

Promotion due

The winds of change were not in favor of John McDermid. A CBC radio reporter in Ottawa speculated he was a candidate for a cabinet posting.

Brian Mulroney's recent cabinet shuffle shored up some weak spots in his government.

In the intricate game of ministry match-up, some MPs were rewarded, some demoted and others stayed on the back benches.

For Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid, there was no change in his duties as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Energy.

As before, Mr. McDermid has proved his mettle as an MP, making him a possible choice for a cabinet portfolio.

However, when the Mulroney government first signed up in September 1984, Mr. McDermid was seen as a Joe Clark loyalist, having run Mr. Clark's campaign in the leadership contest against Mr. Mulroney.

Also, with such a large majority of members, the prime minister had a wide choice of candidates for cabinet posts. We all know that geography plays a major role in whether a candidate has a chance of becoming a minister.

Under that kind of criteria, Mr. McDermid is in a bad riding. Ontario and Toronto is over-represented by cabinet ministers. The Brampton-Georgetown MP is next to the ridings of Otto Jelinek and Sinclair Stevens.

Since 1979, Mr. McDermid has been representing the town of Georgetown. In Ottawa he's been making his mark by working side by side with Pat Carney in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources.

We have no reason to believe he couldn't have handled a new posting as a minister. On the contrary, we think he's ready for a promotion.

Military search

There's a good argument for using army personnel in searches for missing persons.

The case of Andrew Warburton of Hamilton is a perfect example.

The 9-year-old was lost in the woods and he died last week from hypothermia before search parties could locate him.

At the 11th hour militiamen and full-time military personnel were called in to help. It was the military who found the boy seven days after he was reported missing, three kilometres from where he was staying.

Although there were hundreds of volunteer searchers, army personnel could have done better.

Used to stringent discipline, tough physical regimen and working as a team, a military search party might have found Andrew before he died of exposure.

Army personnel are trained to march through heavily camouflaged areas, ever-aware of strange movements, colours and sounds.

Using the military for civilian purposes re-inforces a community's belief in their worth to us when there isn't a war.

This was one instance where we could have used their help from the start. Perhaps all search parties should consist of army men.

Trained professionals can do the job faster.

Amazing green pet



Staff Comment

By SANDY CAMPBELL, Herald Staff

Imagine the view from a satellite orbiting Earth and locking its site systems on North America. Consider a state in the U.S.A., say New York.

From that distance it is possible to determine some of the most important industries in the state. Would you believe turf grass is the second largest industry?

Grass is very big business, whether it be on lawns, cemeteries or sports fields. That was the discovery of the American Golf Course Superintendents Association, who programmed a satellite to determine the importance of turf grass.

It was also the discovery of the Ontario Turf Grass Research Foundation of which the greenskeeper of the North Halton Golf and Country Club, Alan Beene, was a founding member. The Foundation's 1982 study of turf grass in Ontario showed \$150 million was spent on golf course care. About \$15 million was spent caring for Ontario's 10,000 acres of cemeteries.

Money is spent on grass through fertilizer, mowing and trimming machines, and manpower. There are a lot of little fellows out there making extra money cutting grass. And if you aren't paying someone to mow your lawn then you are spending your valuable time, your weekend time, cutting it. If the people of Halton Hills combined their

man hours spent working on the lawn and worked on one grand project, imagine what could be accomplished.

But that time will not be spent on anything but lawn maintenance. You must care for your lawn or pay the consequences - snarly neighbors and deep woods barbecuing. In some towns if you don't cut your lawn, town employees will drop by and cut it for a fantastic sum.

Your lawn is really a big green pet. It must be watered and fed with fertilizer. And when you go on vacation it is a good idea to have someone care for it, to let the thieves know you are not away.

Having a demanding green pet isn't everyone's plan. There are those who would replace their lawns with paving stones, swimming pools or rock gardens.

Then there will always be those who believe no home is complete without a green border. Some people go to amazing lengths to maintain their lawn.

While at university I had a roommate who kept a little lawn in a large flower pot. He would carefully cut it with scissors. Mark graduated with a forestry degree.

Despite all the trouble lawns cause, like any pet, they reward their owners. An average size lawn will produce enough oxygen for a family of four. A 150-acre area of turf, about as much turf as the North Halton Golf and Country Club has, produces enough oxygen to keep 100,000 people alive for one year. One acre of grass is like a 70-ton air conditioner.

Wonderful statistics, but I bet those who hate pulling the cord on their lawn mower once a week are thinking, "Wouldn't I get more oxygen out of my lawn if I never cut it?"

SOMETHING HAPPENS

Perhaps it's the first kiss of summer that stirs the blood perhaps it's the memories of other first kisses.

MARLOWE C. DICKSON RR2, Beeton

UNTITLED

Laid to rest forever a dozen times you shake loose the bonds of my oblivion too frequently like a Shakespearean spectre You're frightening but familiar and friendly

MARLOWE C. DICKSON

Every reporter knows remand game

Every reporter who's ever covered court knows about the remand game.

A remand, or delaying the hearing of a charge in court, should only occur when there exists a legitimate reason for postponement.

In actual fact, it is used for all kinds of reasons.

Perhaps your side has a weak case. Then seek a remand, maybe the other guy or the witness won't show up.

But that is only the most obvious example.

Every judge who's ever sat has, at one time or another, lectured both Crown and defence attorneys about their continual seeking of remands.

What it does is clog the courts and bring the mechanics of justice into disrepute.

And that is one reason Attorney-General Ian Scott's announcement of an inquiry into the "organization, jurisdiction and structure of the Ontario courts" is welcome.

Scott has appointed Mr. Justice Thomas Zuber of the Ontario Court



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

of Appeal to conduct the inquiry and report by next April.

It isn't just a face-lifting exercise he has in mind, either.

Scott told the legislature he wanted a "fundamental re-thinking of all the assumptions on which our courts have operated since 1792."

He said he personally told Zuber to redesign the whole thing from the ground up.

The inquiry can deal with any question that arises in the organization, structure, jurisdiction or work load of any court of Ontario, from justices of the peace to Court of Appeal.

The only guidelines he set out were that changes should make the courts more accessible to the public, there be a proper level of service, and that this be done in an "efficient and economical manner."

A spokesman in the Attorney-General's ministry said Scott indicated no further direction for Zuber because he didn't want to prejudge the outcome.

Which leaves plenty of scope.

There is a bewildering array of existing courts in Ontario. Nobody except the lawyers can keep track of which is which and which does what and how they function.

There are provincial courts where criminal offences are tried - except for murders or where the accused opts for a jury trial, in which case the case moves to district or Supreme Court.

There are family courts that deal with support custody, young offenders and child protection. Divorce, however, requires going to Supreme Court.

Except, of course, in Hamilton-

Wentworth, where there has been a so-called "unified family court" since 1977 which handles divorce as well as the normal family court matters.

Small claims courts, which fall under the civil division of the provincial court, are normally staffed part-time by lawyers and can only handle matters up to \$1,000.

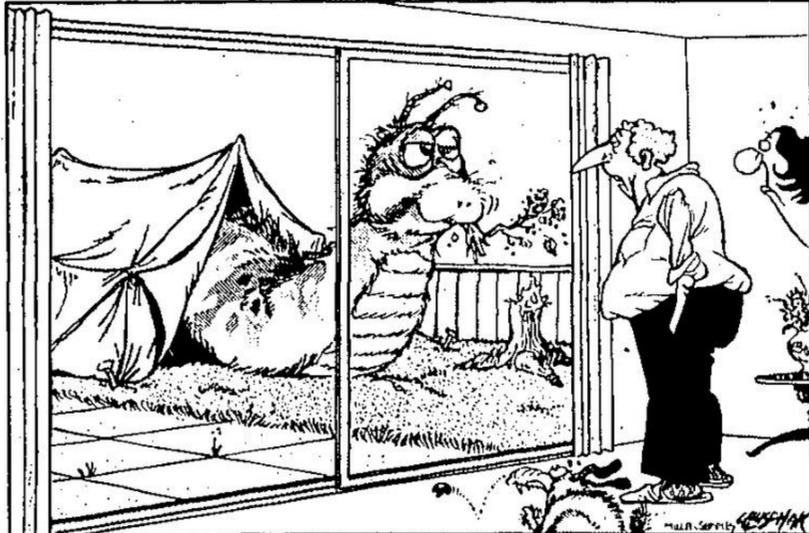
Naturally this isn't universally true. In Toronto small claims is staffed by full-time judges and handles cases up to \$3,000.

Then there are justices of the peace, who, contrary to a widely-held perception, cannot marry people anymore. But they can swear out warrants.

It is, as the ministry spokesmen said, all "too complicated for ordinary people," not to mention costly and uneven in service.

And when you throw in strange rituals such use and abuse of the remand, it can reach absurd proportions.

Scott wants Zuber to say how that can be changed for the better. Good.



TENT CATERPILLAR SITUATION'S EASING - ONLY ONE IN THE YARD TODAY

Citizens' forum

Favors death penalty

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was filed with The Herald for publication.

Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, House of Commons, Parliament Buildings

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on the subject of capital punishment, which I am in favour of.

Capital punishment should be reinstated for the following crimes: treason, contract killing, premeditated murder, and murder of policemen and guards. I feel that penalties promote public respect for law and protect persons, property and freedom. I feel capital punishment will serve as a deterrent for future murderers and will reduce the crime rate. Many citizens feel capital punishment is a necessity; it protects and cleanses society of criminals.

Another important factor dealing with capital punishment is the cost of keeping a murderer in prison. We pay for someone who has taken a life. I understand that it costs approximately \$45,000 and more for each person per year in prison.

When people look at this system, there is nothing there to serve as a deterrent. People just do not think twice about committing a murder.

I feel there should be a vote for capital punishment. The politicians should come to the people and ask them what they want. Instead of this, the politicians took it away, voting according to conscience.

The death penalty is irrevocable, but it is deserved. It represents the only just and proper penalty for murders as brutal as the murders of today. I feel that killing in self-defence is the only justification for taking a human life.

A person who kills once will have the ambition to kill again. If Cana-

dians want to live in a safe, protected society, there must be a form of punishment that frightens society from committing some of the more graver crimes.

I hope these points will be carefully considered. Taking action on these points will only benefit our society.

I am, Sir, Yours very truly, Denise Duffie, Georgetown

Unheard people

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an open letter to Premier David Peterson.

Dear Sir,

Now that the province wide doctors' strike is "over", maybe someone in the government will care to hear the countless unheard people - the patients, oh yes, the voters.

We heard and read all about extra billing (Bill 94). What we don't know is what extra billing consists of. How was it created and for what reason? We know that approximately 3-6 per cent of doctors extra bill. Why then did extra billing become an issue?

It is about time to put the cards on the table in this well played political poker game. We resent that our freedom of choice in health care has been sold for a mere \$10 per head in the form of federal transfer payments. I wonder how much more accessibility to health care our \$10 will bring us? Yet if one was billed \$10 by their doctor they would know what they were getting for it.

To control spending in our already underfunded health care system the government has no choice but to curtail already restricted services. That decision has been taken away

from the medical profession. We as patients, taxpayers and voters have been deprived of our rights to obtain necessary health care under the guidance of our doctors.

We are the victims of a government monopoly on health care insurance (O.H.I.P.) since the government's monopoly on health care insurance, the health budget has escalated to \$9.2 billion or one third of the provincial budget. Those who implement it realize that something has to be done. The tax dollars will be unable to cover the escalating cost to support the present health care increasing progress is therefore beyond comprehension.

Citizens, taxpayers and voters who require progressive, advanced treatment and are concerned about the future of medical care, have been left out when their all-important decision was made. For the government to admit defeat on this issue would cost votes.

We have been given medicine from the government instead of our doctors. Medicine we are forced to swallow.

Carla Berg on behalf of Citizens for Choice in Health Care, P.O. Box 347, Station P, Toronto, MSS 2J0

Scholar says thanks

Dear Sir,

I am writing with regard to the drinking and driving scholarship. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the participating sponsors in awarding me the scholarship.

The award will be helpful with regard to my university career.

Yours truly, Janet Friskney

30 years ago

The Georgetown N and G's will not be winning their third Ontario championship in four years. The club has been playing in Brampton while their home arena receives renovations. The Georgetown team folded because of poor attendance in Brampton.

The Georgetown Girls Pipe Band returned from a trip to Sault Ste. Marie where they were part of the Highland Games. Ann Luke, pipe major, appeared on television and radio there. The band placed third.

Smith and Stone took out a permit for a \$200,000 expansion. Building inspector Douglas Wilson reported \$542,345 in construction in June, bringing the year's total to \$1,378,615. The 1985 year figure was \$3,825,075.

15 years ago

Limehouse flyer Barbara Brotherton completed the 2,442 mile powder puff derby from Calgary to Baton Rouge. She and her co-pilot, Ruth Bliss, were competing for the \$10,000 first prize, but they finished out of the money.

Lisa Gillett was named Miss Georgetown as part of Western Days. The 24 Ann Street winner is a clerk at Joe's Tuck Shop.

After 15 innings the winner of the Glen Williams Men's Pastball Club Tournament was decided. Rockwood defeated Collingwood 6-5. Rockwood pitcher John Salmon, started a three run rally in the 15th inning.

10 years ago

Mike Dixon had 20 U.S. colleges interested in his running skills. Mike made the decision to take a scholarship from East Tennessee State where he will be running for their cross-country team.

Bill Pomeroy set a world record at the Brampton Air Show. He was clocked at 201.1 miles per hour before the metal housing of his propeller burst apart. The previous record in the light weight class was 172 miles per hour.

Kari Aitken, 15, of Acton took first place in an international public speaking contest. Kari told a Bible story at the Eastern United States Junior Divisional Competition at Schron Lake, just north of Albany, New York.

5 years ago

Steve Springle had the best average of the 34 who graduated from Grade 13 at Acton High School. He had a 90.2 per cent and just edged out Vincent Lee who had an 89 per cent average.

Louise Morwick graduated with the highest average of any Grade 13 student at Georgetown District High School. Her average of 95.3 per cent was followed by Derek Ferguson's 94.7 per cent average.

Georgetown's nationally ranked cross country runner, Ian Clark, returned to Georgetown after a year of study at Berkley's University of California. Among his accomplishments in the year was a second place finish in the University of California Invitational in which he broke the school record by 25 seconds.

Georgetown runners Doug Smith and Bruce McIntyre will compete in the Canada Games. The two runners will be competing for the Ontario team in Thunder Bay.

In your opinion

How do you feel about negotiating a freer trade deal with the United States?

Do you support freer trade?



Mike Boyle: "I guess I'm for it. In a sense it's part of our economy. Free trade throughout Canada is part of our society and extending it to our largest trading partner is probably a good idea."

Denny Foley: "I'm all for it if both countries can benefit equally."

Vicky Holl: "I think there should be free trade. It would likely help the economy."

Sieve Cartwright: "I guess if it's done properly, it's a good thing. As long as we don't lose our identity in the rush to have it implemented."

George Phlak: "Well I think the principle if good, there's two sides to it. It could be good and it could be bad."

Len Walker: "Well, as far as what I understand there's two sides to it. It could be good and it could be bad."

WRITE US A LETTER

What do you think about what is happening in Halton Hills...in this province...across the nation and around the world?

We are interested in your opinion. The Herald invites its readers to express their opinion through our citizen's forum section.

All letters must be signed and include an address. Your phone number should be listed in order for us to verify the signature. Please keep your letter brief and to the point. The maximum length is 400 words.

The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters as to length, good taste and possibly libelous material.

Send your letters to: The Herald, 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 3Z4

POETS' CORNER