

The last to know

The Curwood Packaging strike in Georgetown offers some interesting insights into labor-management relations.

The six-week walkout by union workers was the longest in years. At an emotional meeting point for the workers there was violence on the picket line and police made some arrests.

The strike took place during some of the coldest days of the winter, when family budgets were exhausted by Christmas gift-giving.

This was an eventful strike and a meaningful one for the union, but the walkout was no different than many different labor-management disputes across Canada.

Both sides played tough, waiting for the other to give an inch. In a first-contract, negotiating with a new union, management at Curwood couldn't be seen as being ready to give away the bank to its workers.

The union, on the other hand, had to ensure worker solidarity and stay out until a meaningful agreement was signed. Otherwise, signing up union cards would be a waste of those lured by the rewards of a united labor front.

Negotiations soon broke down and the company wanted to empty its plant of materials anxiously needed for its customers. Picketers, angry at the move, chilled by the winter winds and frustrated at progress of the talks, acted with violence. Incoming trucks were vandalized. Some were eventually turned away.

One can only imagine what would have happened if the company had decided to bring in "replacement workers" to fill the void within the plant. As it was, the firm acted as calmly as could be expected under the circumstances.

Sad as it seems, workers for the most part were kept in the dark about negotiations. The name-calling, arguments, politicking and rhetoric was left to management representatives, union representatives and an arbitrator.

A young staff at the packaging plant waited eagerly and anxiously for news but little was forthcoming.

It's a bitter lesson for the picketers who endured the boredom, the physical elements and loss of wages during the walkout.

The workers who risk the most are usually the ones who hear the least when negotiating news is released.

Toe the line...

It must have seemed ironic to regional councillors listening to a visiting politician talk about Metro's looming garbage crisis.

Last week, Richard Gilbert told the Region about Toronto's "desperate" waste disposal problems.

The answer in solving those problems? Mr. Gilbert wants the help of Halton and four other regional municipalities to form a management authority.

Hogwash. Halton Region has struggled long and hard enough on its own. It doesn't need or want to take on the garbage responsibilities of another large region.

The Toronto councillor actually has the audacity to say that Halton better toe the line or Metro has the ability to place its next landfill in our region without asking permission.

By joining a waste management authority, the regions would have a 4-3 majority on the board. Says Mr. Gilbert: "At least this way you'll have a voice."

That sounds like political coercion. How ironic it is for Ontario's largest city to be at Halton's doorstep looking for our help. This city, with endless resources and sophistication, is no better off than Halton.

Toronto is far behind this region in recycling. Metro must first get its own house in order, as Coun. Joan Little suggests.

Halton has been through enough and doesn't need the assistance or formation of a management authority on waste. The Region is well-versed on garbage issues and is well on its way to finding workable solutions.

To join forces with Toronto on some grandiose scheme would be like going from one nightmare situation to another.

Always on the ball



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Soccer and darts league correspondent Alex Tough was honored and recognized by The Herald staff Monday.

Alex has been a popular mainstay on the sports pages of The Herald. He has outlasted every editorial member now in the news and sports department in years of service to the paper.

Each year the staff, through a special pop and coffee fund, has honored a top freelance correspondent and writer. In 1985, a trophy was donated in tribute to Lillian Bellbuddy, a faithful former community correspondent who wrote about news in Ashgrove. Ballinlaid correspondent Winifred Smith won the award in 1985, followed by Kay Wilson of Norval in 1986. Alex Tough is the 1987 winner.

As a former sports editor, I can remember all Alex did back then (and continues to do) to promote the sport of soccer.

Sometimes provocative and controversial, Alex wanted to spark interest in the sport and motivate people. His columns generated letters to the editor, phone calls to the newspaper and general involvement and interest in the sport. Just to get coverage of soccer events, Alex prodded (and succeed-

ed) in signing me up one year for a stint in the highly competitive industrial soccer league. He encouraged coaches and parents and executive members to not just stand by and let soccer be considered second-fiddle to hockey in Halton Hills.

As a coach and referee, Alex was out at the soccer pitch regularly, viewing the game at the local level first-hand. As an added bonus in his column, the soccer correspondent told his readers about rule changes and offered instructional advice. He knew most of the kids by their first names and watched many a young athlete grow up to star with the top Georgetown rep team, the Falcons.

Alex has also been unique in providing locals with commentary and updates on the Canadian soccer scene in Toronto and the Canadian team playing on the international circuit.

Alex Tough's column is the longest-running column in The Herald and for good reason: they're well-read and the author is tirelessly dedicated to promoting soccer.

The staff is proud to enter Alex's name onto the Lillian Bellbuddy Memorial Trophy.

Those who have learned so much from photography expert Peter Moss and his column in The Herald's Outlook will be happy at this piece of news. Peter told us he will be continuing his photography column soon, after he stopped writing during the busy Christmas season.

Energy policy limits our sovereignty

The one area where both opponents and supporters of the Canada-U.S. free-trade deal agree there are meaningful limitations on Canadian sovereignty is energy policy.

That's why the exchange here between former federal Liberal cabinet minister Donald Macdonald and members of the legislature's committee on free trade was so interesting.

Macdonald, whose royal commission could be said to have sparked the current free-trade initiative, was federal energy minister during the oil price wars of the 1970s.

That was when Pierre Trudeau's Ottawa, with support from all three Ontario provincial parties (PC, Liberal, NDP), advanced a National Energy Policy that kept western oil prices below world levels for the benefit of Ontario consumers.

One consequence of the free trade deal would be regulations preventing that kind of favoritism.

Under the deal, American customers would get the same price as Canadians, although Canada would set the rate.



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

OIL EMBARGO
Questioned by Liberals Charles Beer and David Neumann, Macdonald harked back to the winter of 1973-74, when the Arab oil embargo was imposed. The world apparently faced an oil shortage, so Canada reduced exports to the U.S.

"American communities and firms that had become dependent on Canadian (oil supplies) were very substantially cut back," said Macdonald, who, as energy minister, was responsible for the policy.

He summed up the American reaction as "those Canadians - you can build a pipeline and they can start bringing their stuff (to us), but when we really need it, it will not be there."

Macdonald suggested that "if we want to do business in the energy

sector in the U.S., we have to be prepared to treat them as reasonably as our own people."

(Canada exports oil, natural gas, uranium and electricity to the U.S.)

What the free-trade deal does is insist that "when we make private contracts with American purchasers, only then, at that point, and where reduction of supply is dictated, will we be required to reduce it in the same proportion to our foreign customers as to our domestic ones," Macdonald said.

But Beer and Neumann wondered about the traditional activism of Canadian governments in economic development. Did not the deal restrict this country that way?

Macdonald said there is nothing in the agreement to prevent such national action as building the Trans-Canada Pipeline or supporting development of the Hibernia oil field off the east coast.

Nor did it affect the rate of oil (or hydro) production, nor the set price of the product.

What would the effects be? There would be no export cutoffs (except proportionately, as outlined above),

and no two-price system - such as we had in Macdonald's day as a federal cabinet minister.

Macdonald noted, however, that the "ultimate reaction" against the two-price oil policy did not come "from the United States; it came from Alberta."

"There was enormous resentment - I was at the core of that resentment. In effect, we were keeping their prices down but they were still having to pay full prices for automobiles, machinery, equipment and all the things we produced in Ontario."

"I have to say (the trade deal) is positive, not only from an (international) standpoint, but also from the sense of balance within the country that we now have this recognition that national two-price systems should not be imposed," he said.

In short, the deal enshrines equity for western Canada. Neumann's very Ontario response was "perhaps there are different views of equity" - an attitude that got us into the oil price wars in the first place. It is the west's oil, after all.



Citizens' forum

Reduce our class sizes

Dear Sir,

The Halton Elementary Teachers Association has recently held public meetings and has made a formal presentation to The Halton Board of Education regarding its concerns related to the size of elementary classes within the Region. I am not a teacher but as a parent with an interest in my children's education I have attended one of the public meetings and was present during the presentation to The Board.

A cynic might view the Association's activity as an extension of the employee/employer bargaining process. However, an examination of the well-researched Association position shows real disparity between class sizes in Halton and those existing in comparable communities across Ontario. Also there is, in their presentations, a readily apparent concern for the effect which this disparity has on the quality of education available in Halton.

Several critical facts emerge from the statistics which the Association has assembled from a variety of reliable sources (e.g. Ministry of Education, Education Relations Commission, Revenue Canada). Among comparable Ontario boards, Halton ranks:

- second highest in pupil teacher ratio;
- second highest in class size;
- second lowest in per pupil expenditure.

These rankings are based on 1980 statistics but have been fairly consistent over the past ten years. Two other interesting facts emerge:

Among the same comparable regions Halton ranks:

- second lowest in the equalized mill rate for elementary expenditures, but
- second highest in average individual income.

I doubt that any parent or educator can fail to acknowledge the direct correlation between class size and the quality of education. Those of us with children who have at one time or another required some

degree of special attention in school can readily attest to the difficulties faced by an elementary classroom teacher with over 30 children.

The Association presentation brings home the uncomfortable truth that our community has opted for cheaper, lower quality educational opportunity, than neighboring communities and most major Ontario cities and regions. The Association recommendation is that the Board undertake a planned gradual closing of the gap between its class sizes and those of other communities, for while the Board has been gradually improving the pupil teacher ratio, it has continued to lag behind other communities and has maintained its position close to the cellar.

The Association's position is a reasonable one and as a parent I endorse it. While one has a natural hesitation to advocate greater expenditure by any public body, the dollars involved are not enormous while the social benefits to be derived from better educated and socially developed children are considerable.

Anyone requiring more information on this subject could contact The Halton Elementary Teachers' Association in Burlington (681-2181). Anyone feeling, as I do, that The Halton Board of Education, in its pursuit of "excellence in education", should address the disparity in class size should contact the Board's local trustees since they will soon be finalizing next year's budget.

It is unfortunate that we had to invoke provisions of the law to cancel the event to the disappointment of those attending. If we had continued we would have encountered a \$1,400 loss which would come out of our funds for Community Projects.

Some attending asked why we did not lower the prizes accordingly. This however, would have been against the laws of the province under which the licence was granted. We do know that bingo clubs in other areas do not always operate according to these laws but the Optimist Club agrees with the operator of the Riviera Club in operating strictly within these laws. They are, after all, made to protect the public from unscrupulous operators.

We trust that the public will forgive us for cancelling out and understand our reasoning and that they will continue to support us and all other sponsors of bingo at the Riviera Club in Halton Hills.

Yours very truly,
A.A. Booth, Public Relations,
Optimist Club of Georgetown

School holds get together

Dear Sir,

The students, past and present of College Avenue Secondary School, Woodstock, Ontario, N4S 2C3, (519) 539-9873, along with their staff are inviting former students and staff to contact the school in order that they might register in advance by mail for the school's 25th anniversary reunion on the weekend of June 10, 11, 12, 1983.

Thank you.
Yours sincerely,
M.A. Caffyn, Principal

Bingo cancelled for good reason

Dear Sir,

The Optimist Club of Georgetown wishes to thank the 78 people who turned out for our weekly Bingo at the Riviera Club during the storm Thursday, Feb. 11.

In your opinion

Question: What is your favorite activity on a sunny winter afternoon?

Asked to revellers at the Terra Cotta Sweetheart Carnival.

Favorite winter activity



FRANK REDMOND: "If it is not too windy or cold the nice thing is to be outside enjoying the outdoors."



JACKIE POULIN: "I like to build forts in big snow banks. I like to ride horses the best."



EMILY DUMONT: "Just getting outside and enjoying the day."



VICKY RODMAN: "Tobogganing. I like going down a big hill."



JANE RODMAN: "Cross country skiing - I just enjoy that sport."



30 years ago

Leslie M. Clark of Georgetown headed the 1958 slate of officers of Countess of Strathmore Chapter, IOOE. Mrs. Clark succeeded Percy Leslie of Georgetown.

George Hoare of Georgetown bagged a 400 lb. black bear during a week-long hunting trip with the Blue Mountain Hunt Club in Sudbury.

The Junior Raiders moved into a seventh place tie with Unionville in the Suburban Super Eight standing by downing the Jets 6-4 on their home ice.

Mrs. Irvin Barton of Cooksville was judged Canada's cook of the year at a grand Bakeoff in Toronto. She received a grand prize of \$2,500 from W.F. McLean, president of Canada Packers Limited.

The Winter Achievement Day for 4-H Homemaking Clubs took place at the Milton High School with a record number of 125 competitors from 13 clubs in the county. The study of Meat in the Menu was the climax of a busy day.

15 years ago

Friends and family of Mr. Arthur Ruddle celebrated the Georgetown man's 90th birthday. Mr. Ruddle remained living in the house he was born in during his 90 years.

Mrs. Anne McMeney was elected president of the newly formed Home and School Association formed at the Howard Wrigglesworth Public School. Principal John Kobay welcomed the 15 parents who attended and encouraged all parents whose children attended the school to become members.

Mrs. Peggy Treahy of Georgetown received a certificate for completing Level 2 of the training course for sheltered workshop personnel at the National Institute on Mental Retardation York University.

Retiring manager of the Georgetown branch of United Gas Limited, Alex Blackwell, was honored by business associates and other friends at a social evening at the Hornby Tower Gold Club.

10 years ago

Lotte Zonnenberg of Georgetown won a prize for the best print at the Mississauga Library System's third annual juried art show. Mrs. Zonnenberg's print was entitled "Peace and Quiet".

School crossing guards in Halton Hills had their pay upped to \$10 per day from \$8. The raise brought Halton Hills guards' pay into line with what other municipalities in the region were paying.

James Reid and Claude Picket of Halton Hills and Harry Moore of Terra Cotta were awarded Master Breeder Shields at the annual meeting of the association at the Royal York Hotel.

5 years ago

Georgetown District High School student Lisa Switzer was judged Snow Queen for 1983 by a panel at her school. Miss Canada Judy Rutledge brightened the atmosphere for the approximately 500 people who attended the Sweetheart Carnival in Terra Cotta.

Brenda Archer of Georgetown earned one second place and two third place honors at the Kiwanis Music Festival. Competing for the first time the 15-year-old came in second for her performance of Handel's "Silent Worship" and third place for her singing of "He'll Be Cuckoo Fair" and "Don't Cry for Me Argentina."

The Halton Hills Herald placed in two categories of the Premier Award section of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association awards competition. It received an honorable mention for an editorial and a third place award for a sports and recreation feature.

Poets' Corner

TAKES TWO
He shakes
the waste
of barren thought
stirs
the slag heap
of whimsy
uncovers
the once hidden nugget
of an idea
Then
God
waits
and
watches.

-By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR2 Beeton