald family, died of a stroke in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. John McDonald, Duncan's brother, ran what became the W.H. Kentner and Son coal business.

Ross Smith will teach skating next year at the newly formed Georgetown skating club. Mr. Smith is the senior professional at the Guelph College skating club. He is a former Canadian Pairs champion and a western Canada Singles, Pairs and Dance champion.

Bob Goldham retired from hockey after 14 years. The Georgetown minor hockey player played his last game for the Detroit Red Wings who lost the fifth game of the Stanley Cup finals to Montreal. He is 34.

Ligny school won five of 13 events at the Esqueving Music Festival. The Ashgrove choir took first place in the small school category and Dublin had the last large school choir.

## 15 years ago

Randy Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Smith, placed first at the Peel Music Festival. The student of Mrs. Alva Allen played Sarabande in D Minor by Handel.

Gerry Fendley found a bottle marked Nitro Glycerine in the basement of his neighbor's home on Ontario Street. It and another unmarked bottle were taken to the ravine between Ontario Street and Hewson Street by Sergeant Jason Field and Constable John Barrett where it was detonated.

Dr. Alex Ashenhurst was named the Brampton Flying Club's Pilot of the Year. He was presented with a shield and \$50 advanced flying scholarship.

The professional of the Georgetown Golf and Country Club is moving to Freeport in the Bahamas where he will be the professional for the Lucayan Country Club. Jason Haugh is being replaced by Bill Greenwood.

## 10 years ago

Joanna Psarski was reunited with her husband Ziggy after a 34 month separation. In 1973 Mrs. Psarski returned to Poland to attend her father's funeral. She spent 34 months trying to get a passport.

Russ Linney, a Georgetown District High School teacher, was elected to the executive of the Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation. He is the vice-president of District 9 of the Federation.

Mrs. Eva Harper's cow topped production records of the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club's Mature Class, Starbelle Mamie's Acme qualified for an Honor Roll Certificate for producing 75 per cent more milk and butterfat than the average Jersey.

Charlene MacCormack, the Canadian Ladies Master Bowler Champion, had a disappointing performance at the Carling-O'Keefe World Five Pin Championships in Regina. The Georgetown bowler scored six wins which was too many less than the British Columbia Champion.

## 1 year ago

Scott Nowlan of McKenzie-Smith Middle School won the Acton Optimist Club public speaking contest. Victoria Rodrigues of St. Joseph's won the girls competition.

The Georgetown Gemis introduced their head coach for the 1981-82 season. He is Dave Switzer who comes from Mississauga.

Georgetown District High School hosted the Peel-Halton gymnastics meet. They won the senior division and placed second in the junior division. Dave Bootle, Mike Losacco and John Thorpe finished one two three in the all-round senior competition.

Marg Bratkin bowled her dream score: she bowled twelve consecutive strikes for a score of 450. She is Tournament Master from Georgetown Bowl and a former teacher of YBC bowlers.