

# Halton Hills Outlook

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## Their Outlook

### NDP policy did nothing to affect 3 byelections

As one New Democrat said here the morning after the NDP's sweep of the three federal byelections, "this shows that people now agree with our views."

Of course, his tongue was firmly planted in his cheek. As a good politician he knew full well NDP policies had nothing to do with the votes trouncing Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservatives and John Turner's Liberals.

More than either Conservatives or Liberals, New Democrats identify themselves in a partisan way with their party at both provincial and federal levels.



#### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

An Ed Broadbent victory federally means as much to them as a Bob Rae triumph would in Ontario.

Historically, too, it appears people who vote NDP at one level tend to vote NDP at the other. (The 1984 federal NDP vote in Ontario was 922,000, the 1985 provincial vote 866,000.)

None of this is true of the Conservatives and Liberals, where in Ontario, at least, voting differently federally and provincially is a long-time tradition.

And close identification between the federal and provincial parties is rare. Look at the Tories, where former Premier Bill Davis sabotaged former federal Leader Joe Clark at every turn, or the Liberals, where the Pierre Trudeau crowd deliberately cold-shouldered their provincial brethren in election after election.

Yet, interestingly, the federal NDP are today running 10-15 points better in the federal polls than the provincial NDP are in their polls, a reversal of the past when the provincial party normally did better than the Ottawa bunch.

That would suggest these byelection results can't be dismissed simply because byelections are notorious for producing protest votes.

True, in Ontario one can harken

back to when New Democrats won provincial byelections in non-traditional seats and immediately trumpeted that they had finally made the illusive "breakthrough" they have now been anticipating for 25 years.

Two classic examples were their breakthrough into agricultural areas (Middlesex in 1969) and eastern Ontario (Cornwall in 1973).

Today, 14 and 18 years later, both areas remain NDP wastelands. Middlesex, in fact, was lost the very next election.

But one senses there is something fundamentally different about these federal byelections.

The conventional wisdom is that Mulroney is so unpopular personally the Conservatives are doomed with him or without him.

And that Turner hasn't captured those lost hearts.

In turn, the NDP have Ed Broadbent, who sounds like a dull professor, but certainly doesn't scare, irritate, or anger people.

There is some suggestion among federal commentators that the NDP lead is a reflection of personality-style politics, that once the issues come into play NDP popularity will fade.

Maybe. But after 30 years of quasi-socialist governments at both provincial and federal levels it becomes very hard to tell the three parties apart in terms of policy (except for free trade, which appears doomed at American hands anyway).

Nationalization? It was the Liberals who took over Petrocan federally and the Tories who bought part of Suncor provincially.

Defence and NATO? It is, NDP who promise 18 frigates for the navy. The PCs want only 12. As for NATO, it is the Liberals who gutted our contribution there a decade ago and the Tories who've promised to end our commitment to Norway.

Anti-American? Pro-Soviet? It is the Tories who help prop up Nicaragua, remove sanctions against the Soviets for Afghanistan, and make speeches against U.S. foreign policy in Central America.

A tool of the unions? It is the Tories who caved in to the violence of the postal workers.

So what would change with the NDP?

### Two's a Crowd

By BILL BUTTLE



"Oh, oh! that's not an approved container!"

### Story's a hatchet job says money man Morty

Dr. Morton Shulman is growing impatient with people who suggest he has lost his Midas touch.

So impatient, in fact, that he has taken out a half-page ad in The Globe and Mail in an attempt to lay the notion to rest.

Dr. Shulman, physician, best-selling author and investment advisor, is not one to take criticism lying down. Dr. Shulman writes for the Moneyletter, which is put out by Hume Publishing.

The latest affront appeared in the August issue of Report on Business Magazine under the title, Has Morty Lost His Touch?

"It's a hatchet job," Dr. Shulman said flatly. The author's selection of facts rankles the good things...

One of the bad things was the poor 1986 performance of the Hume funds, which Dr. Shulman manages.

From their inception in 1983, the Hume Growth and Hume RRSP funds have given investors a return of more than 30 per cent a year, he pointed out.

The phones in Dr. Shulman's office were jumping off the hook. "We're going nuts."

What are most people saying? Mostly they want to subscribe to the Moneyletter.

The magazine is a latecomer to the debate. The question has been asked more than once.

Murmurs of discontent rose to a dull roar after Dr. Shulman went into the mutual fund business. His ill-fated gold fund, set up in 1983, languished with the price of gold.

It was a lesson in humility, Morty is not infallible. But he is not one to be paralyzed by occasional failure, either.

That old Shulman magic is still there, as his bold advertisement shows. Eight of his 10 stock recommendations this year have risen in price.

One of them, Fletcher Challenge Canada, is particularly interesting. Dr. Shulman recommends Fletcher in the June 30 issue of the Moneyletter.

Fletcher Challenge Canada is a blue-chip stock with a money-back guarantee. It's a conservative investment.

Dr. Shulman's emphases on the conservative seems uncharacteristic. But a closer look at

Fletcher reveals its potential for capital gain.

The stock offers investors a share in the fortunes of Fletcher Canada's parent, Fletcher Challenge Ltd of New Zealand.

Fletcher is an aggressive, diversified company with operations in fast-growing parts of the world.

It has interests in Canada, the United States, Chile, Australia, the Pacific Rim and Southeast Asia.



#### Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY  
 Business Analyst

It is a good way for investors to diversify internationally.

Fletcher is divided into five main business areas: forest products, building materials, steel, construction and real estate and exporting farm products, such as wool, meat, horses and kiwi fruit.

Earlier this year, the company bought 48 per cent of British Columbia Forest Products.

Dr. Shulman is at his enthusiastic best in describing Fletcher Canada's promise of satisfaction or your money back.

"I've never seen anything like it," he writes.

Each Fletcher Canada share is convertible into five shares of its New Zealand-based parent. The stock came out in June at \$23.50.

Investors make two \$11.75 payments for the stock, one initially and the other in November.

Investors will also receive the full five per cent dividend this year, even though the stock has only been out part of the year.

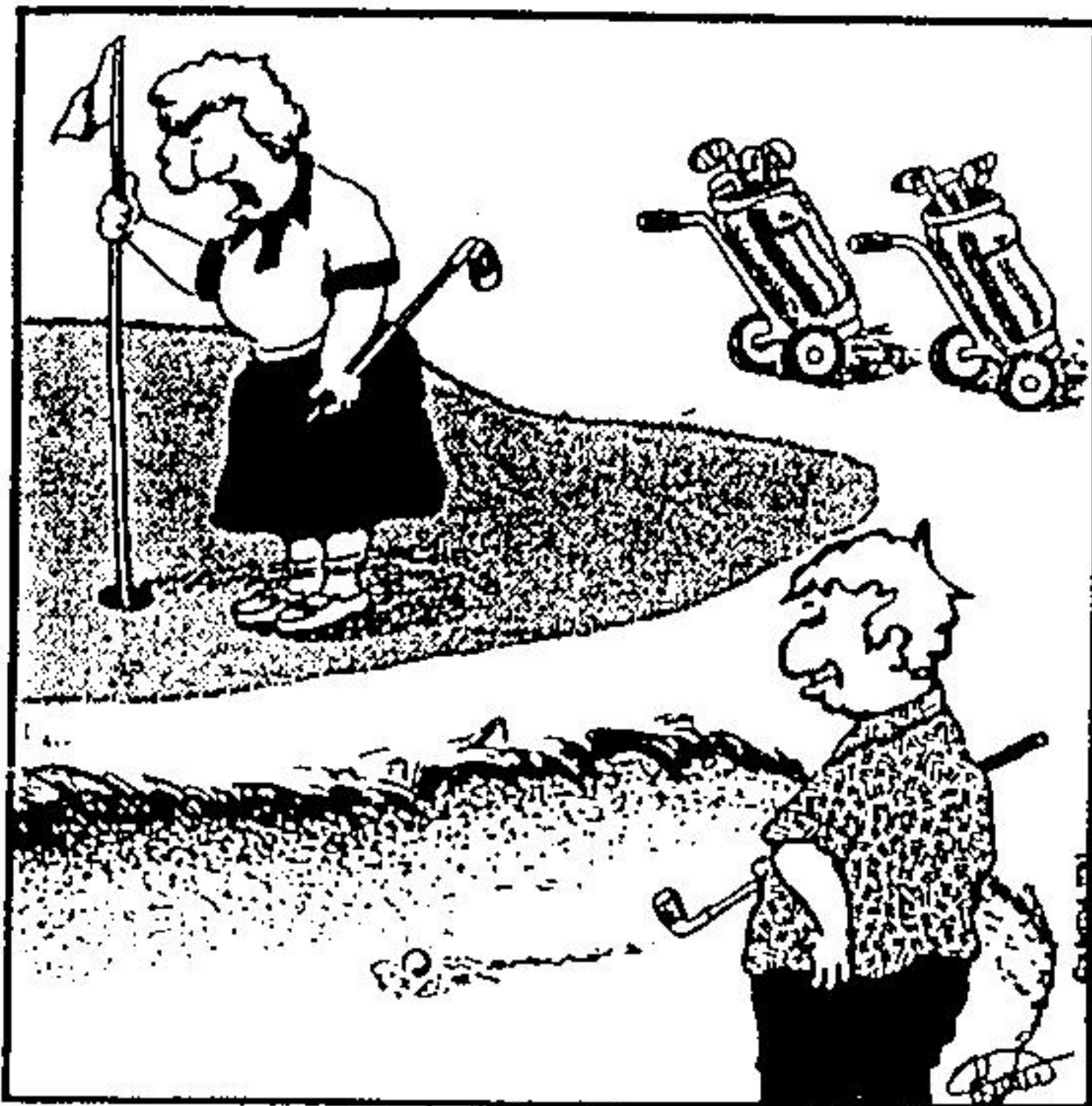
This means Fletcher will yield eight per cent in 1987.

If Fletcher's parent pays a higher dividend, shareholders will be paid the equivalent for the first three years.

After that, they can swap their Fletcher Canada shares for shares of the parent.

### Two's a Crowd

By BILL BUTTLE



"Now look where it's gone!!"



Against the odds

PAT WOOD

### Illiteracy group helps those wanting to read, write

Back in the 15th century Gutenberg made a giant step forward in the mass production of inexpensive random access source material. For the next 500 years it seemed, according to various philosophers, that this would guarantee a population steeped in intellectual pursuits and not concerned with oppression and lawlessness. Others, however, thought the mind should be controlled through ignorance and advocated the limiting of thought through book burning and extreme censorship. Both recognized the profound effect of literacy on the individual and society.

Today literacy has again come to the front (or is it slipping to the back?). In the USA the average level of education has dropped from 10 years ago. Last year, McMaster University in Hamilton reported that 42 per cent of its first year students failed a multiple choice literacy test and of those 57 per cent failed again when given a second chance. These results are comparable to similar tests at other universities and colleges. Some estimates state that one in four Canadians are functionally illiterate. In North Halton a possible 5000 people may fall into this category (Stats Canada 1981).

Illiteracy must be considered one of the most easily remedied hidden disabilities. In Japan less than 1 per cent are illiterate yet they educate four students for the same price that we educate one. Reasons for these results range from culture to bureaucracy to setting the wrong goals and priorities.

The North Halton Literacy Guild has been set out to help those wishing to obtain or improve reading and writing skills by providing volunteer tutors to work on a one to one basis with students. The program is free and all information remains confidential. Maureen McCallum is the Program Manager for the Guild and can be reached at 873-2200. She will be appearing on the August 5th and 20th showing of Against the Odds at 7 p.m. on Cable 4. This broadcast shows how illiteracy can affect people on a personal level and how the North Halton Guild is working to overcome the problems faced by individuals in our community.

This column will return in September. At that time a written test will be presented to determine how closely you have been following events surrounding disabled persons. Sample question: Discuss at length three significant ways that deregulation of the airlines will have a negative effect on the handicapped. One month should be ample time to review and prepare for this examination.

#### WHISPERS

by Doreen Palmer

"Do not trust too much your own judgment, but be willing to hear what others have to say." -Author unknown

#### WHISPERS

by Doreen Palmer

"We would have others perfect, yet we do not mend our own faults." -Author unknown