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Geography bias

Should a Simcoe firm have won a contract to design a municipal complex for Halton Hills? Two councillors wanted the town to delay a vote for three weeks.

We wonder if a three-week deferral would have made the decision-making process any more fair.

Nov. 10, C.A. Ventin Architects of Simcoe was given the contract ahead of an Acton firm, Sanky Partnership Architects.

The real issue is whether or not local firms should be treated any differently than companies outside of Halton Hills.

Certainly there are advantages in dealing with a local architect. Transportation, phone bills, accommodation and other costs would be less, naturally.

Local firms know their reputation is on the line when they design in the town where they live and work.

But should local firms be given a second "going-over"? We think not. To do so would make council give in to favoritism based on geography.

Rightly so, council has to first weigh a company's experience, the costs, its references and its presentation.

If there are no clear differences between offers, council should choose local firms. It would be unfair and inconsistent for council to favor contracts to local firms based on geography.

A majority victory

Though small in comparison to other housing projects, Acton won a major victory last week.

Plans were announced for 120 new homes to be built in the spring.

The housing development is the psychological boost Acton has been looking for ever since June when Beardmore workers received news their plant would close.

The persistence and hard work of Councillor Rick Bonnette finally paid off. Because three new water wells in Acton were opened in the late summer, the Ministry of the Environment gave their okay.

The significance of the project shouldn't be undermined. "It's the biggest building project in Acton up for approval in 13 years," Coun. Bonnette said.

The development calls for 86 semi-detached units and 32 townhouses, along with two separate homes.

Townhomes and semi-detached dwellings make it possible for young families, seniors and single parents to afford their own home.

In addition, it restores faith in the political system; it shows Acton isn't being ignored. Progress, albeit slow, is being made.

A place in history for Georgetown gyro



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Each discovery made Ken Kuibell's eyes light up like that of a 5-year-old.

Scrunched in front of a Herald microfilm machine, this Mississauga father of three talked excitedly about the secrets of the past.

Georgetown made aviation history back in the early sixties.

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Mr. Kuibell wants to put a Georgetown-made gyroplane in the Ottawa Aviation Museum.

It was here in town that employees of A.V. Rowe formed Avian Aircraft Ltd.

The idea of the gyroplane was to develop a machine cheaper, safer and easier to fly than a helicopter.

"It was so far advanced people didn't accept it," said the bearded Mr. Kuibell.

Mr. Kuibell is a truck driver for the City of Mississauga whose pet project is to have Ottawa accept a gyroplane in its aviation museum.

"I'd like to put the first one in, the Avian brand," he said.

At The Herald to search for clues, he twirled his body with enthusiasm after finding not one, not two, but three pictures of the gyroplane in 1961 editions.

Eyes popping with excitement, he praises former Herald photographer Peter Jones for being on his toes.

The gum-chewing, 32-year-old is a member of the Toronto Roto-craft Club and he is building his own gyrocopter in his basement.

As long as he could remember, Mr. Kuibell has been interested in gyrocopters.

In his club there are about 6 gyroplanes, but in Brantford, there boasts a fleet of 20, he said.

"I think in the home-built category there is a future (for the gyro), but I don't think (otherwise) it will take off," he said.

The rotary wings make the gyroplane ultimately much safer than ultralights, especially in winds of more than 25 miles per hour, he said.

He's looking for people who were originally involved in the project. Mr. Kuibell would only have been 3 years old when the idea was first conceived.

Looking at our microfilms, he was able to confirm the earliest starting date of the company.

In February 1957 the former Avro men made their first attempts to build the short take-off and landing gyro for "business and pleasure".

You can't help but get caught up in Mr. Kuibell's enthusiasm. I hope he comes back to the newspaper soon. He makes me feel like a kid again.

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How many times have you read, heard, or even said that "minority government is good government."

Horse feathers. Look no further than the current Liberal administration in Ontario for proof.

We elect governments to govern, whether the results are good, bad or indifferent.

And minority governments make it very difficult to govern effectively.

Look what has happened here. The Liberals are the government of Ontario. They have an agenda they are pledged to implement.

The New Democrats signed the Accord with the Liberals that brought the Grits to power in exchange for implementing that Liberal agenda, most of which the NDP also supported.

Naturally, the Accord was a broad-brush instrument, outlining the general ideas of agreement but without the details.

More important, the Accord was not a coalition document. It did not

make the NDP part of the government.

Essentially, the New Democrats traded away their right to defeat the Liberal government in exchange for having that government guarantee to do what it campaigned on doing anyway.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

And the Liberals never promised that every nuance of their policies would faithfully reflect the NDP line.

After all, they are Liberals, not New Democrats.

Take a couple of specifics: rent control and pay equity.

Housing Minister Alvin Curling's rent control bill is a complex document that breaks the Accord prohibition of rent increases greater

than four per cent.

The government claims the average will now be 5.2 per cent, although other estimates suggest increases will range as high as 15 per cent depending on type of building, age, and so on.

It was a compromise document that a number of tenant activists and landlords hammered out over months of negotiations.

In theory, it allows landlords a better return on their investment in exchange for which it will stimulate developers to again enter the rental housing market they abandoned a decade ago because they couldn't make money.

The point here is not that the bill is great legislation. A measure of Curling's and his ministry's own confusion is that his people have had to make 100 amendments of their own.

But it is the government's legislation. Opposition threats to gut it - as opposed to improving it - were absurd.

Fortunately, the Conservatives eventually backed down and said they'd let it go through, but this is

already more than two years after the legislation is supposed to be effective.

Then there is pay equity. The Liberals have broken the Accord here by splitting pay equity into two segments: a bill that will apply to the civil service and another that will cover other government agencies as well as the private sector.

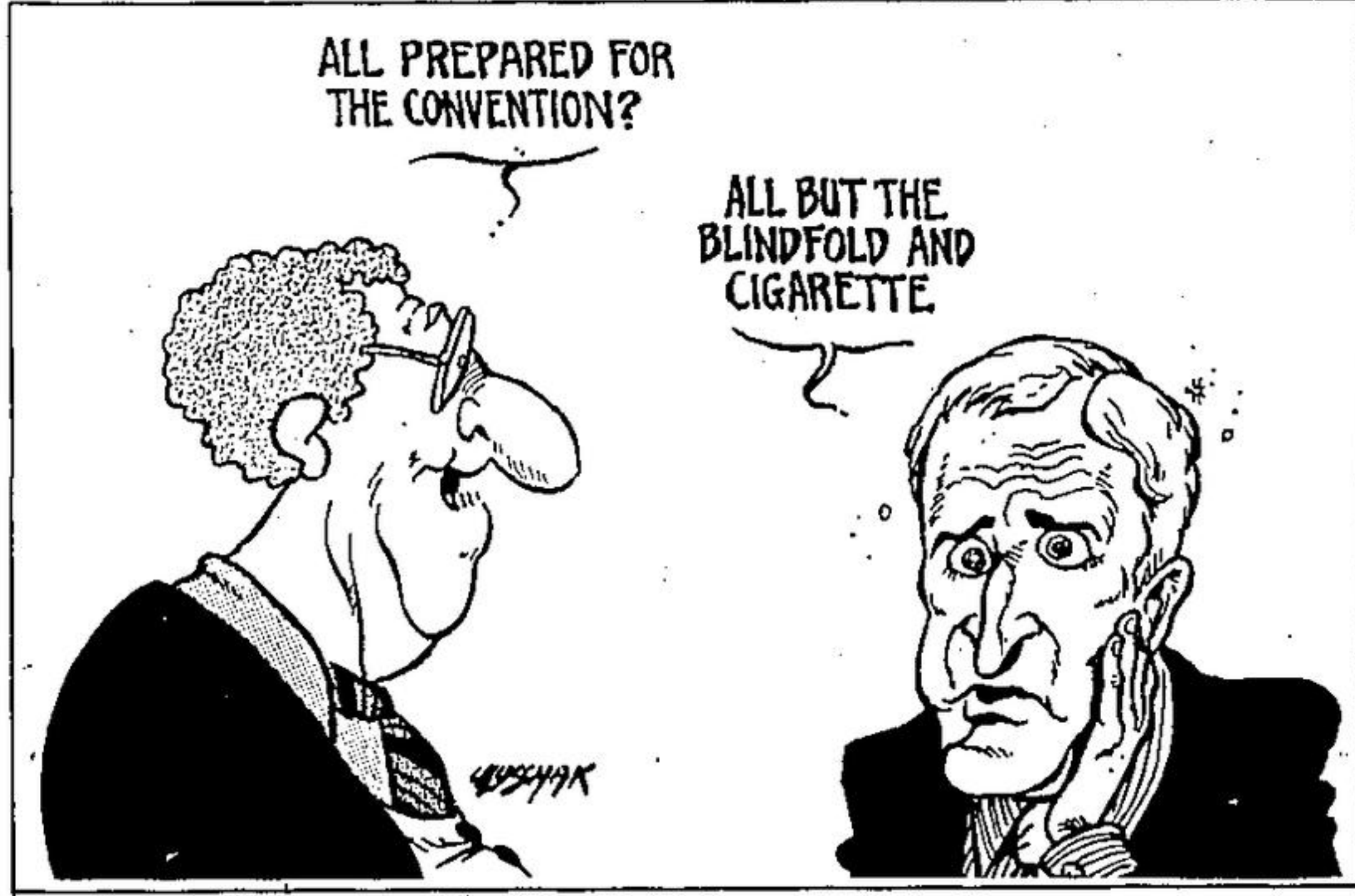
In the interests of administration and keeping Ontario's economy competitive they said it had to be done that way.

Maybe. Maybe not. Again, the point is that the Liberals are the government and carry the responsibility for whatever it is they do.

If they put through unworkable legislation under opposition pressure the resulting mess will be on their doorsteps.

And it is the general public who'll automatically suffer. The two opposition parties, because of the minority situation, have the power to fundamentally change the Liberal legislation.

But they don't have the right because they aren't the ones who will have to live with the consequences.



ALL PREPARED FOR THE CONVENTION?

ALL BUT THE BLINDFOLD AND CIGARETTE

Citizens' forum

Steps to prevent head lice

- Dear parents: The children are settled back into school now...and so are the head lice! The medical term for head lice is pediculosis and it is a universal problem. It is important to realize that these tiny creatures show no respect and are not selective. They love human beings - male, female, poor, rich, clean, dirty, silly or sensible. The louse has no idea whether your house is well-kept or whether your child shampoos regularly. Therefore, a case of head lice is not a problem to be ashamed about, although it is a nuisance. The adult louse is a tiny brown insect about 1/8" long. The female louse lays eggs or nits which are tiny, white ovals. They are firmly attached to the hair shaft with a cement-like substance. The eggs hatch in about 8 or 9 days, become adults, produce more eggs...and so it goes. We can try to prevent outbreaks. Nits and lice do not fly or jump; they can only hitch rides from one head to another. The usual vehicles are hats - baseball hats, knit caps, hockey helmets - combs, hairbrushes, scarves, headsets, and dress-up clothes at school and home. Teach your children not to share these items. Watch for signs that your child has head lice. The louse survives by feeding on blood through the scalp and this will cause itching. You should suspect infestation when your child is continually scratching. Nits are most frequently seen above and behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. Examine children's hair weekly for nits. Sometimes, despite your best efforts, the lice will win the battle and set up shop on your child's head. All is not lost. Here's what to do: 1. Notify the school. Then consult with the school public health nurse about treatment. 2. Use the special shampoo recommended by your pharmacist and/or physician. Follow the directions very carefully. 3. After shampooing, ALL REMAINING NITS MUST BE REMOVED from the hair shafts by picking them off with your fingers and with a fine-toothed steel comb. 4. Check all clothing and bedding which might harbour lice or nits and launder or dry clean. Brushes and combs may be washed in the special shampoo. 5. Check all the other members of your family to see if head-to-head contact has spread the problem. 6. Children must be excluded from school until treatment is complete, that is, all nits and lice are removed. This is the only way the chain of transmission can be broken. Head lice are not nice but they do not transmit disease and they are not a health problem if we control them effectively. Yours truly, Lynda Sellar, Communicable Disease Coordinator Halton Regional Health Department

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Car insurance study needed

Dear Sir, Very recently, Derek Nelson, a Queen's Park columnist for your paper wrote an article on the controversy between Ontario Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister, Mr. Monte Kwinter and myself, Mel Swart, on auto insurance. Specifically, Mr. Kwinter is defending Ontario's private system and I am pushing the alternative of a publicly operated system similar to the systems initiated by the NDP in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia. I am writing to make one correction and some further necessary explanations. Either through a misprint or an inadvertent mistake, Mr. Nelson quoted me as saying that a public plan in Ontario would save Ontario motorists as much as \$750 thousand annually. It should have read: \$750 million annually. In fact the statement which I normally use is: "bet-

ween \$1/2 and \$2 1/2 billion annually. With total auto insurance premiums in Ontario now in excess of \$2 1/2 billion yearly, a 20 per cent to 25 per cent saving in premiums would produce that kind of a result. Mr. Nelson scoffed at both my projection of the savings and Mr. Kwinter's attempt to show that insurance rates in Ontario were below those in the three western provinces. Fair enough - even though our figures are supported by independent surveys and the Minister's are not. The columnist could expect that the NDP might be biased toward the public plans in the west and Mr. Kwinter toward his private insurance company friends here. Unfortunately, Mr. Nelson did not state the main thrust of my continuing conflict with Mr. Kwinter during the past many months. It stems from my demand, and his stubborn refusal, to have an in-depth, up-to-date, independent study done comparing the rates, efficiency, and policies of the public systems with the private system here.

Now we have, in the last few days, an indication by the Minister that he's going to do an "in-depth" study and report on the Slater study and report. Yet he still refuses to do the in-depth comparison with the public plans. Mr. Kwinter and Mr. Peterson have repeatedly paid lip service to "the public's right to know" principle. Given the horrendous crisis in insurance affordability, fairness, and efficiency, there is no plausible reason to refuse to do that comprehensive comparison. Simply contrary to all the government's rhetoric, they don't want the public to know the true situation. If they did the demand by the public for the Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia model would be irresistible. Yours truly, Mel Swart, M.L.A. Welland-Thorold NDP Critic, Consumer and Commercial Relations

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago Sybil Bennett, Q.C., M.P., and Halton's first member of parliament was buried in Greenwood Cemetery following a funeral service in Milton. She represented the county since 1953.

Georgetown's postmaster from 1940 to 1955 was buried in Greenwood Cemetery with full military honors. Lt. Col. Gordon Cousens was a former commanding officer of the Lorne Rifles Scottish (now the Lorne Scots).

The third man to announce himself as a candidate for the December council elections is John Elliott of 48 Hewson Cres. Mr. Elliott has been a resident of Georgetown for two years, since he succeeded Searle Chessel as the CNR station agent.

Quick action by workers of the Beaumont Knitting Mill in Glen Williams prevented disaster. One of the company's largest knitting machines caught fire. Nobody was hurt.

15 years ago The Most Reverend Joseph Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton, blessed and officially opened Georgetown's second separate school. During opening ceremonies of the new St. Francis of Assisi school Bishop Ryan said, "Religious outlook is most important in separate schools, but religion has to begin in the home."

Kay Dwyer received a watch and an anniversary cake for 25 years service for the Department of Justice. For her a party at the North Halton Golf and Country Club was hosted by Judge Kenneth Langdon.

The executive for the Georgetown House League Hockey Association was voted in. The president is Rick Braisby, vice-president, Don Jarvis; secretary, Sheila Broadbent and treasurer Mike Mooney.

Georgetown is part of a Zellers expansion program which will bring one of more than a dozen new stores to town. Don Harris, central Ontario sales operations manager for Zellers, spoke to the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

10 years ago After two years of losing to the Canadian and World Match Snooker Champion, Cliff Thorburn, Acton High School student Brad Martin wants a win. Mr. Thorburn was in Acton to demonstrate some trick shots and to defeat all comers. "Next time I want to break. That way at least I can get one shot", Mr. Martin said.

Debbie Wilson of the Red Cross Youth received an award at a youth appreciation night sponsored by the Optimist Club. Optimist Club President Al Axford and Optimist Larry Cigen presented the award.

Richard Burton was in Georgetown to film the United Artists movie, Equus. The film was shot at the Halex Building, the Soup Pot Restaurant and The Herald.

A second candidate entered the race for public school trustee. Barry Shepherd, 31, will be running against Don Long.

5 years ago Michelle Sybersma, 15, was named the Optimist Club's Junior Youth of the Year for her music, public speaking and participation in community projects. Heather Gibbs, a Grade 13 student at Georgetown District High School, was the Senior Youth of the Year because her athletic talent and volunteer work. Diane Penrice was named the Jaycette of the Year for the second time. Past president Bev Daquano presented the award to Ms Penrice.

POETS CORNER

SPEAK UP When you walk at night Your thoughts I'll share When you're most in need I'll be there... Marie Jocque: "Yes, I am, ZIE, I don't not a lot. I'm mind the winter, not looking for-just the cold, cold stuck to getting wind." MARY McKEN: "When you finally see the light Understand which way to go If you're sure you want me Don't just cogitate, let me know. -By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, Beeton, Ontario"

In your opinion

Looking forward to winter?



VELMA WEST: SPROWL: "I like winter to JROWL: "I enjoy the stage of clear, joy the winter ex-bright and crisp. I cept driving cond-not like it down d i t i o n s south in the sometimes." wintertime." MARY McVEIGH: "Not too much, I'm not too fond of the ice, the snow and the cold." HELEN JOE: "Oh yes, I like winter. I like the snow as long as it doesn't snow on the highway." MARIE JOE: "Yes, I am, ZIE, I don't not a lot. I'm mind the winter, not looking for-just the cold, cold stuck to getting wind." MARY McKEN: "When you finally see the light Understand which way to go If you're sure you want me Don't just cogitate, let me know. -By MARLOWE C. DICKSON, Beeton, Ontario"