

Turner knows how Trudeau felt

One has to feel sorry for Liberal Leader John Turner now that we're back to the old game of asking Canadians how they would vote if the party were led by someone else. Now he knows how Pierre Trudeau felt during his last two years as leader of the Grits.

At that time, Mr. Turner undoubtedly enjoyed the poll results a great deal more than he does now. They always indicated that the Liberal Party would make startling gains if only the former finance minister could be lured away from his lucrative Toronto law practice to replace Mr. Trudeau.

These polls undoubtedly were a major consideration when Mr. Turner did finally decide to re-enter the political arena he had left nine years earlier when he resigned from the Trudeau cabinet. It must be nice to be told you're about the most popular guy in the country.

Didn't do much for Mr. Trudeau though. Now the polls are not doing much for Mr. Turner, who has learned through pollster Angus Reid that the slumping Liberals would soar to the top of the popularity charts if only the leader were Jean Chretien. The poll, commissioned by Southern News, indicates the popularity of the Liberals continues to slump under

the current leader and now is down to 29 per cent, a drop of three points from June.

But, in the same period, according to the Reid pollsters, the New Democrats continued their dizzy climb to 44 per cent, up four points from June. The Conservatives, at 25 per cent, were unchanged.



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

BAD ENOUGH

These results alone are enough to thicken the gloom in the office of the Opposition leader. But he must also contend with resignations and obvious morale problems in his own office. On top of all this comes another round of those polls involving hypothetical leaders.

The surveys are undoubtedly an honest-enough reflection of public opinion at the moment. But, as the earlier polls have demonstrated, they are relatively meaningless when it comes to projecting reality.

Taking Mr. Turner as living proof, former politicians tend to be viewed

through rose-colored glasses, and the longer the absence, the deeper the hue. All earlier polls in this area suggest the incumbent, regardless of who it might be, is at a clear disadvantage.

There are many people who believe - and probably with good cause - that had Mr. Turner not left politics in 1975, he would not have beaten Jean Chretien, or perhaps others, for the party leadership in 1984. But whatever else the Toronto legal experience gave him, he certainly acquired a mythology among Liberals during his absence from Ottawa.

Now, unfortunately for him, the shoe is on the other foot. Mr. Chretien dropped out of politics 19 months ago after losing the leadership contest, and now his image as a savior is expanding beyond reality.

HEADSTART

Mind you, Mr. Chretien, the little street fighter from Shawinigan, did have somewhat of a head start. Throughout the entire Trudeau era, he was always the most likable fellow in government, the most popular public speaker, in either language.

And when he lost the leadership in 1984, then party president Iona Campagnolo told the delegates that Mr. Chretien would always "be first in

our hearts." That's not a bad plug for a runner-up.

While the former minister of finance, external affairs, justice - you name it - feigns disinterest in politics at the moment, there is little doubt that he could be lured back if a leadership opportunity arose. And this poll by Reid will certainly stoke his interest - not to mention the interest of other Liberals, who are unhappy with Mr. Turner's performance.

These polls not only reflect public opinion, they also influence it. Now that Canadians have the information that a majority of people think Mr. Chretien could revive Liberal fortunes, others will begin thinking this way.

Polls have a tendency to take on a life of their own. And since we're back to these "what-if" surveys again - after a three-year lull - there will obviously be many more.

There is little danger for New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent because his personal popularity is so high. Even Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has a measure of comfort in the fact there is no perceived successor who stands head-and-shoulders above others.

But Mr. Chretien has always had a huge personal following. And now that Angus Reid has exposed it to the public again, it will undoubtedly grow even faster.

Fighting phantom leaders, as both Pierre Trudeau and Joe Clark know so well, is no joyride.

An election issue?

Add one more local issue to the provincial election campaign; low cost housing.

Progressive Conservative candidate Dave Whiting told The Herald this week businesses in the riding are very concerned about the lack of affordable housing for its workers. That's a new twist.

We've known all along that housing in Georgetown and Acton has been expensive - especially for young adults starting out and seniors. For years north Halton was a cheaper area to live in, but now housing prices in Brampton and Mississauga have closed the gap on our own residency costs.

In fact, apartment space is scarce in Halton Hills and not much cheaper than one would expect to pay in Toronto.

But how does that affect businesses?

Firms such as Mold Masters Ltd. in Georgetown are concerned about housing for its workers, said Mr. Whiting. The candidate was told that Mold Masters wanted to expand in town, but lack of proper housing was a major deterrent.

It's hard to keep a work force when the conditions don't make it possible to live in the same community. Workers won't commute if they can find a company closer to their home.

We can't continue to limit opportunities for people to live here by keeping low cost housing to a minimum. We need people who will both work and live in the community.

We're not talking about subsidized housing, either. Just smaller homes which an employee and his or her family can afford.

Nearly everyone we've talked to would like to see Georgetown and Acton expand its industrial base.

For that to happen we must first make Halton Hills a lucrative place for a business to call home.

The great debate

Encounter '87 sounds like innocent fare.

Oxford describes an encounter as 1. Meet hostilely; fall in with. 2. Meeting in conflict, falling in.

Either describes the televised debate between leaders of the three Ontario political parties who seek to form the next government of Ontario.

If it's true that front runners have nothing to gain by such an encounter, and all to lose, it's fair to say that Premier David Peterson lost much in the exchange between Conservative Leader Larry Grossman and in particular the Broadbentian style of New Democratic Party leader Bob Rae.

The premier stumbled over a few words in his opening address and never seemed to recover.

Grossman hardly gave the premier time to unravel his tongue before hammering away at him for his non-position on free trade, painting Peterson as a man in the train station not knowing which train to take. Later, Rae called it wishy-washy, vague and identical to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's position, a low blow even if it is true.

Grossman continued to bash away at Peterson for not saying whether he will introduce official bilingualism in the next term. The Premier stuttered and stammered but would not answer the question, other than to say he favors bilingualism and that it was inevitable someday.

Grossman's aggressive pursuit of Peterson on those two issues left the premier shaken.

A similar tactic employed by Liberal leader Bob Nixon in a debate with Premier Bill Davis cost the Liberals in the 1975 election.

Similarly, Rae had the premier on the ropes in their portion of the debate. Rae made a point of reminding the television audience that his party, through the accord, was in a large part responsible for the reform legislation that Peterson trumpeted.

- Courtesy Br. Times

SO YOU THINK SEAT BELTS ARE UNCOMFORTABLE?



\$20 billion tucked away

Canadians have more than \$20 billion tucked away in mutual funds, a fivefold increase in as many years. Nearly half of that money poured in over the past year.

That's nothing compared to the \$300 billion we have in savings accounts and guaranteed investment certificates. But enough to make people worry about what will happen if the stock market boom goes bust.

Five years of soaring stock prices have rewarded investors with impressive gains will become harder to match.

Mutual fund share prices fall as well as rise, a fact we tend to forget when things are good. Mutual funds fell so far in 1969 that investors shunned them for more than a decade. The stock market is a dangerous game.

That's no reason to bail out, or not to plunge in. The secret is to choose a good stock fund and stick with it.

Don't switch to a money-market fund at the slightest market tremor. Let the fund manager do the shuffling.

ELBOW ROOM

To give the manager more elbow room, choose a fund that allows him or her to shift money around as much as possible. The more freedom the manager has, the better the fund will do.

Specialized funds - for Japanese stocks or gold - do well when their star is rising, but they collapse when

the market shifts. This makes them too volatile for most people.

Rules governing registered retirement savings plans may also limit a fund's performance. The government requires that all but 10 per cent of an RRSP be in Canadian securities.



Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY
Business Analyst

Despite these limitations, some Canadian funds have done very well, as Midland Doherty Ltd. points out in its recent Mutual Fund Quarterly.

The brokerage firm recommends Canadian Security Growth Fund and Corporate Investors Stock Fund, both run by AGF Management Ltd. for RRSP accounts.

Canadian Security Growth had a 10-year return of 21.7 per cent annually, and Corporate Investors 21.5 per cent.

For non-registered investments, Midland Doherty's recommendations include Bolton Tremblay International Fund, with a 10-year growth of 21.6 per cent, and Industrial

American Fund, managed by Mackenzie Financial Corp., with a 10-year return of 20.7 per cent.

NEW PLAYERS

The bounding market has brought dozens of new players into the game. As well, banks and insurance companies are beginning to offer their own funds to customers. This poses a problem for investors. How do you judge a fund that hasn't been around for 10 years or more?

The key is always management. Banks and insurance companies have a history of managing big blocks of money, such as pensions funds. Before buying their mutual funds, ask about the record of their pension fund management.

The greatest risk with bank and insurance company funds is that they will underperform other ones. The chances of actually losing your money are slim.

RRSP funds have an advantage this year, because the Canadian stock market is proving to be one of the strongest in the world. Investors worldwide may soon switch out of Japanese stocks and into North American ones, which could carry the stock market even higher.

Still, Ottawa would be doing Canadians a favor if it would loosen up on the 10 per cent limit on foreign investments. At some point, to limit retirement savings to Canadian stocks will be limit them to slow growth. This hardly seems fair.

30 years ago

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'The news' maker



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

The days are gone when people will meet Winifred Smith on the street and say "we like your news, Winnie."

The happy-go-lucky, popular woman died Aug. 19 at her home in Ballinafad, actually RR 1 Georgetown. She was 85-years-old.

Fondly known by friends as Winnie, she was neighborhood correspondent for The Herald for over 20 years.

A very devoted family person, Winifred loved her community and the friends who lived there. She wrote of special things that are important to people in a rural village. She highlighted church events, news about crops, visits from relatives and milestones dear to her neighbors.

Winifred breathed life into her community by telling others of its uniqueness. She spread the word about the people in the village and made them feel special. She made people feel proud to call Ballinafad their home.

Writing a weekly column of news each week kept her busy on the phone chatting it up with people who were making a name for themselves. The news didn't come to her - she had to dig for it.

Herald staff fondly remember talking to Mrs. Smith on the phone and during her infrequent visits to the office. Always smiling, always with something pleasant to say; she made us feel good. She left us smiling warmly back at her.

In December of 1985 we presented Mrs. Smith with a special trophy for her over 20 years of faithful service to neighborhood reporting. No one was more deserving of the award.

Mrs. Smith didn't start as a Herald correspondent until she was 60. The strong-willed and vivacious woman once told us she may have become a journalist had she been able to continue school. She was taught at the Norval school and was called home after junior fourth to help around the farm.

The second oldest in a family of five, she married Frank Smith who worked the farm next to her father's. He was one of three Smith brothers who were all bachelors at the time. Her husband died five years ago. (Winifred moved to Canada in 1911 when she was eight.)



Winifred Smith

Undoubtedly, Winnie's family was the most important part of her life. Family is devoted to her, too. Before she was hospitalized they'd drop by the big home about once a week.

She lived in a large brick farm house on 93 acres of land with daughter Ruth Burt. Ruth's twin sister Doris lives about five miles away, and she is married to a Burt, too. Joyce Swann, a nurse in St. Catharines, is her other daughter. In all Mrs. Smith has 12 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Family and friends will remember Winifred for all the many things that made her a lovable person. Residents will recall all the times they asked her about "the news". Of course, they meant the Ballinafad news.

She was part of what makes the village such a nice place to live.

\$600 rebate

All Ontario seniors who are eligible to receive the Provincial Property Tax Rebate will be pleased to know the maximum amount each household can receive has increased from \$500 to \$600.

Those who qualify for this grant should have received \$250 in May and will be receiving an application form to claim the remainder. This should arrive in late August. The balance owing will be mailed on October 30. This grant does not depend on family income. Renters as well as Home-owners are eligible.

If you think you are eligible for this grant and did not receive a cheque in May or do not receive the application form by September you can call 1-800-263-3960, which is a toll free number.

Town rebate

If you are 65 years of age or more by September 1, 1987, or a senior spouse of the house owner, and are receiving the Guaranteed Income

Senior Scenes

Supplement to your Old Age Security Pension, you may be eligible to receive this Tax Assistance amount of up to \$150.

You must have owned your property for five years and lived in it continuously for the past year, paying taxes in excess of \$600.

Anyone who applied for this rebate in 1986 should have received an application form in the mail. If this is your first time to claim or you did not receive the application you can call 877-5185 ext. 216. The deadline to complete this application is September 1.

Both the Municipal and Provincial application forms are easily understood and straight-forward to complete, but if you do have any questions or need help in completing these please call the Acton Social Services and Information Centre at 853-3319 or drop into the Old Town Hall, 19 Willow St. North in Acton.

Seniors program

Seniors in Halton Hills are invited to a program of events in Milton. If you don't have transportation, don't fret. Tyler Transport has told organizers, Milton Place Seniors Day Program, that they will put a bus on the road if demand is sufficient.

Milton Place is located at the Halton Centennial Manor. It offers programming in conjunction with the Manor, and also a separate program. Some of activities are cards, shuffleboard, crafts, chapel services, fun and fitness, gardening, shopping and lunch trips, bingo, movie afternoons, ice cream parlors and sing songs.

The cost of the program is \$9 per day which can be paid on a monthly basis. Included in the price is a full course noon meal and refreshments during the morning and afternoon. The hours of the program are Monday to Friday 9-4 p.m.

For more information call Lorena Smith at 878-4141.

In your opinion

QUESTION: What attracted you to the Open Door Drop in centre?

The Open Door attraction



Ian Handy: "I like the confidentiality and the openness to talk."



Ken Jones: "Stimulating conversation and bad coffee."



Jennifer Elmelle: "Friendship and sharing and good dances."



Steve Veltman: "Good music, good dances and it's good for something to do."



Paula Rand: "The support that we get there from the coordinators."



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