

NDP edging toward a breakthrough

If we hadn't experienced so many unfulfilled expectations before, it would be tempting to conclude the federal New Democratic Party is edging toward the threshold of a great electoral breakthrough.

Certainly, many in the party feel that it's coming. And just about every pollster in the country is telling us that the NDP's current pinnacle of popularity goes far beyond earlier surges. And when they point to Quebec, where all polls indicate the New Democrats now are better liked than the Mulroney Tories, you can't really dismiss the optimism.

Yet, given the party's history at the polls, it's understandable that we should be hedging our bets - at least until a few months before the next election. As witnessed in Quebec two years ago, it doesn't take long for trends to reverse.

At the recent convention of New Democrats in Nova Scotia, delegates heard predictions from all

speakers, including federal leader Ed Broadbent, that there would be a dramatic increase in NDP seats when the next election is held. The same thing is being said in many other provinces.

In Ottawa, the party is on track with its plans for a \$5 million budget for the next federal election. This would double the expenditures of 1984 when the New Democrats elected 30 MPs. Party Secretary Dennis Young has been talking about "a more sophisticated, high-

technology campaign" featuring greater use of polls and advertising.

Should the current standings be maintained, it's virtually certain that the NDP will do an inordinate amount of campaigning in Quebec. And party officials are confident the only thing standing between them and a dramatic breakthrough is an equally dramatic resurgence for the Tories. They don't foresee a Liberal sweep under the leadership of John Turner.

They also say their optimism is more solidly founded this time because of the depressed state of the Parti Quebecois, which had previously provided a home of sorts for left-leaning Quebecers. Even former PQ Premier Rene Levesque has been saying nice things about the NDP, leading more than one pundit to predict his return to politics under that party's banner.

LIBERALS CITED

When you react with caution to various NDP predictions, officials like to point to last year's stunning victory in Quebec of Robert Bourassa's Liberals. You are reminded that just nine years

earlier, the provincial Grits were not only humiliated at the polls, but Mr. Bourassa was totally discredited. He even left the country for a time, amid predictions that he would never again seek elected office.

The Bourassa-led Liberals now hold 99 of the province's 122 seats. And, bearing this in mind, NDP officials say it's no joke for them to talk of 15 or 20 members from the province's 75 federal ridings.

Given the current situation in Quebec, with the popularity of the Mulroney government in an apparent free-fall, and with continuing reservations about the Liberal Party leadership, coupled with the rigor mortis affecting the once-influential Parti Quebecois, there is clearly ground available for political cultivation.

And this time, NDP predictions may well be borne out. It's just that, since the party was formed in 1961, we've gone through nine federal elections listening to some rather grandiose forecasts from Newfoundland to British Columbia, and the party has never had more than 32 MPs in the House of Commons.

Town needs one

When it comes to preserving history, every town needs a LACAC. That was more than evident after a meeting last week.

LACAC stands for Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. Halton Hills has a steering committee devoted to starting up a heritage preservation group.

We need a LACAC to make property owners, town councillors and businessmen more aware of what makes our town unique.

There are hundreds of historic structures and places in Halton Hills that need to be preserved. We are lucky, in that not too many developers have had a chance to turn our community into a glitzy, 21st-century glass and mirrored city block.

LACAC's don't stand in the way of progress. They can't force a landowner or developer to destroy or tear down a historical building. A heritage committee can only delay the wrecker's ball for a period of time, while trying to negotiate and educate the landowner.

Preserving the past can only be effectively carried out if a LACAC has support from their town councillors. Council makes a decision about the steering committee's report Oct. 18. We encourage them to endorse the group's objectives.

Let's preserve the past for our future generations. We have a gold mine of heritage properties just waiting to be developed. Those heritage properties already developed deserve a right to be preserved.

Only hypothetical

Putting a school AIDS policy in place, in order to be prepared for the worst, seems logical enough.

However, we wonder how this hypothetical policy will stand up, should there be a growing AIDS problem in Halton. As it is now, there are no students or teachers who have AIDS. That's according to our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Graham Pollett.

It's easy enough to convince parents their children are safe when there is no problem. However, should AIDS spread among persons in this area, we expect people to act no differently than they have in the United States.

Parents who fear for their child's safety will not calmly accept that a medical officer is the only one who should know about an affected teacher or student in the school system.

Parents will demand to know who the affected students are and some will most certainly pull their children out of school once they find out.

AIDS is still very much a misunderstood disease. Although our provincial government is spending thousands of dollars on information programs, there will be panic-stricken and scared citizens.

We doubt whether parents will agree that our medical officer should have the responsibility to decide whether or not children with AIDS should be allowed to attend school.

Most people call themselves socially progressive when it comes to discrimination, but not when it means their child could be exposed to a life-threatening disease.

New breed moving to the country



Editor's notebook

By Dave Roney

"There's a new breed of people moving to the country," says Sam McCall, a man who should know.

Mr. McCall lives on Winston Churchill Boulevard just south of the Fifth Sideroad. He's lived there for 21 years, ever since he decided to move from an unstable environment in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

"When we moved in, the neighbors were super, I was new to the country and had to ask a lot of questions," he remembers.

Mr. McCall is a former jockey who raises race horses and he's down at the track most days when the season is at its peak, looking after his entries.

He'd like to keep his mind on the business of racing horses, but all is not what it should be on this rural setting.

The old days, when neighbors helped neighbors, shared advice and machinery are over. It seems the rural stability has been shaken by an influx of city folk and those whose intentions aren't all that neighborly, he says.

On one side of his farm he has a neighbor who keeps a slaughterhouse and raises a variety of animals. The two neighboring farms would complement each other, or at least not prove bothersome, except for what amounts to a disrespect for another's property rights. Mr. McCall is having problems with his neighbor's weeds which are about a foot tall and a town weed inspector had to be called in.

Apart from that, his neighbor's animals have on a number of occasions broken through the fence and ravaged his property and the grave site of a favorite 20-year-old racehorse.

There are no apologies from the neighbor, only harsh words and rudeness, he says.

On the other side of his farm, Mr. McCall lives beside an absentee landlord. The man, apparently, is holding the property for speculative purposes and rents the land out.

A while ago his neighbor built a holding pond which flooded water onto the horse farm during heavy rainfall and run-off. The town engineering department was called in and the pond was a violation of a property bylaw. The neighbor should have taken it down but he didn't, Mr. McCall said. The flooding of water turned to ice in the winter, making it impossible to use part of his farm for winter training of his horses, he said.

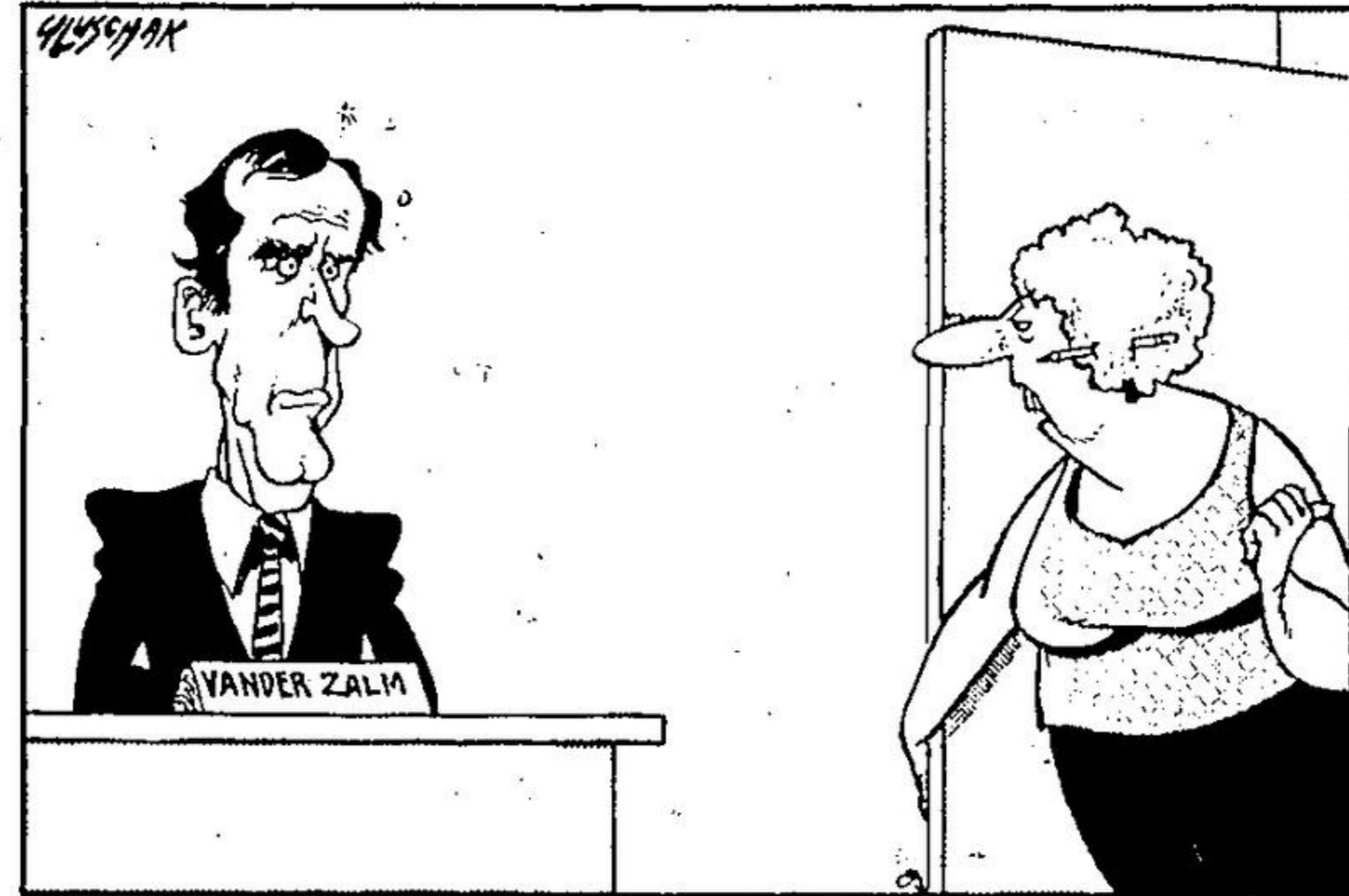
A fence problem with a neighbor was only resolved after a Town representative made it clear with a homeowner it was his responsibility to fix the problem.

A friendly neighbor to neighbor chat didn't help. In another case, over trespassing livestock, Mr. McCall had to call the police in order to have the problem rectified.

Pointing to the farm property north of his, Mr. McCall says, "It sounds like I want to bury them, but all I want is peace."

The farmer hasn't exhausted all his avenues of protest. In fact, he's just starting to contact a variety of government agencies that can hopefully help him.

It's a shame it's resorted to government policing. All this retired jockey wants is some respect from his neighbors.



Citizens' forum

Right to exist for all people

Dear Sir,

How can we help refugees? Much of Canada's population consists of refugees or descendants from refugees.

The following is a partial list of emigrants to Canada starting from United Loyalists, Irish, Scottish, Croations, Lithuanians, Estonians, Germans, Polish, Hungarians, Czechoslovakian, Sikhs, Afghans, Armeanians, Pakistanis and now Tamils. These people came to Canada because of persecution in their native land.

They would not come if they had a right to their own democratic country. Canada or U.S. is the next best place to live.

After a few generations of living in

North America their culture, language, religion, traditions thousands of years old will slowly disappear. They will adopt our existing way of life, materialism, excessive preoccupation with sports, sex, lotteries.

Many refugees would be disillusioned if they only realized what their future here will become, still its better than death or imprisonment.

Persecuted races of people should have their right to exist. It is up to the free people of the world to force upon those governments that do not respect this right.

Yours truly
John Vorso
Georgetown

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 100 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

Why run a triathlon?



Paul O'Donnell, Toronto: "It's exhilarating and keeps me in shape. It gives me a goal to work towards. Otherwise, I wouldn't train as hard."

Ross McLean, Milton: "Pain. Your body feels really clean afterwards. It gives you a sense of accomplishment."

Gil de Avila, Guelph: "I don't like pain. He (pointing to Ross) influenced me. You really get a runner's high and a good feeling about yourself."

Dave Wilde, Mississauga: "The finish (laughing). Just the feeling of being in shape. The high more than anything else. A personal goal and conquest."

Kathy Gadd, Guelph: "It's a combination event that tests a person's athletic ability more. It demands endurance as well as strength."

Sally needs encouragement to bloom

Helping Sally improve her self-image and her communication skills are the major challenges facing the 10-year-old girl's family and teachers.

Born mentally handicapped and with a cleft palate, Sally is able to make her basic needs known with a few verbal words and a variety of signs. But trying to express her deeper thoughts and emotions is a very frustrating experience.

When the frustration becomes too great, Sally either withdraws into herself, covering her face with her hands, or "acts out" by scratching or hitting herself.

Sally's mother has applied to the Halton Shared Care program for some relief in order to spend time with her other daughter, who is a teenager. Shared Care helps parents of the mentally handicapped children cope by providing consistent care for the child in a foster home setting for up to 14 days a month.

Shared Care foster parents receive training, parent relief, financial compensation and support from the program coordinator.

On the plus side, Sally can dress, feed and bathe herself, and is toilet trained. Although she is capable of brushing her own teeth, Sally requires some supervision to ensure all the teeth get cleaned (especially those that are misplaced due to the cleft palate).

Sally attends classes for the trainable mentally handicapped in Burlington each weekday. In the summer, she attends Camp Can Do.

To inquire about becoming a foster family for Sally, call Halton Shared Care Coordinator, Sharon Hatter at 844-8211 or 335-5757.

Question: Why do you like to run triathlons?

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

The Lorne Scots Band failed to capture the Canadian National Exhibition band trophy for their third consecutive year. The band gave up first place for a fourth place. Not all band members were present.

The first swimming meet ever in Georgetown was held. The Lions Club sponsored the event at the new community pool. Club president, Jim Jones, was emcee and announced results.

Local doctor, C.V. Williams, made Bob Turnbull's "Outdoor Trail" column in the Globe and Mail. Dr. Williams landed an almost 12 lb. pickerel at Lake Isabella in the Parry Sound district.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Harrison of 1 Edward St. were married at St. George's Anglican Church, and had their reception at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. The couple honeymooned in Mexico.

15 years ago

Fashion designer Betty Anne Smith of 18 Delrex Blvd. opened a boutique. The store called "By Bettianne" is on Mill Street in Georgetown and features ready to wear and individually designed clothing.

Paul Mercure became the intermediate champion of the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Paul Armstrong presented the Peter Armstrong Memorial Trophy, named in memory of his youngest brother.

The Norval Mets won their first Intercounty Fastball League championship. They won their last game when pitcher John Hottby tripled and scored two runs in inning 15.

Theodoros Van Klink and Zenaida Funtanilla were married in St. Basil's Church in Vallejo, California. The couple now live at 40 Main Street South in Georgetown.

10 years ago

Jan Morgenroth won her second North Halton Ladies Invitational in a row with a score of 80. Also for the second time, Phyl Monckton was the winner of low net.

Six Georgetown District High School wrestlers were chosen to represent the Central Western Region of Ontario at the Ontario Summer Games. Picked from Georgetown are Bill Bradley, Pete Fournier, Wayne Martin, Rick Rogers, Steve Turner and Bill Leeder.

The Halton Hills Swim Team finished the 1976 summer season with a second place finish at a regional meet in Hamilton. Halton Hills had 17 first places, 17 second places and ten third places.

Halton Hills publisher William Evdokimoff announced the appointment of Bob Rutter as editor of the paper. Mr. Rutter, 28, replaces Bill Johnston, who moved to Yorkton, Saskatchewan where he edits the Enterprise.

5 years ago

Dwayne Cunningham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Cunningham, received his red star certificate for successfully completing a six week army cadet leader training course. He received a plaque as runner up for the best cadet award.

Reverend Jim Boyles is the new minister of St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown. He will be serving the almost 300 families of the congregation.

Susan Budge of RRI Terra Cotta finished second at the Canadian Orienteering championships in Kamloops, B.C. She will re-join the Canadian team for the World Orienteering Championships.

Knights of Columbus members, the Halton Hills Huff and Puffers Oldtimer Hockey Club and others will be trying to raise \$6,000 for the Arthritis Society. Bill Kent is campaign chairman.