

Candid camera

Halton police have been part of an effective new program which should be copied by other forces. Videotaping suspects during interrogations has proven to be a very successful two-year experiment.

The results of this pilot project were announced Thursday by an Osgoode Hall law professor Alan Grant. The findings in his Law Reform Commission of Canada report are impressive.

During the study period, 901 suspects consented to having their statements videotaped, compared to only 45 who refused. Also 72 per cent made confessions or admissions while being taped.

The report shows that the old style method of typewriter and notepad should soon be phased out.

There is a tremendous cost-saving involved in the new procedure.

For example, now only one officer has to interview the suspect, freeing manpower for other duties. In addition, court costs and court backlogs are being reduced under the new program. The reason is that voir dire (a trial within a trial), to determine admissible evidence, are being reduced.

The study has shown that suspects are not timid about having their conversations videotaped. Cries about civil rights infringements have been minimal. In fact, the process helps to improve accuracy of reports, and makes sure police have treated the prisoners properly and informed them of their rights.

Videotaping by police is a logical step using available technology to do the job better, faster and in a more reliable manner.

Price of growth?

Has Canada sold a part of herself for a wealth still yet to be calculated?

Sunday's historic free-trade deal negotiated with the United States caught many people off guard. Was Canada rushed into making an agreement with the Americans without due time to consider the implications of its actions?

We doubt the accord, still requiring Congressional approval, will be a "win, win" situation for Canada, as Prime Minister Mulroney says.

While there is a real potential for Canadian economic growth, Canadians will still have to ponder the question: What price growth?

The Progressive Conservatives began a bold initiative seeking a far-reaching trade pact. Their concerns were legitimate in fearing an ever-growing trade embargo of Canadian goods exported south across the border. Canada just can't compete alone on the world market because our consumer base is just too small.

But Canadians are proud of their country and prefer foreign and domestic policies independent of the United States. Items in the accord, such as the energy market allowing for free flow of energy resources to the States, limits our independence from our southern neighbor. Questions still need to be answered on how regional subsidies and our cultural institutions will be affected.

At some point, money will be a motivator. If we feel Canada can be a richer nation because of free trade, then some citizens will overlook the trade-offs that might have to be made in areas of sovereignty. But the free trade deal deserves a try. The accord could benefit Canada in many ways and indeed it could end up being extremely beneficial to both countries without either nation suffering.

We know Canadian workers and businesses can compete and the trade agreement can be an economic success. The jury is still out on the issue of sovereignty. It will be years before we know the answer to that question.

Drinking patterns change



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

According to the latest findings, three out of four Canadians with at least some post-secondary education are current drinkers compared to just half of those with some secondary education or less.

Our new MPP Walt Elliot was sworn in last week for the opening of the 33rd parliament. Of the 130 members elected Sept. 10 to the provincial legislature, 51 are new members who either unseated former members or were elected in the five new ridings created since 1985.

Cabinet members have to swear or affirm three oaths: an oath of allegiance, an oath as a member of the executive council saying they will adhere to rules of good behavior and an oath of office specifying the portfolio they are receiving.

Statistics Canada has formed us that Canadians are changing their drinking patterns.

Although between 1970 and 1985 there are about the same number of drinking - a trend noticed among all age groups and both sexes. Not surprisingly, heavier drinkers, those consuming 14 or more drinks per week, were drinking less in 1985 than in 1970.

What was surprising for researchers was that in the 15-19 group, drinking is quite widespread despite being illegal to consume alcohol at that age. In fact, 57 per cent of males in this age group and 44 per cent of females are current drinkers. According to Stats Canada, among the males, an estimated seven per cent consumes at least two drinks per day on average.

What is also interesting is that consumption of alcohol tends to rise with education in Canada. Ac-

The Herald is carrying out an postal experiment by sending out 20 letters to citizens. We decided to try an experiment after we learned letters from the Georgetown post office were being sent to Mississauga for automatic sorting, something new this year.

The local union representative says the system takes longer. Our results aren't conclusive, but so far, we're impressed at how quickly the mail has gotten out to our Acton and Georgetown recipients. Watch for our results in next week's newspaper.

Also on the election aftermath: Our Queen's Park columnist Derek Nelson came up with some interesting statistics (a footnote about Mr. Nelson: he came within one seat of predicting the actual voting results province-wide in a Toronto office election pool). Almost one in 20 Ontarians voted for a minor party. Minor parties won 4.4 per cent of the vote, the best since 1945, he said.

The Family Coalition Party collected more than 40,000 votes. There were also the Libertarians, the Freedom Party, the Green Party and the Communists who all had a measure of success.

For a first attempt, the Coalition Party did wonders. And, as Mr. Nelson said, if the three old-line parties won't take a strong stance on potentially sensitive issues, there will be minority parties such as the FPC to take up the slack.

Little attention on the economy

By STEWART MACLEOD Ottawa Bureau Thomson News Service

What's so frustrating for the Tories, as their popularity continues to wallow in third place, is the fact that no one out there seems to be paying any attention to the economy.

There are too many other, more titillating, distractions. Furthermore, personalities seem to be overshadowing performance.

Traditionally, when the economy is performing the way it has been lately, the government would be soaring along atop the popularity charts. While economic growth has certainly not been spread evenly across Canada, and while there are areas of massive unemployment, the fact is, we're doing pretty well.

Reports from various international economic organizations place Canada right up at the top when it comes to industrial performance. And recent figures from Statistics Canada indicated that the economy was growing at an annual rate of 6.1 per cent - far higher than even the government's own predictions.

On top of this, the Brian Mulroney government can boast that nearly 900,000 new jobs have been created since the election of 1984.

Yet none of this good news seems to be having any effect. In fact, the latest opinion poll suggests the popularity of the Mulroney government actually dropped by one

percentage point from the previous month - to 23 per cent.

HIGH HOPES

Early this year, as indicators began pointing to strong economic growth, members of the Mulroney government were confident that this would have a profound effect on the popularity charts. You might recall that, some eight months ago, Mr. Mulroney told reporters that a good politician is always three months ahead of the polls, and that the Conservatives were about to turn the corner.



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

The prime minister knew that his campaign promise of "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs," was being fulfilled. At the time, sources say, the government believed that most of its messy little problems, such as ministerial scandals, had passed. Furthermore, there was great optimism about the free-trade negotiations, and both Finance Minister Michael Wilson and Defence Minister Perrin Beatty were putting the finishing touches on their reform packages.

Everything was falling into place for a good-news year.

The government also had firm plans to clean up its act in Parliament, to demonstrate a new decisiveness, a clear sense of direction, and an ever-clearer Conservative agenda.

And since Parliament was recalled to deal with the "emergency" refugee bill, the government has certainly moved with a new firmness. Not only did a parliamentary committee process the Meech Lake Accord, but the Commons also legislated an end to the national rail strike, prevented a second shock strike, and passed that controversial drug-patent legislation with single-minded determination.

Meanwhile, as Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski was quarterbacking the government in Parliament, the prime minister continued dropping in on just about every county fair and barbecue in the country.

STILL WAITING

The wait goes on. And scarcely a week goes by without some other diversion popping up between voters and the economy.

One week it might be a former party president charged with insider trading; or it could be an RCMP investigation into how another minister awarded government leases. Then there would be a story that the report concerning another minister's alleged conflict of in-

terest had gone to the printers and would be issued soon.

We had stories about the trial dates for a Tory MP charged with influence-peddling; another about a former minister who was allegedly involved in a land scandal; still others about the expense accounts of travelling ministers. Then, of course, we had the suspension of the free-trade negotiations.

All this has been on the front pages of newspapers, while the economic statistics have been generally relegated to the business pages.

Some time ago, Mr. Mazankowski said it was somewhat demoralizing for Tory MPs to see the government performing so well while not getting its rewards in the popularity ratings. He thought it was important for the prime minister to get out and meet the people. So far, there is little to show for it.

And there are still several sharp corners to turn, quite apart from inquiry reports and criminal trials. Within a few weeks, a couple of books will be published that will probably do very little to enhance the image of the prime minister. One is by his former press secretary, Michel Gratton, and the other by Toronto Sun columnist Claire Hoy, who, to put it mildly, would never qualify for membership in Mr. Mulroney's fan club.

All this will continue to make it difficult for the average voter to concentrate on economic growth.



Madick Groot 1987

30 years ago

Georgetown will be adding a fourth public school which is expected to open next September. Council voted to build a new school in the town's west end after School Board Chairman Ray Salter and a delegation told council of the need for a new school Monday. The school will be next to the fairgrounds below St. James Street.

Close to 5,000 people attended the 11th Annual Fall Fair on the weekend. Highlights included the midway and a procession led by Ontario's newest dairy queen Jean Peterson of Hornby.

Halton MP Sandy Best returns to Ottawa Monday for the reopening the House of Commons. Queen Elizabeth II, newly-crowned this year, will officially open Parliament.

Patricia Lynda Paige married William Basil Hadley Saturday at St. George's Anglican Church. Both are from Georgetown.

15 years ago

The three provincial candidates for this riding attended an all-candidates meeting at Georgetown High School Tuesday sponsored by the Georgetown Jaycees. NDP Carolyn Hosten, Progressive Conservative Terry O'Connor and Liberal Bud Whiting gave speeches and answered questions. The meeting was chaired by Jayces president Doug Fishburn.

A Limehouse residents group led by John Glynn, approached council Monday to build a new road to solve that area's truck traffic problem. Council is considering a plan to construct a road between the Fourth and Fifth Lines from 22 Sideroad to Highway 7.

Georgetown resident Fred Harrison has just returned from Moscow where he attended the Canada-USSR hockey playoffs. Mr. Harrison said he had great seats for the final game and saw Team Canada's winning goal clearly. Mr. Harrison said, though, the Canadian practice of blowing plastic bugs was not liked in Russia; police spent the entire game running up and down the aisles trying to confiscate the horns.

10 years ago

Halton Region will be asked today to approve money to the Norval water supply project until provincial grants are released next April. The decision will come more than five years after residents in that area began complaining of pollution and low water levels.

For the first time in its history, the Annual Georgetown Fall Fair was cancelled on the weekend. Heavy rains flooded the fairgrounds, endangered the animals and threatened to destroy the park's baseball diamonds.

Council has resurrected plans to build an expansion onto the town's building on Trafalgar Road. The plan was first proposed by architect Don Hallford. Mr. Hallford's firm built the former Esqueving town hall.

Two local artists, Lotte Zonnenberg and Melanja Bray, will participate in the 10th Annual Outreach Exhibition and Sale of Art, Crafts and Antiques on the weekend in Oakville.

5 years ago

A Georgetown man has invented a hose attachment that will turn an ordinary backyard into an ice rink in under fifteen minutes. Doug Edward said he hopes his invention will help Canadian kids who grow up to be professional hockey players "beat the pants off those Russians."

Councillors agreed Monday to change Halloween to Saturday October 30 this year. Many residents felt it was improper to hold the event on a Sunday.

Morley and Lauretta Mills attended the United Seniors of Ontario Convention recently at Sudbury's Laurentian University. Over 600 delegates attended to discuss issues of primary concern to Ontario seniors.

Citizens' forum

Trucks are grave danger

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was filed with The Herald for publication.

Citizens of Halton Hills,

I would like to appeal to the parents of all school aged children to get on the phone to your local council representatives and MPs, write letters and attend the upcoming Sand and Gravel Quarries Committee meeting which will be discussing the safety issue regarding gravel trucks.

Last week a seven year old Pineview School student narrowly escaped death as he walked up his driveway upon leaving a school bus. It seems the bus was stopped, using the appropriate signals, but a gravel truck coming up behind was unable to stop in time.

The driver has subsequently been charged with careless driving and faces a fine of \$128 with the loss of six points. Hardly sufficient penalty considering the anguish and pain the boy and his family have endured!

As a member of the Halton Region Safety Council I have raised the issue of dangerous driving by truck operators in the past but have been told nothing can be done unless enough people write letters to complain. Although I'm sure that anyone who travels Trafalgar Rd. could relate some incident of danger involving these trucks, this past week has proven how serious this issue is.

So please take a few moments to jot down your concerns. A list of names and agencies to write to can be obtained by phoning 878-9145 or 877-3764.

Sincerely, Fran Goodkey, Halton Region Safety Council

Proposal for Acton bypass

Dear Sir, Enclosed is a copy of a letter and a map that I have sent to Coun. Rick Bonnette.

I am writing this letter in order to explain to you an idea that I have which I think would be beneficial to our community. The idea is one of a bypass through the Acton downtown area.

A study should be set forth before utilizing any property in the area of the Young, Queen, Hillcrest and Eastern Streets. The idea is one of a bypass that could swing south from Eastern and Queen over the tracks westward down through the back of the Tannery to south of Vimy to Main St. or # 25 highway. To my knowledge the property behind the Tannery is not able to be developed as a residential area.

A second study should be set forth to utilize the property in the area of Young, Perth and Wallace Streets northwest along the railway tracks to the junction of #7 and #25 highways.

If a bypass were to take place the potential for industrial growth off the bypass itself would exist.

Mill Street could be converted into a one way, one lane street eastward from Main to Queen. The north sidewalk of the street could be enlarged to accommodate benches, trees and flower boxes. A conversion of this magnitude would enhance Acton's downtown community. The elimination of heavy traffic through

our downtown area would have many more benefits I am certain. Enclosed you will find a map of the possible bypasses.

I have sent a copy of this letter to local papers looking for public input on this idea of a bypass away from Acton's downtown shopping area. Possibly sometime down the road like myself others won't have to be intimidated on the road by the ever increasing transport truck traffic that is driving through our town.

I am hoping to hear what you think about this idea soon.

Thankyou, J.A. Lepki

POWER has film, meeting

Dear Sir: P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) announces their monthly meeting at which the film "Drink No Longer Water" will be shown. This is an excellent film, is a must to see!

If you do not believe our water will be polluted, by a dump located in a quarry where the water flows below and around the dump site.

If you believe the Ministry of Environment is going to ride in on a white horse and save us from this terrible proposal.

If you think the health of Georgetown, Acton and local residents will not be threatened by the impending dump.

Then you must view this film!!! This meeting is on Thursday, October 15, at 8 p.m. at Limehouse School.

Darlene Kirwin (P.O.W.E.R.)

In your opinion

QUESTION: Do you think events such as The United Way walkathon are successful in raising the awareness of the community?

Walking for United Way



DAVE ASHLEY: "Yes, I think with the newspapers publicizing the walkathon that's how the public becomes aware of it."



FRANCES NIRLOCK: "I'm sure they are. We've got community support and corporate support. There's signs all over town. We can't help but raise the awareness of the towns doing things like this."



ANN FOSTER: "Certainly, the community participation is just excellent. The more people that participate the better, I think they're great."



DAVE SOAL: "Yes, I think so. I think that more people should participate. I know everybody's busy but the community should help out as much as they possibly can."



MAL DODGE: "If more people in Georgetown would get off their fanny and participate it would be successful. We need more participation."

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