

A matter of need in the north



Queen's Park

By Derek Neilson

Toronto-The decision by the Liberals to move about 650 staff positions to the North is good politics. Whether it is good government is another matter. Still, politically it is marvellous. And it will, without doubt, benefit the North. It buttresses the Liberals' announced commitment to northern development and diversification of the economy in concrete terms. These are real jobs moving North, many of which will likely be filled by local people. And new buildings to meet specialized needs are going to be erected to house the various parts of

ministries going there. As Premier David Peterson said, the transfers will "to some extent" help offset the resource-based dependence of the North. There is a sometimes used rule-of-thumb that the ripple effect from each of those staff jobs will generate three more jobs in the local economy. About 360 positions are going to Sault Ste. Marie, with 290 places elsewhere, mainly in Sudbury. But if it is a good thing for the North and for the Liberals' political chances in the next election, it is less clear that it is good government. The cost will be enormous, probably more than \$35 million. More important, such moves are incredibly disruptive, both for staff and in the loss of efficiency that comes from divorcing portions of ministries from the centre of both bureaucratic and private sector action. For example, the Ontario Geological Survey is going to Sud-

bury, yet most of the people it deals with, the exploration departments of mining companies, are in head offices in Toronto. And how hard it can be on staff is illustrated by the move to Kingston that the Conservatives ordered OHIP to undertake in 1980. It involved almost as many staff positions as the Grit move to the North and took two, and one-half years to accomplish. What is most striking is that while 612 staff positions were transferred, only 83 people actually moved. The same ratio may or may not apply in the current move. The suspicion is that different programs will transfer at different rates. For instance, it is said that when the conservatives moved about 20 staff positions of the Aviation and Fire Management Centre to the North in 1978 only one person didn't go. It might be expected that the 145 Lottery Corporation jobs will be less

likely to take people North than the 14 or so mining health and safety posts in the Labor Ministry, which now do most of their work in the North. The biggest single shift, of course, is the 275 jobs in Northern Development and Mines going to Sudbury. That includes 100 people in the Ontario Geological Survey and the mineral resources branch as well as 95 in planning and administration. But it will also be a major shift sending the 200 positions in the Natural Resources Ministry's forest resources group to the Sault. All these moves will take time. They will cost a fortune, disrupt lives, and increase inefficiency. And their real aim is to help the Grits gain a bridgehead in the North beyond Rene Follin's Cochrane Northriding. Still, they'll also help the northeastern Ontario economy and reduce the psychological isolation that many Northerners feel from government. All in all, perhaps a fair trade.

Hesitant vote

Councillors have had nearly nine years of complaints aired in their council chamber by disgruntled neighbors of the Croatian Cultural Centre. Last week, at a public meeting, they took a hardline stand with the Centre, hoping to put an end to the regular complaints about noise, traffic, trespassing, smoke and littering by the neighbors. By saying no to the Centre's application to make changes on its Norval property, councillors hopes to keep these neighbors home, happily tending their goats or plowing their fields -- home, instead of in the council chambers complaining. In an 8 to 5 vote last week, councillors voted down the Centre's application, even though the Centre was willing to keep maximum attendance down to 700 cars or 2,000 people at any one function, put up fences and trees and enter into a site development agreement with the town to do all these things. The wisdom of that decision obviously didn't sit too well with councillors, who, Monday night, again by an 8 to 5 vote, deferred the Centre's application until some solutions can be worked out by the town, the Centre and its neighbors to these neighborhood problems. This is a farsighted step council is taking. Through an agreement into which it will have input, the town will have more control over the use of the Centre, and hopefully neighbors' chins will stop wagging. We disagree with councillors saying no to the Centre last week. Hoping the Centre will give up its plans and sell out, is hoping for too much. All the Centre has done over the years is enjoy its land and show the town to be weak when it comes to handling noise, smoke and trespassing violations. It was a tough decision for council and more tough decisions will follow. Property rights must be acknowledged. However, it's hard not to acknowledge, also, that the Centre's past record of co-operation with its neighbors isn't a spotless one. It's the one thing that stands between it and council support for the Centre.

Welcome 'on deck'

What's handsome and spanking new in Acton? The Prospect Park boathouse, of course. Despite being plagued by vandalism during construction, the boathouse and snackbar are now ready to handle the crowds. It was back in February that the fledgling town council approved \$140,500 for the 2,500-square-foot boathouse Recreation Director Tom Sheppard wanted. It's got cedar shingles and a roof that extends over a wooden deck, perfect for idling those lazy days off when the sun's too strong at the park. You can't beat the view over Fairy Lake and the swimming area. Saturday, join in the celebrations planned for the official opening of the boathouse. A fancy ceremony and picnic is planned by the recreation department. All are welcome. You can check out that deck, too, while the youngsters take part in games below, from noon to 2 p.m. For Fairy Lake, the boathouse serves to centralize park activities, making it easier for town staff to supervise them. In the long run, it may help make for quick responses to swimming or boating accidents, and prevent tragedies Acton has seen in the past.

Life without television



Staff Comment

By SANDY CAMPBELL
Herald Staff

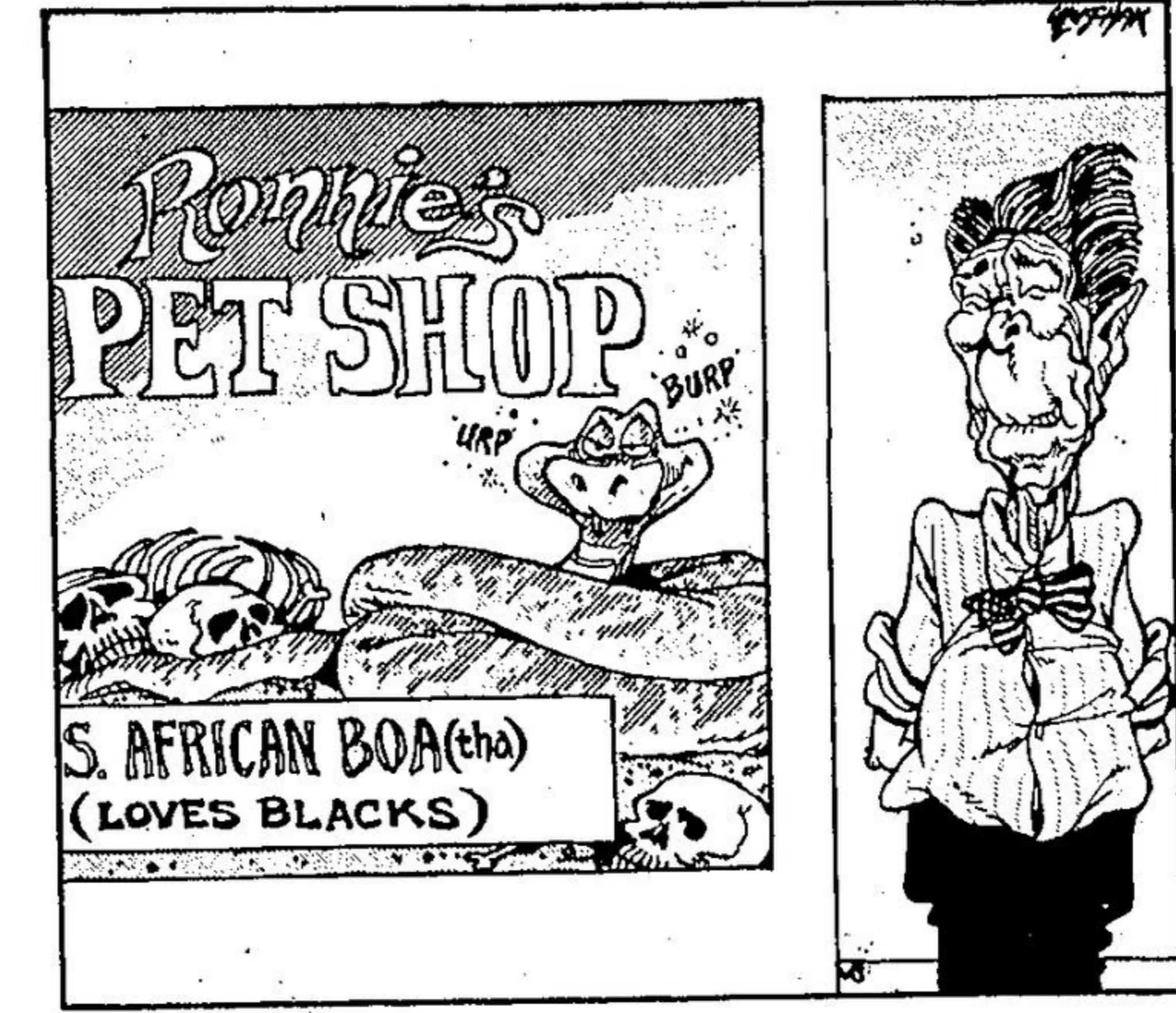
"Come on dear, let's go to Zellers and see what's on the tube." Chances are some of the people standing in the television section of department stores, watching the last minutes of Jaws or The Blues Brothers, are not considering buying a VCR. They are there because they don't have a television of their own. I don't own a television and you might find me watching an occasional flick at Zellers. Where else can you see wonderful movies in the privacy of your town's department store? Giving up television does not necessarily save money. What is saved in electricity and cable is spent going to the movies, on gas to friends homes who have televisions, or on long distance calls to the Drive-In only to find out that Friday the 13th has been resurrected once more. The greatest savings are measured in hours. Not that the glue ball/couch potato theory doesn't

still apply. It just isn't as chronic. Instead of sitting down, or the more desired position, lying down, before the glow box, one tends to lie down and read. Books are man's best friends, if he does not have a television or a dog. If there is a wall of books making you feel guilty every time you pass them, give up on TV for a night or two. Put a scratch or bend in that library card by using it. I did and I don't feel much better for it. Reading books is just fine. At least it is a step toward doing more valuable things with the hours in the day. If that happens to be the aim. Changing channels of life by not watching television doesn't make me fill up my time with self improvement projects. I thought it might. I am no trimmer, my guitar playing has not improved, my French is no better. However, I am a better Scrabble player. I don't feel I am accomplishing all I thought I would be. Perhaps I am still a rookie after three months without TV. I hope that when I get a television, and I plan to soon, that I will remember all the ways the hours can be used. Whether one has a television or not it still takes discipline and determination to accomplish what is meaningful. I have found that change is in the heart and not in what is distracting it.

POETS' CORNER

Great Poets
Diversify.
Some die in stanzas;
Many alone,
Or in couplets.
A few lose all reason
And
Rhyme on forever.

Avant jour -- Aube.
Ante dies -- Aurora.
Before day -- Dawn.
He arose and silently
Descended from the mountain,
By ROBERT D. RENNIE
Acton.
(The Bard of Acton)



Halton's History

from our files

30 years ago

The field of Rodney Oats on the farm of Mac Alexander in Norval won the field crop competition sponsored by the Halton Agricultural Society. Second place went to Dr. W. James of Georgetown. Miss Beatrice Hume of 44 Main Street North will be given the Federation of Teachers' Association's highest honor. She will receive an honorary membership at the 50th annual dinner of the organization which has 17,000 members. Peter Scholz received a telegram for the Minister of National Defence stating he was accepted as an Air Force cadet. He will receive officer training at Royal Roads College in British Columbia. The Vickie Lay school of dancing is preparing to re-open in Georgetown. The school operated in the auditorium of Knox Presbyterian Church and had 80 boy and girl dancers last year.

Citizens' forum

Four way stops needed

Dear Sir,
I just wonder if the Halton Hills or Wellington Counties are waiting till someone dies before they do something about the Ballinacree Town Line at the intersection of the Eighth and Ninth Lines. There was a terrible accident a couple of weeks ago at the Ninth Line and the Town Line where many were hurt. Between the Eighth and

Ninth Line there are six children living in homes and the parents are afraid to let them ride bikes because of the speed of the cars and trucks, they all do more than the speed limit. Something must be done. There should be four-way stops put at the Eighth and Ninth Lines or a flashing light which would slow the traffic down. If there is anyone who would

agree to this letter and is interested in doing something about this, please call and give me your name.

Sincerely,
Andrea DiMonte,
RR5 Georgetown
877-6832

Invitation to smell the flowers at town's most beautiful garden

Dear Sir,
We were indeed honored and pleased upon learning that our home and garden had been rated by the Horticultural Society as the most beautiful among those entered in the recent competition. At the same time we must concede that we have many advantages over other contestants in the siting of the property and in the time available to develop it to its present state. Because the competition is intended to act as an incentive to home owners generally to beautify their surroundings, we believe that there should be at least two categories of properties considered to enable smaller homes to compete. This would be primarily in garden arrangements and floral display, where extensive landscaping is not a factor. The fostering of more neighborhood competition

would be an asset. We note, in your article that "Gardens may be seen at the owner's discretion". We appreciate that those interested in viewing our property may be reluctant to invade our privacy. We therefore invite any interested persons to visit the site on Sat. Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and/or Sun. Aug. 24 from 1 to 6 p.m. at which time one of us should be on hand. Visitors should not expect too much expertise on horticultural matters and are asked to please not park inside the grounds. Albert and Margaret Dewdney,
9 Confederation St.,
Glen Williams.

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 3Z6

In your opinion

A fulfilling summer?



"I've set definite goals for myself this summer as opposed to the previous one," said Tom Carswell. "That is to wine and dine as many ladies as possible in search of the ideal wife. So far my record is as bad as Dave Stubb's. I'm 0-5."

"Our family went to Nova Scotia and it was the highlight of the summer because we had never been there before," said Moe Leeking. "It was a nice trip."

"I've just been bumbling around with my buddies," said Brian Doherty. "We've been going out heading to the beach on the weekends."

"Business-wise it's been a good summer," said Georgetown Gemini president Dave Kentner. "Personally I've been able to recover from the 19-year-old Georgetown resident is recovering in a Calgary hospital after he was hit by a fellow driver during the restart of the 750 class half-mile competition. Marjorie Nazer of Georgetown will be presenting a mixed media art exhibition at the library-cultural centre. The Market Street resident served as the chief librarian in Georgetown for many years."

15 years ago

Halton Milk Board Chairman Gordon Sinclair crowned Pat Murray of RR1 Acton, Dairy Princess in a ceremony on the Murray farm. Pat will represent Halton at the dairy princess competition at the Canadian National Exhibition. Wanda Bryan of 24 Gairay Drive, arrived home from the Hospital For Sick Children in Toronto. She underwent a successful kidney operation. Arlene Crawford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Crawford of 21 Durham Street, married George Ferguson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ferguson of 111 Raylawn Cres. They are making their home in Georgetown. Professional wrestler Haystack Calhoun was part of the feature event on the wrestling card at Georgetown Memorial Arena. Calhoun teamed up with Whipper Watson in a match against The Love Brothers.

10 years ago

Rud Whiting will host a weekly half hour show on Halton Cable featuring interesting conversation and new ideas. He said his one term in political office in Ottawa will help him, because he has been involved in television production from the "other side". Marion Faulkner is the only female in Canada registered as a member of the Canadian Society of Club Managers. She is the manager of the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Ward 4 voters are showing they support Councillor Ric Morrow who is circulating petitions opposing the proposed municipal complex. He said he plans to introduce a motion at council to halt the architectural planning for the 800,000 complex. Mike Dixon finished far behind the winner of the 5,000 metre race at the Canadian Junior Track and Field Championships held in Sudbury. Mike, who will be attending East Tennessee State University on an athletic scholarship, said he has been training for cross country and did not expect to do well in the track races.

5 years ago

Georgetown Jaycees announced nominees for the "Outstanding Young Farmer". Nominees from Halton Hills include beef farmer Paul Hamilton from Acton and dairy farmer Les Dolson of Georgetown. Georgetown's Bruce McIntyre placed fourth in the 10,000 metre final at the Canada Games in Thunder Bay. The runner finished 43 seconds behind the winner from British Columbia. Pelvic injuries gained in a motorcycle crash may prevent Jon Cornwell from winning the Canadian National Dirt Track championship. The 19-year-old Georgetown resident is recovering in a Calgary hospital after he was hit by a fellow driver during the restart of the 750 class half-mile competition. Marjorie Nazer of Georgetown will be presenting a mixed media art exhibition at the library-cultural centre. The Market Street resident served as the chief librarian in Georgetown for many years.