

Premier Peterson misled voters



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

Parliamentary tradition is adamant that "all honorable members" of the legislature are, in fact, honorable.

And honorable people, by definition, don't lie. So members can't accuse each other of lying.

And that frustrated NDP Leader Bob Rae as he attacked Premier David Peterson's amazing admission last week that there never was anything he could do to block a free-trade deal.

So what, then, was Peterson campaigning on during the election with his six points and his talk of a veto if they weren't met?

"I am prevented by parliamentary tradition from using the language which describes precisely what I think happened in the election campaign, and, indeed, in this House, with respect to the actions and words of the premier," Rae said.

In short, Peterson misled people. Rae was speaking during an emergency debate on free trade. The debate was sought by the New Democrats after a question period where the NDP leader had the premier on the ropes.

And he did it in the most simple way: quoting Peterson himself.

On Jan. 29, Peterson said, "that the provinces, in our view, would have veto over the implementation of any trade pact."

On Feb. 2, Peterson said, "I believe we have a de facto veto over the implementation of this situation at the appropriate time."

He also said, "there is no way I would allow the situation to develop that would change the auto pact to the detriment of the province of Ontario."

And when asked by reporters if he would exercise a veto over the deal if the auto pact was (in his eyes) threatened, he said the "answer is very clearly yes."

In fact, Liberal advertisements during the election campaign were

explicit on this point. "If the auto pact is gutted, no deal," they read.

Peterson's defence against Rae's assault was remarkable. It was to suggest everyone who didn't understand what he was saying over the past two years was stupid.

"It is a fact the federal government has the right to make foreign treaties. Where we have an influence is if certain implementing legislation is necessary in our areas of provincial jurisdiction.

"I think other people understood it: now maybe I made a mistake. I assume a reasonable level of knowledge on these things.

"Perhaps I misjudged it in (Rae's) particular case, in (his) understanding it," Peterson said.

If so, it was a case of misunderstanding fuelled by Liberal statement after Liberal statement. During the election campaign, the Grits left the clear impression that even though the auto pact was a purely federal responsibility, they could do something about any free-trade deal affecting it.

FRAUDULENT
The premier has run an election campaign on a purely fraudulent

basis," an infuriated Rae charged. But Peterson wasn't finished with his about face.

Rae also went after him on wines, where the province does have control. The free-trade deal would put U.S. and Ontario wine on the same competitive footing.

Would Peterson exercise his veto over the wine portion of the agreement?

No, the premier said. There is a GATT decision on our discriminatory policies about wine coming down soon and there is also possible U.S. retaliation against Canadian liquor imports that have to be considered.

Rae's response the next day was to dig out quotes from the campaign and read them into the record.

After listening to "Brian Nash, head of the Grape Growers' Marketing Board plead 'do not sell us out on free trade', Peterson promised he would not. 'Okay, we will shake hands on that one,' Nash said."

Rae suggested, "that is what they have reduced themselves to - the premier's handshake is worth nothing in this regard, nothing at all."

Olympic builders

When we think of Olympic builders we tend to think of organizers and coaches, sponsors and athletes.

But the Olympic movement isn't just about human athletic achievement. The Olympics is a world-wide theatre for art and architecture.

Georgetown is most fortunate to have two top-class firms participating in the Olympics in a different way: they're helping to build the Olympic Village that will reflect a spirit of high achievement.

P. Graham Bell (now known as P.G. Bell, Division of Vievest Inc.) and Artcast Inc., both located on Armstrong Avenue, are part of the Olympic ideal striving for stronger, swifter and higher goals.

P.G. Bell ventured out boldly in a bid to construct a classy, yet strong porcelain enamel roof for the speed-skating facility. The technology was not new but the design was but architects and employees of P.G. Bell didn't back down from the challenge of providing a first-class looking building.

Artcast Inc., well-known for its art molds of statues and sculptures was called upon again to participate in part of Canada's legacy. Readers will remember that it was not so long ago the John Diefenbaker statue was given its bronze shape in Georgetown, then shipped to Ottawa.

The statue, molded by Artcast and being readied for the Olympic site is magnificent, sure to mirror the spirit of athletic competition that we will see during the Games.

Two great builders have contributed to the overall success of the Olympics. Curiously, they did so without becoming "an official sponsor of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games..."

Reduced access

Copying unauthorized works is a great artistic rip off - that's if you believe in Bill C-60 and its amending rules governing copyright.

To the layman, Bill C-60 means more government control, reduced access to publications and films and a restrictive policy on our freedoms to enjoy art and literature.

The issue of copyright came up last week at the Halton Board of Education where Chairman Arlene Bruce is concerned enough to contact the federal government to stall the passage of the Bill.

Why the worry? For educators, there are fears that teachers won't be able to copy passages in articles, books, films or periodicals. Copying poems onto a blackboard could be considered an infringement of the Bill. Re-playing videotaped segments of a news program may be curtailed under the new legislation.

The Halton Board of Education fears the lack of specifics in the Bill will undermine enforcement of those who copy an author's work.

One has to empathize with struggling authors and artists who see their works widely used but can't share in the profits from the popularity of the material.

But initiating a system where it would take an army of copyright police to enforce the legislation is harmful and counterproductive to both the consumer and the author.

In the end it will be those caught in the middle, the school boards and the libraries, who will bear the brunt of ensuring the legislation is enforced. This will increase manpower costs and create a bureaucratic nightmare.

Artists do have rights as talented professionals working hard to produce original material. And the government is on the right track in developing a strategy to protect authors who work under an antiquated copyright act.

But legislation must also protect educators and libraries from being burdened and stifled by an oppressive system which restricts usage for those eager to learn.

Drug awareness week

Diary of a user

Hi, I'm Dan and I'm chemically dependent. I'm 20 years old and I started drinking and using drugs when I was about 13. Before I started using, I was shy and self-conscious. I had a lot of friends but I felt that I didn't fit in. I thought that I had to do the things they did, and act the way they did or they wouldn't accept me.



I've been in the Vita Program for months now and have realized a lot of things about myself. One of the biggest things I've learned is that I am the person I've always wanted to be only he's buried deep inside me somewhere. All I have to do to find him is sort through all the garbage. But I can only do that straight. When I was using that wasn't the real me, it was just a front, and I don't want to be that type of person anymore.

When I saw that alcohol could make me into the person I'd always wanted to be, I started using more and more. After about two years I was using grass and hash as well. At this time my marks were falling. I was getting in trouble with the law. My relationship with my family was becoming strained. The next four years were like a merry-go-round except I didn't get off and everytime I want around was worse than the last. Through it all I kept searching for a drug that would free me from all my problems and troubles.



"He wants to be the first person to scale a landfill. Does he need a permit?"

Citizens' forum Keep Open Door strong

Dear Sir, In September 1987, Open Door celebrated its third anniversary as a drop-in centre open to all teenagers in Georgetown. During these three years, Open Door has offered a front line counselling service for youth - as well as a place where they can gain support from a group of their peers. Our aim has been to encourage young people to look at the problems and pressures of everyday living objectively and to help them to discover ways of coping with the stresses that they encounter.

The staff and students realize that Open Door needs to be open on a more regular basis - crises do not occur only two days a week. The youth are trying to raise the money necessary to open more days by holding their own fund-raising events. But these kids have classes at school, part-time jobs, and other responsibilities that do not leave them with the time or resources necessary to generate the funds required.

have been at least three incidents of gravel trucks driving on the soft shoulder of the road to avoid hitting a stopped school bus. The first two narrowly missed children. The third one didn't.

Our 6-year-old son was involved in the third incident riding home on a loaded school bus Sept. 25. A quarter mile from the school on Trafalgar Road the driver made her first stop. A gravel truck following her stopped. A second gravel truck following the first truck didn't. He drove on the shoulder to avoid hitting the first truck and struck a 6-year-old child who had stepped off the bus and stopped to wave goodbye to his seat mate.

Background The Open Door Youth Project was initiated in September, 1984 by the Rector of St. George's Anglican Church to fill a need that he observed in the community for a teen drop-in centre with supportive counselling services. Ideally situated beside the high school, St. George's provided space and financial support to establish these services for all youth in Georgetown.

—Open Door is a proven project with 3 years history
—Open Door has a broad base of financial support
—Open Door is operating an unique, necessary drop-in centre
—Open Door offers crisis intervention counselling to teens with social, emotional, family, and environmental problems

The rest of the children spent 40 minutes sitting on the bus witnessing the aftermath. They absorbed a visibly injured schoolmate, gathering crowds, police, ambulance attendants, upset parents plucking their upset children off the bus etc.

The accident alerted us to the terribly high degree of danger facing our child, his bus mates and their driver twice daily. Several miles of his a.m. and p.m. bus routes are on Trafalgar Road and Steeles Avenue, both busy gravel truck routes. It is sobering to contemplate the unacceptable risk each time the bus stops. The loaded gravel truck that is often following may or may not be under control. Very much like Russian Roulette on wheels.

How Can You Help? We are embarking on our first major community-wide fund-raising campaign this month. Currently, we operate two days a week as a drop-in centre - with professional counselling staff offering crisis intervention, group discussions, family mediation, referrals to appropriate agencies, encouragement with education and careers, and other services to young people as needed. It costs \$36,000 to operate our services for two days a week during the school year, with additional crisis services when necessary. Estimated annual costs to operate 5 days a week are \$69,000.

A donation to the "Open Door Drop-in Centre c/o St. George's Anglican Church" will be receipted as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes. Or, if you are unable to contribute money at this time, we would appreciate the donation of any services, supplies, or equipment that you feel would be suitable for a draw, or the use of our teens.

Several solutions to this problem bear exploring:
(i) Control speeding gravel trucks
—employers and employees in the aggregate industry are remunerated by volume. Reality is that such a system automatically creates a need for outside controls.

Concerned with children's safety

Dear Sir, We are concerned with the safety of school children and their bus drivers in the Regional Municipality of Halton Hills.

—gravel routes need to be patrolled so regularly and thoroughly that the truck drivers can't come to expect to fit in that extra load that can only be achieved by breaking speed limits.

—a driver that passes a stopped school bus willfully endangers lives. Our laws should allow a judge to lift the driving license of an offender.

The gravel truck routes in Halton Hills must be safe for school buses to operate on. Today they are not.

Yours truly, Margaret and Stewart Brown

In your opinion

What you like best about bazaars

Grid of photos and names: FLORENCE INGLIS, PHYLLIS COVERT, MID BRUNSKI, NELLIE LANE, VERA FARNDALE. Includes text: "I like the big crowds but I'm glad it doesn't last too long."

30 years ago

Population growth in Glen Williams has boosted school enrolment over the 200 mark. The school is using the Town Hall as an extra classroom.

Harrison Public School opened its doors last week following an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Percy B. Harrison, former town clerk and present treasurer of the school board, thanked officials for naming the school after his father, who was school principal from 1882 to 1894.

A firm, whose name has not been disclosed to the town, is considering locating on a 20- to 30-acre lot in Georgetown. The town is concerned about sewage facilities. The firm has apparently narrowed its choice down to Georgetown and one other urban area. Reeve Stan Allen is hopeful the firm will "set the industrial ball rolling" in Georgetown.

Dorothy Irene Janet Bouskill married Richard Frederick Hancock at Knox Presbyterian Church last week. The bride is from Georgetown and the groom is from Glen Williams. The couple is now living in Glen Williams.

15 years ago

The Georgetown Recreation Committee will take its first step toward a second arena after the New Year when it hosts a series of meetings with the general public to determine what related facilities should be included in the project. The meetings will take place Saturdays.

A new study group has been formed to try to identify social or developmental problems in preschoolers. The Halton Early Identification Study is being run by North Halton superintendent Ron Chapman.

Eighteen of Halton's 20 school trustees are seeking re-election to the Board for another two-year term. Georgetown's sole representative, Ernest Bodnar, is currently Board Chairman. He will be seeking re-election.

The Georgetown Raiders' newest player Tom Gilbert scored three goals Friday night to lead the team to a 6-2 win over the Welland Merchants.

10 years ago

Former Toronto Maple Leafs hockey star George Armstrong signed autographs and entertained a crowd in Acton last week. The former player, known as The Chief, made a special appearance as part of the Annual Hospital for Sick Children Christmas Appeal.

Halton Hills administration committee is recommending council donate \$200 to a group of Acton teenagers who are trying to start a coffee house. The coffee house, called The Mug, will be located in the basement of the YMCA building. Coffee house executive member Mark Beaton told the committee Monday that renovations to the building will cost \$1,500.

Acton resident J. George Hargrave received the Order of St. John in Ottawa recently. The prestigious award honors citizens who have given outstanding service to volunteer ambulance associations.

Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough is expected to respond to a brief by Actonians for Acton by next week. The brief discusses Acton's role in the Halton community and the possibility of forming a separate municipality.

5 years ago

The Georgetown Lions Club is preparing for Santa's first visit to town on Saturday. The jolly character should pass through Main Street at about 1:30 p.m. He will be returning later in the month to visit Acton.

Senior management employees at Smith and Stone have made an offer to buy the company from Duplate Canada and Canadian General Electric. The present owners have accepted the offer. The deal should close December 20.

Georgetown lawyer Dick Howitt was sworn in as School Board trustee Wednesday night, two days after he was elected to the position. Mr. Howitt takes the post left vacant in September by Betty Walker. Georgetown High School student Scott Simmons, 15, is the first male to join the candy-strippers at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. The group's name will now be changed to a more generic "Teenage Volunteers", said Auxiliary President Pat Johnson.