

Halton Hills Outlook

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Their Outlook

Things looking good for Halton et al



M.P.P. Report

by Don Knight

At present, Ontario enjoys the strongest provincial economy in the country. Driven by the boom in construction, in small business start-ups and in job creation, Ontario's economic engine continues to drive the Canadian economy. The economic buoyancy experienced in Ontario, however, does not extend to all areas of Canada.

In recent visits to both Alberta and Quebec, Premier David Peterson commented on the interdependence of all the provinces and Ontario's commitment to a strong Canadian economy. In this regard, Premier Peterson pointed out that any free trade agreement between Canada and the United States must provide benefits to all regions of Canada, otherwise a deal with Americans is not worth the cost.

Of particular interest to me were the recent talks between President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney concerning acid rain. In my position, as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Environment, I have had an up-to-date look at what Ontario is accomplishing to reduce the production of those emissions which cause acid rain.

While the Prime Minister and the President talk of research and make promises, Ontario's Countdown Acid Rain program will have reduced our overall acid gas pollution by more than 60 per cent by 1994. If we are to save our lakes and forest industry action must be initiated now and it

must be done on both sides of the border.

Two local organizations have received grants recently which will allow them to undertake projects of local interest. The North Halton Literacy Guild has received a grant of \$30,000 from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to aid those in North Halton with inadequate reading or writing skills. Illiteracy is an often hidden problem which can prevent people from getting or holding jobs in a world where reading and writing are taken for granted.

The second grant may provide an addition to North Halton's growing list of tourist attractions. The Ontario Heritage Horse Park Corporation was awarded a grant to carry out a feasibility study on the establishment of a Heritage Horse Park at the Scotsdale Farm. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation approved the Community Recreation Planning grant in March. If such a project proves feasible, Halton will boast another attraction for visitors.

HOPEFUL

Don't lock me out, I live by the rules. We're not all crooks, we're not all fools. We live in a world, supposed to be free. Opportunities all grabbed, nothing for me. If I had a chance, whatever it be I would cling like roots of a shady tree.

Each day passes, the nights go by I'm not wanted, I wonder why. There are some, could give you a break. They only consider their friends sake. I'll keep trying, hoping to find Some one, some where, with me in mind.

—By ALBERT BROOKS



A Liberal sweep in next election?



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Toronto—How big a sweep? And how savage a beating? Assuming the provincial love-in with Premier David Peterson continues, the sweep belongs to his Liberals in the election most are predicting will occur in June or September.

The beating will come out of the seats of the Progressive Conservative and New Democratic parties.

If historical precedent is any guide, the Liberals will do extremely well. With just under 50 per cent of the vote, the Conservatives won between 78 and 87 per cent of the seats in three elections during the past four decades.

The Liberals are judged to have about the same 50-per-cent support and on the same basis would win between 104 and 113 of the 130 seats in the new Parliament.

That would leave the Tories and NDP to fight over 17 to 29 seats and, in all likelihood, second spot.

Mind you, it is tough to find anyone who actually believes the Grits will do that well.

More common figures are 80 to 90 seats.

That is unless Peterson makes a series of monumental errors that demolish his personal credibility in the eyes of the electorate.

But that is such a long shot as to be literally inconceivable. Peterson is just too good a politician—and one who remembers how much he disliked being in opposition—to stumble so easily.

So, lacking serious blunders, how well does he do?

Today, the Liberals have 51 seats in the smaller 125-seat Legislature. The Tories have 50 and the NDP 23.

All but one of those Liberals is running for re-election.

Normally, with the government's popularity where it is, you'd have to give all those seats to the Grits, but in this case a few of them pose doubts.

Two are held by defectors from the NDP to the Liberals (Dave Ram-

say in Timiskaming and Tony Lupasella in Dovercourt) and turncoats haven't done well in past Ontario elections.

Also, because of redistribution, a few incumbents are facing off against one another. Lupasella, for instance, will face (assuming he wins the nomination) his former brother New Democrat Ross McClellan from the adjacent and now-merged riding of Bellwoods.

Still, the smart money says the Grits will sweep them all.

And that brings us to ridings that are vacant either because they are newly created or because the incumbents aren't running.

There could be as many as 25 of those.

If the 50-per cent support the Liberals have in the polls has any validity, the Grits should take most, if not all, of these.

That will leave about 35 Conservative and 20 NDP incumbents facing stiff Liberal challenges.

Now, being a sitting member is a plus as long as you've done your homework. People often will ignore party labels and vote the man.

For that reason, Tories like Don Cousens in the Toronto-influenced, Liberal-inclined Markham riding—who should fall in any Grit landslide—may survive. He's a superb constituency man.

But it is no sure thing.

Perhaps a dozen seats belonging to each of the two old-line opposition parties can be considered.

The real question mark here is how strong the residual strength of the Tories and New Democrats really is.

In the three elections before the 1985 surge, it was clear the Liberals, win or lose, had secured a solid one-third of the vote. No Tory victory was going to dislodge most of their incumbents.

Do the Conservatives have the same kind of core support that will save their incumbents and keep them the number two party?

Or will their vote be spread thin, with the result they topple like bowling pins, dropping into third?

And will the NDP's core 20 per cent or so be focused on the ridings they hold or will the Liberal tide swamp them as well?

Letters Concert

Dear Sir,

The Brampton Concert Band is a non-profit organization that has served the community for the past 103 years. We perform four fundraising concerts per year. Our next concert "A Salute to Broadway" is scheduled for May 30. This is a busy time for concerts and we require your assistance in publicizing this event.

The Brampton Concert Band gives their regards to Broadway on Saturday, May 30 at Central Peel Secondary School, 32 Kennedy Road North in Brampton. The show begins at 8 p.m. and features the Brampton Musical Society doing excerpts from their recent performance of South Pacific. The Concert Band will have you tapping your toes to such Broadway favorites as The Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof and Cats. Tickets are \$4 each and will be available at the door. For more information call 457-5358 or 451-0174. Thanks for your kind assistance.

C. Johnston,
President of the
Brampton Concert Band

Organ donations

Dear Sir:

This is an appeal that you consider conducting an organ donor campaign among your employees during the week of April 26, or otherwise assist the voluntary agencies that conduct Organ Donor Awareness Week. We ask that you consider consulting your personnel department to see if there is any way that you can help overcome the shortage of donated organs for transplantation.

The purpose of the CMA campaign aimed at physicians and their families is to help the voluntary agencies that have worked hard to promote organ donation. We hope that a large number of physicians, who have not already done so, will sign a donor card and recruit members of their family to follow their example.

Secondly, that physicians, who have the most knowledge about organ transplantation and the need for more organ donors, and their families will serve as an example. We ask that you consider joining Canada's physicians and their families to help increase the number of Canadians who have signed an organ donor card from 26 per cent (Gallup Poll, March 16, 1987) to the needed level of 40 to 50 per cent.

Organ donor cards are available from Transplant International (Canada), 1519 563-3300 or any of the agencies listed on the inside back cover of the organ donation background information booklet.

Yours sincerely,
D.A. Geekie, Director
Department of Communications
and Government Relations.

Mr. Hurst disagrees.
To please, he will not try.
But I spy behind
The gruffness of his word
A kind and gentle soul.
Though he shouts that Bard
Slips, through a shrouded veil
In search of some distant light.
He knows Bard like Dylan Thomas
Will continue through that close
night.

—ROBERT D. HENNIE,
The Bard of Acton