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Election fever?

Voters head back to the provincial polls Sept 10 for the second time in less than three years.

Many are questioning why an election is necessary. We feel, however, that people need to voice their opinion on the new leadership at Queen's Park. There are a number of issues during the election campaign that need to be discussed.

The Liberal-NDP accord is over and the Grits - rightly so - want to stake out a claim on their own. Over the past two years they've been held in check from doing everything they wanted to do by the NDP and Progressive Conservatives.

But on a positive note, the New Democrats have prodded their political partners to take some aggressive action because of the accord.

What do we expect of the new government at Queen's Park? Stop and ponder that one for a minute. The parties are all offering ideas about what we should be concerned with.

The PCs want to restrain the current spending habits of the government and favor a freer trade deal with the States. The NDP are putting their hopes on such issues as lower car insurance premiums, environmental concerns and better pensions.

The Liberals are fighting the election defending their record and seeking a mandate to truly speak for the people of Ontario.

But all of the parties have their own ideas on education, job creation, health care and affordable housing.

The people of Ontario will be helping to forge a government that could change drastically from the former Liberal leadership.

This is not a campaign without issues. Voters shouldn't be lulled into believing it doesn't matter who they vote for. Next time, we probably won't have the luxury of marking our approval or disapproval at the ballot box in two years. The government elected Sept. 10 could be with us for a long time to come.

Follow the provincial election campaign and study the candidates and issues carefully.

Bits N' pieces

The Niagara Escarpment Commission is holding four public meetings Aug. 13 to Sept. 24. Two of them will be held in Georgetown at the Commission's office on 232 Guelph Street.

Find out how the escarpment is being managed and attend one of the meetings. The first one in Georgetown is Aug. 27 and the second Sept. 24. Commission meetings begin at 10 a.m. Prior arrangements must be made for anyone wishing to address the Commission.

Mark this date on your calendar. Sept 13 is the seventh annual Terry Fox Run.

After a poor year in 1983 Ontario has shown good growth in fundraising since then for the event, from \$1.04 million in 1983 to \$1.41 million in 1986.

The Marathon of Hope lasted 144 days in which Terry ran 3,339 miles and raised \$27.3 million.

A work trailer on site at the new housing development on Gardner Drive in Georgetown was vandalized recently.

A caller was annoyed at the immature way one homeowner has responded to his problems. The trailer was spray painted with the message "pave our driveway..."

As our caller pointed out, it's hard to try to teach your children to be good citizens when they see something like that. Not to mention the damage to private property which has resulted.

The province has now made it officially possible for MPP's staff to work on election campaigns.

A three-party agreement set out, for the first time, guidelines allowing politicking by employees and the use of provincial resources.

This would have made it possible for Don Knight's staff member David Blaney to work for Mr. Knight had he decided to seek re-election. As it stands now, Mr. Blaney has been asked to work on the Walt Elliot team as campaign manager.

The Golden Rule

The Mayor of Burlington is taking The Herald to task for an editorial written in our paper a few weeks ago. And rightly so.

In the editorial, written by myself, I had erred by implying Mr. Bird wanted to increase the number of Burlington councillors at the expense of Halton Hills.



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

What the Burlington mayor did suggest is that his city reduce its representation by two, from nine councillors to seven. That would equal Oakville's representation.

What Mr. Bird wants to do is reduce the representation in Halton Hills from the current five members to three. That would equal what Milton has now - three regional councillors.

Couns. Pam Sheldon, Rick Bonnette and Mayor Russ Miller are arguing that Halton Hills has two distinct communities and thus requires greater representation.

Quite apart from that, however, is the fact that Oakville and Burlington

together command so many votes at council. Now, Halton Region consists of 16 of 25 members from Oakville and Burlington, which amounts to 64 per cent.

It's hard to be a roaring mouse when you can only garner (that is, if everyone votes in a block) five of 25 possible votes. That's the situation with Halton Hills.

Those in this town who feel the Region already doesn't do enough for Halton Hills will be angry if we should lose another representative - let alone two.

Really, Burlington would have few fears if Mr. Bird's recommendations are accepted. Burlington's representation, on a percentage basis, would drop from 38 per cent to 33 per cent.

The real loser would be Halton Hills. The winner would be Mayor of Burlington who is fighting back against what he undoubtedly feels is meddling from a smaller partner.

The Mayor admits to consternation over the Halton Hills position over where a landfill site should be located. Translation: our councillors haven't sided with Burlington.

Roly Bird calls his city the Golden Doornat. Perhaps the Burlington Mayor wants everyone to abide by the Golden Rule: he who has the gold makes the rules.

If that was the case, Halton Hills would lose every time.

Hunting old boats on the high seas

When a powerful force takes on a relatively small target - the Americans in Vietnam, the Russians in Afghanistan - it often ends up with egg on its face. And so it was when the Canadian Armed forces, along with the coast guard, brought its might to bear on an old tub of a ship called the Walvis.

While the ancient herring boat was rocking at anchor in the English Channel with a broken-down engine, we had 12 aircraft, four destroyers and eight coast guard cutters combing the North Atlantic in search of the ship. All this because immigration authorities received a tip that the Walvis, built in 1914, might be carrying another group of illegal refugees to Canada.

It was a full military operation, with defence officials in Halifax refusing to disclose details of ship movements. In Ottawa, a stern-faced immigration minister, Benoit Bouchard, announced that when and if the Walvis was intercepted, it would be boarded to see whether any aliens were stashed away in the ship's decrepit hold. If so, "all of Canada's powers will be brought to bear to have it returned."

I know the circumvention of Canadian immigration laws by people claiming refugee status is a serious business and it's now right that these queue-jumpers get ahead of legitimate applicants. And there seems little doubt that Canadian public opinion leans sharply toward this view.

breakdown which prevented the rusty hull from heading across the Atlantic. The captain claims Miami is his ultimate destination and that the Walvis will work in the Caribbean.

Imagine how we would have felt had our mighty fleet intercepted the Walvis and brought "all of Canada's powers" to bear. Since we don't have powers to do anything on the high seas in peacetime, it could be an interesting exercise. I suppose we could have asked the ship's captain whether we would like a visitor or two. But what if he said no?

Any uninvited visitors to the ship would be, for all practical purposes, pirates. Even if the hold was full of people, there would be no proof of their destination. And if there were no passengers on board, wouldn't that be a gasper?

We would no doubt be treated to the spectacle of the empty Walvis being shadowed, perhaps even harassed, across the Atlantic, refusing all invitations to turn around. Then, when within a few miles off our coast, the ship would make a sharp left turn, head for Miami, and make us look like absolute fools.

It would be far worse than those

pictures of U.S. sailors, standing on the deck of a high-tech destroyer in the Persian Gulf, trying to hunt down mines with rifles.

SHOULD WAIT
If the new legislation goes through as proposed by the Mulroney government, it will make it possible to deport bogus refugees almost immediately. As things stand, once they arrive in Canada, they can remain at least four years while all the appeal processes run their course.

The greatest deterrents in the legislation are the penalties that can be imposed on the owners and crews of boats used to ferry illegal migrants to Canada. These penalties would include a maximum 10-year prison sentence and fines as high as \$500,000.

The captain of the Ametie, which brought 175 Sikhs to Nova Scotia last month, was sentenced under existing laws. He received a one-year jail term and a fine of \$5,000. An accomplice was jailed for three months and also fined \$5,000, while a crewman got 30 days in the slammer along with a \$2,500 fine.

Considering the profit that a ship's captain can make from human cargo, these penalties don't represent much of a deterrent.

The proposed new penalties should do the trick.

Meanwhile, despite public pressure for action, the government should wait for the legal tools to deal with a troubling situation. If we keep hunting for old boats on the high seas, with tough talk about bringing mysterious powers to bear, we're going to end up looking very, very silly.

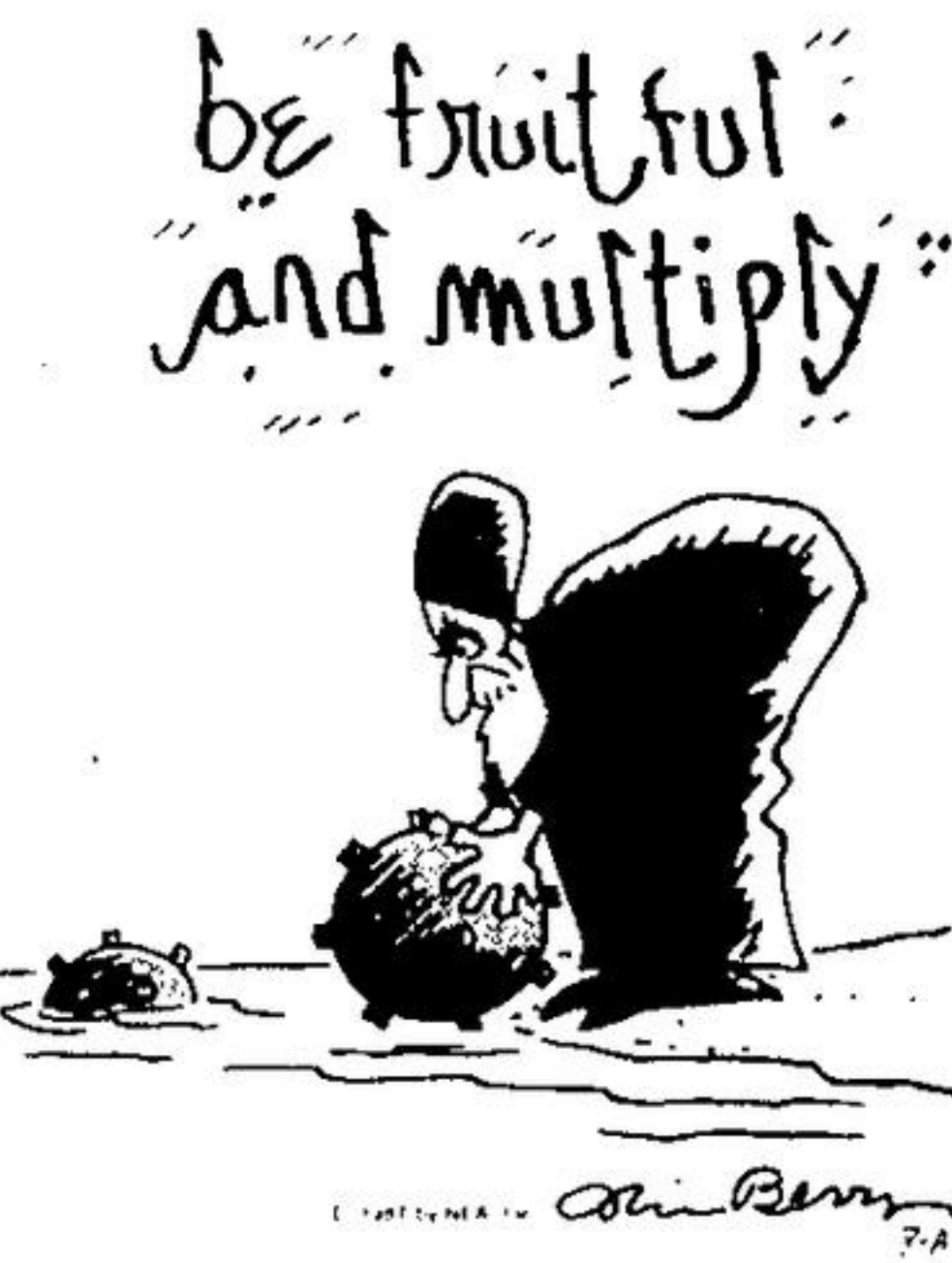
Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

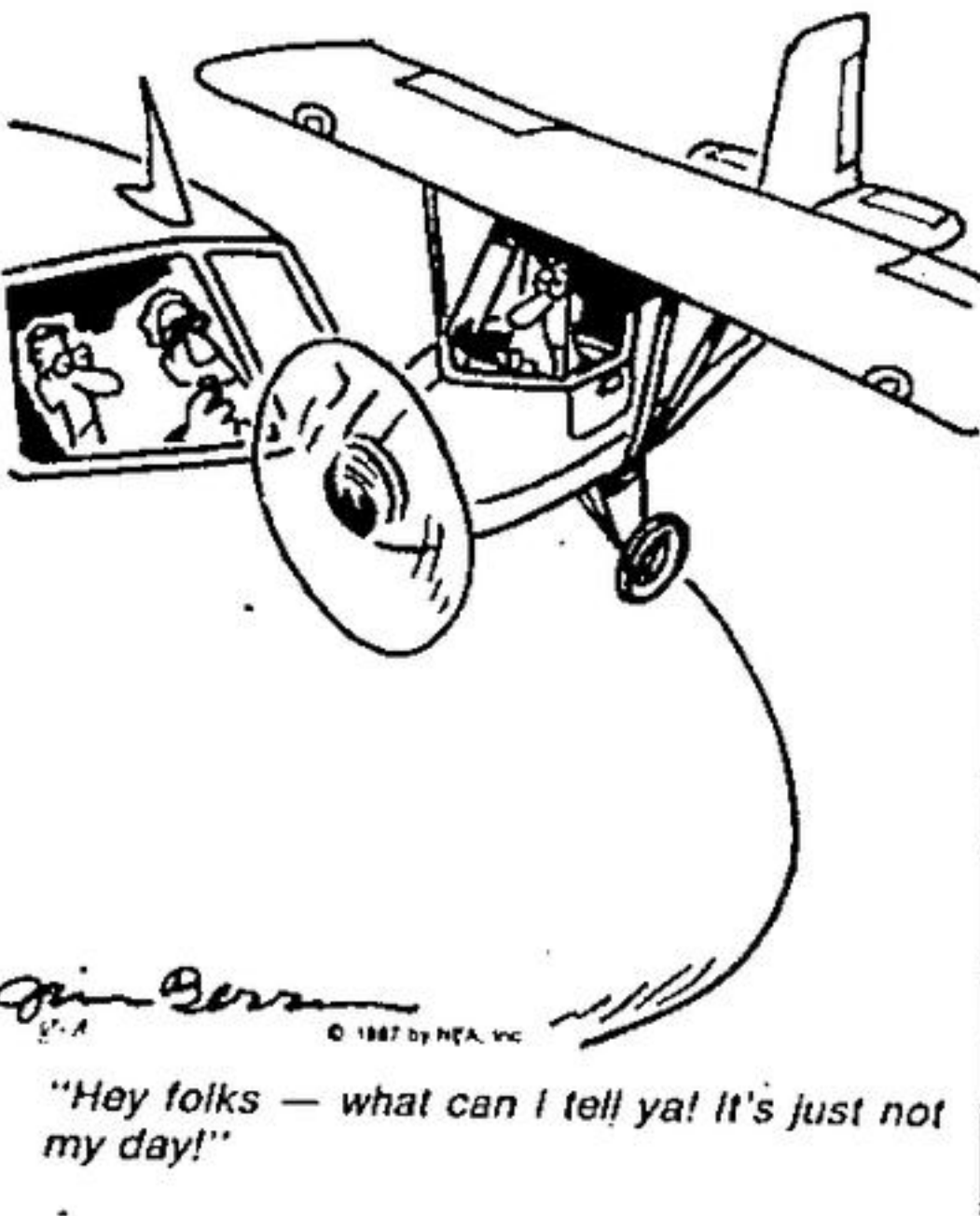
That's obviously one reason why Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is recalling Parliament later this month to deal with refugee legislation. With public opinion so strong, it will be easier to crack down on illegal entrants.

MUCH TOUGHER
But, despite the gravity of the situation, it's difficult to suppress a smile when you think about our armada out on the high seas trying to hunt down the old herring boat. The only thing that saved us from total embarrassment was the engine

Berry's World



Berry's World



Citizens' forum

Rural dignity grass roots cause

To the Editor:

Rural Canadian post offices remain in jeopardy, despite assurances from some M.P.s and public relations officers of Canada Post, Donald Lander (President of the Corporation) and the Hon. Harvie Andre (minister responsible) stand firm behind their plan to close, amalgamate and privatize Canada's 5,221 rural post offices over the next ten years. No rural post office enjoys immunity from this plan.

Rural Canadians have organized in all parts of the country over the past eight months to protest this plan and to offer constructive, cooperative suggestions to the government and to Canada Post. We call our group Rural Dignity of Canada. Our name speaks for our cause. Rural Dignity is a grassroots association co-ordinating the efforts of concerned citizens and giving like in Ottawa to the issue of rural post offices. We are a collection of farmers, fishermen, teachers, merchants, service clubs, clergy, mayors, community development workers and "ordinary" villagers. We have no formal membership and no political affiliations.

In the short time since we came together in December 1986, Rural Dignity has proved an effective voice for rural Canada. Our accomplishments include:

- being instrumental in having the Standing Committee on Government Operations re-convene and re-examine Canada Post's corporate plan;
- presenting a brief and holding over two hours consultation with this committee;
- ensuring that this committee heard from mayors and M.P.s of areas already affected by the plan;
- establishing local committees in all ten provinces;
- being granted a national charter for our organization;
- holding public meetings, giving interviews to the media, making presentations at the invitation of provincial federations of municipalities, mayors' associations, conventions of various groups, etc.

-responding to Canada Post's public relations campaign;

-initiating and co-ordinating a consultation process between citizens, municipal representatives, an M.P. and Canada Post which resulted;

-in the recovery of two cancelled rural routes in Eastern Quebec. This is the only instance in the country where lost service has been restored.

We have made significant progress, but we have a long way still to go.

Canada Post's plan to close approximately 1,700 rural post offices and privatize the remaining 3,500 assumes a steady decline in the life and economy of rural Canada. In effect, Canada Post is banking on our death. This could become a self-fulfilling prophecy: reduced services discourage new investment and are already creating hardships for existing small businesses.

We believe in the future of Rural Canada. We care as much for what happens over the next ten years as for what happens today.

Weekly newspapers are intimately connected with rural Canada. Your columns chronicle our births and deaths, our successes and tragedies. Your pages allow us to speak with one another and are vital in creating and maintaining local identities. As you are aware, weekly newspapers enjoy free distribution within a 65 kilometre radius for up to 2,500 copies. When villages fail, so do regional newspapers.

We believe that our united efforts will allow rural Canada not only to survive, but to flourish. Will you join with us in making this a reality?

Yours truly,
Cynthia Patterson
Co-ordinator, Rural Dignity

Home town is struggling

Dear Sir,
I have recently become aware that Dr. Jackie Ford's privileges at Georgetown and District

Memorial Hospital have been revoked.

I have grown up in the small town of Georgetown and I have accepted to some degree that money and possession mean power. The average citizen can disregard these power struggles for the better part, but now my home town is struggling at the expense of their health.

I am deeply disappointed and mortified at the action taken against Dr. Ford. I speak as a past employee, past patient and former resident of Georgetown.

There have been no facts produced by the board to justify their actions. I fail to see what the secret is that the board is trying to hide. If you take a man's livelihood away are you not somewhat accountable for your actions? It is unfortunate that a small group of people hold so much undeserved power and seem to feel they play the role of 'GOD' in the hospitals affairs. I say to these people, move over. The facts will come out and the current display of protest against the board's decision indicates that the citizens will not stand by the injustice of the board's decision. This town will share and seek opinions from those with more knowledge but they will never allow their health care system to become victim in their selfish power struggles.

Although I can suffer no direct consequences from the board's decision, I still have family in town and I fear for their health care. My family deserve the best and I believe I have sufficient basis to declare proudly that Dr. Ford is the best and is undeserving of the revocation of his privileges.

I am proud of the citizens of Georgetown for standing up for what they believe in. Their fight is not in vain, no one is more deserving of such a tremendous show of support than Dr. Ford. I am confident that these citizens will ensure that justice reigns for my home town.

Yours truly,
Agnes Caplan

In your opinion

Anxious for school's return



CHRISTOPHER DAY, 8; George Kennedy School, Georgetown. "Yes, I'm looking forward to my French immersion class."

JEREMY DAY, 4; Park School, Georgetown. "Yes because I get to meet new friends."

JOHN PAUL ZENI, 4; Holy Cross School, Georgetown. "I want to go to school because my brother goes to school."

DAVID ZENI, 7; Holy Cross School, Georgetown. "I like to go back to school. It's fun."

KATIE MCGRATH, 9; St. Joseph's School, Acton. "I'm kind of glad to go back because I get to see my teachers again."

QUESTION: Are you looking forward to going back to school?

Halton's History from our files

30 years ago

Council voted Monday to keep angle parking on Main Street. Members had been toying with the idea of introducing parallel parking on the route but gave up when merchants complained parallel parking would reduce the already depleting number of spots.

Town engineer Bill Carr recommended that council use the Silver Creek reservoir for an emergency water supply. The town is facing a serious water shortage during "rush periods" when residents are watering their lawns.

Spencer Wilson in Norval hosted a special meeting of directors for the Esqueping Agricultural Society Friday. The group is forming plans for this year's fall fair.

The Ballinfad Women's Institute met at Elora Gorge Park for its August meeting. Mrs. Archie McEnery chaired the meeting attended by 13 members, six visitors and a number of children. The group had a picnic and took a tour of the park.

15 years ago

Georgetown Horticultural Society members won major awards this month during their participation in various flower shows. Bob Barber won an award at the 25th Annual International Show of the North American Lily Society in Detroit. At Georgetown's local Lily exhibit Eileen Jackson won the G and S Television Trophy for Best Lily.

Progressive Conservative Party leader Robert Stanfield visited Georgetown for a luncheon Thursday. He spoke with prominent citizens including Jean Barton, Lillian Lawrence and Paul Armstrong.

The Hoedl family on Marilyn Crescent are entertaining their relatives for Fehring Austria. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hoedl are visiting Canada for the first time. They are getting to know their granddaughter, Monica, whom they had never seen before their visit.

The Georgetown Motor Sport Club held a no sweat rally on Saturday for beginner and novice rallyists. Both Mainprize and her navigator Barbara Glover won first prize in the beginners class. They were driving a Datsun 510. First prize in the expert rally was taken by Lynne and Mike Hart in their Volvo 1425.

10 years ago

Acton's Fall Fair Queen, Charmaine Bigelow will be entering the Canadian National Exhibition pageant, "Sweetheart of the Fairs," August 17. The 19-year-old said she will try her best, "but with about 90 other girls from southern Ontario, I don't expect to win."

Bob Cunningham, spokesman for Eighth Line residents, appeared before the public works committee Monday for the second time, to see if the road, which he described as "one continuous pothole," could be reconstructed.

Additions for the Acton Fire Hall are steps closer since council asked engineer Alan Zeegen to draw up the plans. The addition would cost about \$200,000. Mayor Tom Hill and councillor Mike Armstrong objected to the plan, which is twice the cost of the original proposal.

5 years ago

Council decided Monday to hold a referendum on nuclear disarmament. Halton Hills joins over 60 municipalities in Canada asking voters for their opinion on the nuclear issue.

Fall fair officials met with the president of the Ontario Greyhound Association Friday to discuss bringing dog races to Georgetown's fair in September. OGA secretary Tom Rankin and president Bob Massey brought their greyhounds to the fairgrounds Saturday to give officials a glimpse of the action they can expect at the fair.

The Georgetown Merchants beat M and M Pro Sports 7-6 in the fastball consolation finals on the weekend. Jeff Bahm scored the winning run on a stolen base in the seventh inning.