

# Halton Hills Outlook

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## Their Outlook

### Mission in Norway a very hot debate

They're burning the midnight oil in Ottawa these days trying to decide how Canada might realign its defence policies. And one of the hot topics, we gather, is whether we should continue our commitment to help defend Norway.

The funny part of this is that some people are taking it seriously - as if it matters what Canada is committed to do should Norway be invaded.

The latest story to hit some front pages has External Affairs Minister Joe Clark "hinting" that our commitment to send troops to Norway in time of war might have to be withdrawn.

One would get the impression, from reading various accounts, that should the hint materialize, there would be a horrendous shift in the balance of power.

was made back in 1967. Editorial writers, like defence lawyers, know when it's best to overlook certain evidence.

To raise the military aspect of this military agreement would no doubt involve reference to our recent practice run at defending Norway. It took our troops three weeks to complete the friendly invasion - largely because the equipment had to be shipped on one Honduran and three Panamanian ships.

And there is no guarantee these tubs would be available, or seaworthy, in time of need. We might have to commandeer one of the Prince Edward Island ferries.

#### NO IMPACT

In any event, a senior military officer was merely stating the obvious last week when he said that if Norway was threatened, Canadian troops couldn't get in place within 21 days.

And unless the Russians or other potential invaders agree, preferably in writing, to give us a head start, that simply isn't good enough.

It would be a heck of a disappointment to go to the trouble of chartering Honduran and Panamanian vessels and then be late for the war. If there is one thing it's best to be on time for, it's an invasion.

Apart from everything else, it's embarrassing to walk in late.

Going back to the Ottawa Citizen editorial: To discard this commitment would simply not be understood - not by Canadians, not by Norwegians, not by NATO commanders.

I beg, in the strongest possible terms, to differ. Now that we have established it takes three weeks to get there, and Norway doesn't want foreign troops stationed during peacetime, I have this gut feeling that Canadians, Norwegians and even NATO commanders might learn to live without this particular Canadian security blanket.

But I hasten to add that if any of these groups show the slightest disposition to the idea, let's by all means leave things the way they are.

No harm is being done, and if anyone gets a kick out of being Norway's defender, what the heck.



### I believe in capital punishment

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
The following was filed for publication in The Herald.

Dear Mr. Mulroney,

I am Robin MacLeod, as a concerned citizen I would like to state my opinion on the reinstatement of capital punishment. I have seriously thought about it and I believe you should bring back capital punishment.

Capital punishment should be brought back only for those who take another's life in a planned way. The last two people that were hung was in 1962 in Toronto. Some people say that you should feel sorry for the killer and try to rehabilitate him. I believe that it is a waste of time and tax payers money to rehabilitate someone. They say that in Canada they will give the killer life. Life in Canada isn't life it is only 25 years. Why do judges say that they are going to give you life when they really aren't? If they say you are going to get life in prison, you should get life in prison. Life in prison to me means life, until you die, not only 25 years.

I really feel that capital punishment should be brought back maybe there wouldn't be as many murders. There are many different types of capital punishment that you could bring into effect. Some of the types of capital punishment that could be brought into effect are: Hanging, electric chair, putting the killer in front of a firing squad, lethal injection, gas chamber and the guillotine. Capital punishment is a great thing, why should you let the killer live. If you kill someone you should also die. Putting someone in jail or reform school is unwise because in my view they get good treatment while they are in there and when they are paroled they can kill someone else. If one person kills another person they should also die. Capital punishment is the best way to stop murder. If capital punishment is brought back people will think twice before committing murder.

Yours sincerely,  
Robin MacLeod

### Thanks for your help

Dear Sir,  
I deeply appreciate the coverage your newspaper gave to Volunteer Week, April 26 to May 3.

There are approximately 1,042,000 volunteers active in Ontario every year. The value of this participation can be conservatively estimated at 620 million dollars worth of work each year. If we look for figures closer to home, a 1987 study estimated that in Halton Hills, 106,161 hours of volunteer service are given per year. This figure is probably conservative as only 53 per cent of the agencies polled found time to respond. To elaborate further on Peter Pomeroy's remarks at the Volunteer Reception on April 27, volunteers in Halton Hills indeed form the basis of community life. Countless services would cease to exist without voluntary involvement.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Anderson,  
Coordinator,  
North Halton Volunteer Bureau

### You don't have to love my worm hobby

If I want to go out to the backyard and spend all day digging worms, it is anyone's business?

If I love worms so much, I fill my fridge with jars stuffed with fresh worms, should anyone care?

If I'm so nuts about worms that I build glass-fronted worm farms all over my living room, should my friends worry?

I'm operating, of course, on the principle that I live alone, I'm not asking anyone else for help with the worm collecting. I'm not digging on anyone else's property and I certainly don't expect anyone else to love my worms.

I'm assuming that I'm not hurting anyone. I'm just quietly enjoying my worms and not knocking door to door trying to interest my neighbors in my worms. I'm minding my own business, perfectly happy and content and filled with a great deal of personal satisfaction.

Ann Landers would no doubt suggest I see a psychiatrist, just as she did for the man who collects everything. His "friend" wrote in to say Bob collected dolls, comic books, coins and old car parts. He was restoring an old car in the garage, so his truck which was kept on the street, was stolen twice. He drove 600 miles a weekend to go to swap meets, garage sales and wreckers.

The friend said the apartment was stuffed so full of "junk" there was barely room to get from the front door to the kitchen. When his mother was in town, she had to stay in a motel because there was no room at the guy's house. The place was a fire trap.

Bob, who was 37 and who had a job, never dated and had no interests except collecting.

Ann aided with the letter-writer who thought Bob had serious problems. Ann said he was in dire need of counseling for his obsession.

But why? If the guy's happy and not bothering anyone, why should the friend care?

It appears that because the guy doesn't live up to the friend's standards and isn't married or with a girlfriend, there must be something wrong with him.

That's like saying Pablo Picasso was sick. Wasn't he obsessed with his art? Didn't he rush from the dinner table after eating a fish to immediately make a plate with a design of the fish skeleton baked into the clay? Didn't he wear pants with the stripes going horizontally when the rest of the world was wearing vertical? Didn't he paint what could be easily called weird paintings?

Picasso wasn't labeled as obsessed or sick. He was called a genius.

Maybe this collector is as much a genius in his own way. Who knows what treasures he's assembled. Apparently he has twelve Edison-type phonographs. Won't the friend look silly if it turns out this guy had an eye for real treasures and his place is worth a mint? Not that monetary value should have anything to do with it.



### One woman's view

By CHRIS CARLISLE

The friend didn't approve of the fact that Bob had to borrow money to buy all this junk. But people borrow money to buy fancy cars, boats, clothes, shoes and furniture and toys. They'll borrow hundreds of thousands to buy a house. Bob just has tons of material possessions instead of a few.

As for the fire trap, what are libraries if not fire traps? Rows and rows of books, magazines, documents. Should we close the libraries?

Counseling is supposed to help someone with a problem. If Bob is happy, why does he need counseling? He's working and he's actively pursuing a hobby. Sounds like fun to me, driving 600 miles on weekends, exploring and looking for treasures.

And maybe Bob doesn't like his mother staying with him.



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

One imagines that hint reverberating through the Kremlin. Wow, the Russians could be saying, now that we won't have to worry about the Canadians, we can finally go ahead with our plans to invade Norway.

Go ahead, join the minority and laugh. What's amazing is that so few people are enjoying a chuckle. But then, official Ottawa has always taken things too seriously.

In this case, the Norwegians are showing the same tendency.

**OTHERS REACT**  
And it's not all confined to officialdom. The Ottawa Citizen, the only English-language daily in the capital, devoted a longish editorial to the subject of our "mission in Norway." And after seriously weighing all the arguments, it concluded that Canada must maintain its commitment to defend that country.

"For all kinds of political, moral, alliance and northern environment reasons, we must not withdraw from Norway," said the newspaper. To its credit, the editorial did not mention military reasons - the fundamental purpose for the commitment when it

### Berry's World



"If that's Texaco, then Penzance has got to be nearby."

### Berry's World



"Give me all of your money"