

Tories relish a Senate showdown

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Unsafe conditions

Violations and carelessness by truck drivers are causing a citizen revolt.

Repeated problems with trucks in Halton Hills has resulted in a new group which has formed to oppose speeding 18 wheelers. We support the coalition of citizens meeting to put an end to unsafe conditions on our local roads and highways.

Increasingly, motorists feel intimidated on the highways, pedestrians risk injury by walking along the side of the road and homeowners can't get any peace and quiet. Most truck drivers are conscientious.

However, there are too many truckers on the roads who are more worried about their loads than the safety of others.

In an area rich in aggregate, people have to expect heavy truck traffic. But vehicles disobeying speed limits and circumventing weigh scales are abusing their rights to use our roadways.

Residents who live along these truck routes deserve to know their children are safe and their homes are assured of a reasonable level of quiet.

Truck companies have to take some measure of the blame for its employees who don't act responsibly. More guidelines and pay incentives based on speed of delivery, but safety record, need to be implemented.

Town council and Halton Region can take a closer look at further regulating truckers. Halton Hills can't restrict a company's ability to operate a business, but it's only fair its employees treat our residents with respect and slow down.

Rural residents

Canada Post is committed to cutting costs and making our mail system more efficient. But plans to cut back on rural service by using super mail boxes isn't the only answer.

There are other ways to cut costs besides reducing services to rural residents. In Halton Hills, if super mail boxes were used, rural residents would have to travel great distances to pick up registered mail.

And, as the postmasters union warns, there will be problems with parking, snow-clearing and vandalism if the super mail boxes are implemented.

Of those we talked to, many local postmasters felt they wouldn't be affected by the Canada Post proposal.

However, when The Herald also contacted the postmasters union, the representative issued a harsh warning. It doesn't matter how many pieces of mail a rural post office handles per day. The office could still be on the chopping block. Post office facilities in Ballinafad, Limehouse, Hornby and Terra Cotta could be closed.

How can this plan be stopped? Contact your MPP and write Canada Post.

Everyone would like to see Canada Post run more effectively at a lower cost to the taxpayer. Not all cost-saving measures need to reduce services in order to boost budgets.

There are other ways to cut costs besides offering the rural resident fewer postal services.

A gift of life

Gifts come in all shapes and colors. Some gifts come brightly wrapped, some in fancy boxes. Many are forgotten soon after they're received. If you want to give a gift that will be remembered, give the gift of life - give blood. Come to the Georgetown blood donor clinic Nov. 9 at Holy Cross Church, from 1:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Although you will never know who you have helped, you can be sure that you will have done the most generous thing a human being can do for another, you will have shared of yourself so that others may live. Each time you donate blood, as many as five people can receive the component parts of your donation. Your red cells may be used in surgery; your white cells for a leukemia patient; your platelets can be used for a cancer patient; and your plasma can be processed for use by hemophiliacs and burn victims.

Your one gift goes a long way. But please remember; blood is perishable, and continuously needed.

—From Canadian Red Cross Society

Home prices keep rising

Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Readers may have noticed that we have been running in our newspaper book reviews by children.

Thanks to the children's librarian at the Halton Hills Library, Jane McQuarrie, her followers agreed to write about their favorite books. The idea stemmed from Public Library Week (Oct. 19-24) and it was done as a project to highlight the week.

Some local teachers were especially encouraging during the project, particularly Mrs. Mackovnyk of Glen Williams P.S. and Mrs. Ruth Miller of Joseph Gibbons and Park P.S.

Halloween was quiet in my neighborhood this year. Our car survived the night without a single egg smashed across the back windshield. Considering that it was a Saturday night and the weather was good, I had expected the worse. Can

anyone beat 134 trick or treaters served? Who says the baby boom is over?

Housing prices have continued to rise in Georgetown, according to the Royal LePage fall report. In fact, since a year ago, homes in town have jumped 25 per cent. Sorry, there are no figures for Acton, but Leathershot is also a part of the housing boom because it is also close to Toronto.

The biggest gains in Georgetown are in townhomes which show a 38.5 per cent increase from last year. The average selling price is \$115,000 compared to \$83,000 a year ago.

Demand is obviously high for affordable housing as illustrated by the townhouse prices. The same type of home in Sarnia currently goes for \$82,000.

A standard two-storey home in Georgetown costs \$130,000 on average, a 13 per cent increase from last year at this time. An executive detached two-storey home costs \$210,000 and it increased 27.2 per cent in value while a detached bungalow costs \$150,000, a 25 per cent change.

Tories are publicly furious with the Liberal-dominated Senate for its refusal to pass the controversial drug patent legislation. Yet, behind the scenes, these same critics see great political potential in forcing a showdown with the unelected upper house.

"Not on the drug issue, though," says one Tory. "That's not a good battlefield for now, particularly with all the suspicions that this legislation was part of the free-trade negotiations."

In the latest Ottawa lingo, this is not a fight that would be staged on a "level playing field." The Senate has staked out the position that, in holding up the drug bill a second time, it is acting on behalf of Canadian consumers.

It is generally believed that, while the legislation may result in more money being spent on research in Canada, it will also increase the price of drugs.

While the government is confident that, on a level playing field, Canadians would overwhelmingly support an elected government in a showdown with an unelected Senate.



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

great care must go into selecting the issue at stake.

Some Tories see great possibilities in free trade.

"We can probably win the free-trade issue in a straight campaign," says one minister. "But imagine how much better it would be for us if the Senate would block free trade. Then we could campaign, not only for free trade, but against the Senate's right to block it."

"Now there's a campaign I'd like."

Several of his colleagues were very quick to agree. They also agreed on the advantage of having the Senate blockade legislation that has a reasonable level of public support. "I think we would have been okay on the drug legislation until all that stuff about it being part of the

free-trade talks," said a high-placed Tory.

It's assumed this suspicion had a great deal to do with the turnaround by Liberal Leader John Turner who had earlier said the Senate, despite his reservations about the drug bill, should yield to the elected House.

After opposition party suggestions the bill was linked to free trade and the Senate's decision to reject the legislation, as it stood, for a second time, Mr. Turner said the Senate should continue to "exercise its constitutional responsibilities on behalf of the people of Canada to ensure they are satisfied they have the truth."

Needless to say, the Senate's second rejection of the bill enraged the government. In the words of Consumer Affairs Minister Harvie Andre, "I would sooner lose this bill and any one of a number of bills than acquiesce to the principle that we have a bunch of unelected Liberals exercising veto power over the elected government of Canada."

BILL DIES

When the bill was rejected by the Senate on the first occasion, the

government modified the legislation and sent it back. All legislation must be approved by the two Houses. But the senators now have proposed a few more modifications of their own, meaning the amended bill must go through both chambers again if it is to become law.

An angry Mr. Andre said that "in South America, they have revolutions over things like this."

He said he was prepared to "have a constitutional showdown to assert the right of a government to govern."

But whether he would be prepared to have the showdown on this particular issue is far from clear. Certainly, some of his colleagues would counsel him against it.

As one Tory MP said, "when the government is at the bottom of the opinion polls and when the Senate is perceived to be holding down drug prices, it's no time for a constitutional showdown."

"Free trade," he said, "that's our ticket for finishing off the Senate."

Trouble is, while the senators may be unelected, they are not voted for political stupidity. So we can assume they'll be just as careful as the elected politicians in picking showdown issues. And the choice is theirs.



Meddick 01987 (NBA) 100

Non-medical minds hear the story

Eureka! At last our simple little non-medical minds are permitted a smattering of information concerning the cancellings of Dr. Ford's hospital privileges.

Fortunately, the hospital's counsel Mr. Listwood has produced an array of juicy statistics and random case reports. Like, "all us dumb women patients won't be analytical and ask embarrassing questions about how GDMH's tonsilectomy of fracture reduction statistics compare with the rates of say the John Hopkins medical centre.

And, since we're all dumb female Ford-supporters, we won't go to a library or nothin' and see that hysterectomy rates among dumb women across North America in the 25-40 age bracket have greatly risen due to increased cancer rates, lowering menopausal ages, endometriosis and a host of other factors.

And like we're so confident in all the other divinely infallible doctors in town that we never went to Toronto. We never seen that there are eight other hospitals performing gynaecological surgery including hysterectomies in an area smaller than Halton Hills. It will never dawn on us that Georgetown's is a regional hospital probably serving a broader demographic wedge than any of the downtown teaching institutions, and therefore Georgetown's surgeons are more likely to perform more operations! In short, none of us bright Ford-supporters will want to know how the hysterectomy rates of Dr. Ford compare

Citizens' forum

with the total doctors' hysterectomy ratio per annum of all Ontario practitioners.

Regarding all other cases brought to light by Joshua Listwood, I hope this nit-picking review will represent a green light for all us dumb-Halton-Hills-women having experienced less than perfect medical care. Just maybe we'll stop pretending that we still trust our medical professionals implicitly and stop ignoring the fact that several local practitioners have indeed undergone malpractice investigations in the past and without loss of hospital privileges or community acceptance.

Physicians do make mistakes and patients are widely aware of this... now if only physicians such as those so anxious to sling mud at Dr. Ford would face the music! Patients do not expect perfect treatment; they are entitled however to open, considerate explanations and services as demonstrated by Dr. Ford.

What we are witnessing in Georgetown is no isolated incident; it is indicative of a North American medical establishment determined to keep medical practices elevated from the public at large. "Doctors know best" but what happens when the patient's preference no longer enters into the decisions of the medical community in totum? I look forward to the next round commencing December 7th.

Didn't abstain from voting

Dear Sir,

I would like to correct a statement made in your paper on Oct. 28. Please refer to the enclosed "highlighted" portion from page 3. In November of 1986 the Medical Staff at GDMH voted to cease and desist all investigations of Dr. Ford and to reinstate his privileges. Dr. Landry abstained from voting, favoring a compromise solution that would include regular reviews of Dr. Ford's work, he said.

I did not abstain from this particular vote, as indicated.

I abstained from another vote, at the Medical Advisory Committee level, where restrictions of Dr. Ford's privileges were discussed (early 1986). I abstained on the grounds that I was not qualified, as a family doctor, to judge the Gynecology service of our hospital. In fact, at this same meeting of the M.A.C. I introduced my "compromise proposal", which would allow Dr. Ford to continue his practice, subject to periodic review, by qualified people.

I apologize if my testimony at the trial was confusing. Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Leonard Landry, M.D.



30 years ago

Olive Ostrander celebrated her 91st birthday with her sons Agar and Hilliard. Mrs. Ostrander was born in Springbrook and attended schools in Esquesing district.

Jean Moore of Georgetown married William Gilkes, also of Georgetown, at Acton United church last month. The couple now lives in Georgetown.

Two local citizens reported seeing the Russian satellite Sputnik 11 last night as it passed this area at about 7 p.m. Dorothy Stone and Mrs. Harold Page said the ship was visible in the sky for about 15 minutes and looked like a reddish star passing through the sky.

Ed Hall of Margaret street has been named the acting chief of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance Service. He replaces Ralph E. Hawes who has been chief of the service since it began in March.

15 years ago

Residents of 17 Sideroad showed up at Halton County council yesterday to propose building a new road that could be used by trucks. The residents propose a north-south route to be built to Highway 7 between the Fourth and fifth Lines. Denny Charles and Brian Buckrell spoke for the residents. Farmer J.C. Denny, whose farm would be severed by the new road, protested vehemently, claiming the proposal is "ludicrous" and "costly."

Council has approved a building permit to George Thomas to build a 61-suite apartment building on Mountview Road at the bottom of John Street. The apartment will cost \$800,000 to construct.

Maple Leafs right-winger and Team Canada player Ron Ellis announced he will be moving to Georgetown in December. He told a Brampton audience of his plans during a dinner in his honor Thursday night.

Some grade six students at Holy Cross School have made a video tape about the ice age. Students Paul McAuley and Paul MacDonald were cameramen.

10 years ago

Some Acton residents are concerned their town will get too big if Halton Hills Council follows through with its plan to encourage development in this area. Long-time resident in Acton Peter Marks said Acton's current size of about 6500 residents is big enough and some old residents may move away if it gets any larger.

The Region of Halton released the first volume of its draft Official Plan last week which will be the guide to regional development until 2001. The second part of the plan will be released this week.

Thirty-seven property owners in Glen Williams have filed writ with the Supreme Court of Ontario for compensation of their water well problems.

Mark Preston was one of the children who attended the annual Pine Valley Farm Pumpkin Festival on the weekend. The kids bobbed for apples and took hay rides.

5 years ago

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid told the House of Commons last week that the government should cut off some of its fat, just as he did during recent diet. He proudly told the House he has lost 30 pounds in five months.

The Cultural Centre is celebrating its anniversary this week with several events. Local performers will be featured during amateur night and on Friday, rhythm and blues singer Lon John Baldry will cap the week's festivities.

Newly-elected Ward 3 regional councillor John MacDonald celebrated the birth of his son Jordan Monday night. Councillors excused Mr. MacDonald for not attending town council meeting instead.

Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry spoke to a select group of area Progressive Conservatives last week at a Halton-Burlington riding association fundraising dinner. The party cost \$100 a plate and was held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club. He said the party should form a policy of "conciliation and reconciliation."



Sarah Gemma Peter Daria Danielle Meredith

In your opinion My favorite books

Danielle Aubin, Age 9, George Kennedy
Title: Karen
Author: Marie Killilea
This book is a true story about a little girl who was born with Cerebral Palsy. Karen's Parents had to search all over to find a doctor for her, but they always got the same answer: "Get rid of her." They kept on searching and finally found one. Karen's mom made up a committee to help parents of children with C.P.

Peter Johnson, Age 8, Park School
Title: I Want to go Home
Author: Gordon Korman
My favourite book is "I want to go Home" by Gordon Korman. This book is based on the weird things which happen to Rudy Miller and his friend Mike Webster at Camp Algonquin. Rudy wins a chess game that makes him Camp Director for a day. He writes a letter begging his parents to take him home. This is what he said: Dear Mom and Dad, This place is terrible. Each day I'm subjected to atrocities. The water is contaminated but don't worry. Rudy. Then Rudy comes up with an idea that can flood the camp or make him a hero.

Gemma Shuttleworth, Age 10, Glen Williams
Title: It Can't Hurt Forever
Author: Marilyn Singer
It Can't Hurt Forever is about a girl named Ellie who had a problem with her heart. She had to go to the hospital very often to have tests. She went in once for her main operation. While she was staying in the hospital, she met a girl called Sonia who was also in the hospital very often. Later on Sonia leaves and Ellie is on her own. Ellie has her operation and gets better. I wanted to read non-stop. It was really interesting to read about a girl my age.

Daria Flinlayson, Age 9, Park School
Title: The BFG
Author: Ronald Dahl
Just imagine suddenly knowing you may be eaten for breakfast in the very near future, and dropping like a rasher of bacon into a frying pan sizzling with fat. This is exactly what worries Sophie when she is snatched from her bed in the middle of the night by a giant with a stride as long as a tennis court.

Sarah Wall, Age 9 1/2, Park Public School
Title: Seven Days to a Brand New Me
Author: Ellen Conford
Madeline Kemper is an ordinary girl going to an ordinary school, but has a locker beside an extraordinary boy. He is blond, tall, and tall. He is practically a Greek god! Madeline is determined to win the heart of him but she thinks she is too dull. She goes shopping and finds a book called Seven Days to a brand New Me. She buys it, and it works. And on the last day of school the Greek god asks Madeline out, and tells her he likes her, old or new.

Meredith Miller, Age 6, George Kennedy P.S.
Title: Corduroy
Author: Don Freeman
The best part I liked was then Corduroy fell off the bed. It was funny. In the book, the girl bought the teddy bear, Corduroy. It had a happy ending because the girl got Corduroy and Corduroy got a little girl, a bed, and his button sewn on. (As told to her mother).