

Not very public

Obviously opinions differ as to what constitutes a public meeting.

A series of meetings to deal with public concerns about a potential landfill site south-east of Acton won't be public by our definition.

The Acton Quarry Landfill Advisory Committee meetings are proposed to fulfill requirements of the provincial environmental assessment process.

Organizers Eco Logic are inviting nine groups to sit on the committee. As it stands now, the press isn't invited, nor are general members of the public.

Instead, residents will be informed about the potential dump site's progress through four newsletters drafted by Eco Logic. The lobby group POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) is allowed to have one member sit on the committee.

The general public isn't invited. We'd like to know why not?

According to Eco Logic, the committee is set up to address public concerns, where possible, "in a non-adversarial form." This is a contradiction of terms. How can public concerns be addressed fairly by one delegate? Don't others deserve the right to attend if they so choose?

There is more than one thing that bothers us by this type of format which seems to be unfair to those opposing the quarry site as a dump.

Firstly, POWER is the only anti-dump group formally organized against the proposed use of the quarry. But that doesn't mean they are the only ones opposed to using the Acton quarry as a landfill. POWER doesn't have the mandate to represent all of Halton Hills in this debate. Others should have the right to be informed objectively on this issue.

Secondly, we don't feel Eco Logic should be side-stepping conflict by excluding people they deem confrontational. If they want information hearings without debate, then the whole idea of hosting these committee meetings is absurd.

Thirdly, the company which is proposing the landfill has hired Eco Logic to deal with the public hearings. This makes us a bit uneasy considering the firm isn't in favor of opening the meetings to the general public. Nor does it make us feel any better that Eco Logic will be writing the newsletters to inform those who missed the committee meetings.

For these environmental meetings to be accepted by the general public, then they too must be given the opportunity to observe and participate first-hand.

Otherwise, the outcome will never be accepted at face value.

Ordered growth

A Region-sponsored survey shows that a large majority in Halton and Halton Hills prefer growth in moderation. That's an important thing for planners and politicians to remember when developers come calling.

Some of the statistics and the reasons behind them are interesting and worth examining in further detail. In Halton, 50 per cent of the people surveyed want growth to remain the same and 41 per cent want it to slow down.

In Halton Hills, 62 per cent are in favor of keeping the growth rate at current levels while 17 per cent would like slower growth.

Not surprising, Halton residents are worried about maintaining water quality, controlling air and water pollution and preserving the environments, natural features and protecting farm land. More so than in any other decade, Canadians are increasingly more vocal about protecting their environment.

But residents are also very concerned about traffic congestion and holding down property taxes. Local politicians take note! Encouraging more retail shops and recreational facilities was considered a low priority, according to the survey.

In Halton Hills, moderate importance was placed on providing more rental accommodation for residents, a statistic worth emphasizing. A lack of low-cost apartments and housing are driving people away from residing in Halton Hills.

The survey provides a useful guide for politicians wishing to represent their constituents well.

In Halton Hills, people appreciate the quality of life and less hectic lifestyle than a large urban centre with its hustle and bustle. Most would accept more development, as long as it proceeds in a moderate way and without it affecting this quality of life.

As past history has shown, traffic concerns can cause a public outcry. The formation of the Mountainview Area Ratepayers Association is a testament to the concerns residents have about future development.

While development can increase a town's tax base, it can also overburden existing services and inconvenience already existing residents. All too often municipalities will extol the virtues of future growth under the guise of requiring additional tax money to fulfill the demand for more municipal services. But as we know, taxes have never been known to decrease and older residents can end up feeling that they have gained little from the arrival of a new subdivision.

While growth is necessary to prevent a town from stagnation, ordered growth is what people want to protect their lifestyle.

WRITE US A LETTER

Want to share your feelings on any subject with the community?

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor on any topic and from anyone who has the urge to write.

We only ask that the letters be signed with your name and address in case we must

call to check some detail. We will not print unsigned letters nor will we use pseudonyms.

Now all that's left is for you to do is pick up the pen!

Address your mail to Letter to the Editor, The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

Wellness is cheaper than sickness

It would be hilarious if it wasn't so tragic.

It is an article of faith in the Liberal government that health-care costs will be brought under control by changing emphasis.

The theory goes that there will be a shift from institutional care to home care.

"Wellness" rather than "sickness" will be the focus. This, it is said, will be cheaper.

Meanwhile, in real life, the costs of institutional care - as in hospital usage and doctors' fees - continue to escalate out of sight.

The Liberal reaction, last week, was to order more studies and establish more task forces to find out why.

A health ministry spokesman said a \$2.2 million review will look at the root causes of recurring hospital budget deficits, including examining staffing, management efficiency, new programs and factors beyond the hospital's control.

TOO MUCH
The latter presumably includes too many patients using the system too much, or too many doctors parking too many patients in available



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

There are 22 hospitals being looked at by six independent consultants. Their reports should be ready by April.

Meanwhile, in trying to defend the tax increases he is going to hit us with the same month, Treasurer Bob Nixon has revealed that OHIP charges are also soaring above budget.

Doctors have billed the plan for almost \$3 billion, about \$315 million more than expected. (The total health-care budget is \$11 billion).

In consequence, the Liberals announced last Friday yet one more task force.

This one, created jointly with the Ontario Medical Association, is to look at physicians' use of the system - with special relevance to costs.

Among the matters that will be considered are the doctors' use of the health-care system, the influences of high technology and an aging population, and patient demand.

(But those two stories were only the latest on cost pressures. There was one earlier last week about the financial load caused by over-use of prescription drugs in Ontario.)

It really would be funny - if it wasn't so sad.

What we are seeing is the inevitable consequence of "free" medical care.

Everyone using the system - whether patient, doctor, druggist, or whomever - totally ignores costs because he or she believes somebody else is picking up the tab.

NOT NEW

The Liberals' goal of moving more of health care into the home and out of institutions is laudable, but it isn't exactly new. The former Conservative government tried much the same thing, with good results in that many people who would once have stayed longer in hospital are now treated at home. Cost-wise, though, results are indifferent.

Hospitals are the front-line institutions in the health-care wars, the one place costs must be controlled if this supposed shift in emphasis is to have any salutary financial impact.

There is no sign yet that this is happening.

More than a decade ago, Conservative health minister Frank Miller tried to close small, inadequate hospitals. In the main, he lost. They are still open.

After him, two other Conservative health ministers, Dennis Timbrell and Larry Grossman, tried to get hospitals to live within their budgets. They failed.

Now, after almost three years of Liberal rule, and after the hospitals received hefty above-inflation transfer payments from the province (11 per cent this year alone), hospitals are still running deficits.

A basic law of economics is that the price of a product influences its consumption.

And if it is free and desired, as medical care is, there aren't any limits on usage.

No study or task force is going to change that reality.



Citizens' forum

Say no to Sunday openings

Dear Sir,
The Ontario Liberals are trying to make mince-meat out of the provincial retail distribution sector whose job it has been to deliver megatons of merchandise to consumers in an orderly and cost-efficient manner.

By capitulating to the demands of some of our major department stores together with the mammoth mall owners and the metropolitan media mavens, the government has shown its disdain for the welfare of thousands of retailers, big and small, who cannot entertain a 7 day work week for family and health reasons and who must walk away from their businesses.

And then, too, there is the Liberal government's ill-considered promise to guarantee job security for retail workers who may be indisposed to working on Sundays. This guarantee is both unenforceable and untenable, because if any employer insists that an employee work on Sunday, that employee WILL work on Sunday. Or else he will be squeezed out of his job, whether it be done overtly or covertly; or whether it is done now or later.

The politicians are playing havoc with the lifestyles of thousands of hapless workers and retailers who cannot play by their game rules. Even now, the quality of customer service in retail stores is nothing to write home about. Why, then, would anyone want to undermine and worsen that service? Which is exactly what will happen if Mr. David Peterson and company abrogate their responsibilities for the administration of Sunday closing laws by passing the buck to the unrepresentative municipalities; because the Liberals know full well that once one municipality opens for business on Sunday, the domino effect will cause all municipalities to open. This will lead to a further decline in retail services together with an increase in the cost of retail goods, a scenario which the public can ill afford.

Is this what consumers want? I, for one, refuse to pay the price.
Yours very truly,
Ervin Enchin,
Guelph, Ontario

Protect the unborn babies

Dear Sir,
The time has come for Canadians to cry out!
"There are no Unwanted Babies in Canada!"
Some parents may not want their own children, may not want the pains of bringing them into the world and raising them, may temporarily forget the joy that children bring to them and the world. A parent may forget the child of the womb. But these babies are wanted by another!

It is time for Canadians with voices to cry out for Canadians without voices, to Stop Abortions! You know the reasoning for abortion is false. In the U.S.A. and other nations where abortion is on demand they still have "unwanted children", battered and bruised, they still have criminals too numerous to put in prisons, murder is rampant, suicide is increasing. The respect for and value of human life is diminishing. Abortion is just one more example of the growing disrespect for human life; abortion is not a final solution to the devaluing of children, it is not a cure for the unwantedness of people.

The only way of getting rid of "unwanted children", unwanted people, is to start wanting them, "To Love Them!"

It is time for Canadians with voices to cry out to God long and loud, for He hears the cries against abortion but is deaf to the screams for it. It is important to write, call, tell the Prime Minister, the Opposi-

tion Leaders, the Minister of Justice, and every Member of Parliament to write a law to ensure that the Freedom to Live is the Primary Freedom of all Canadians from conception, a freedom upon which all other freedoms and rights depend. But it is even more important to call on God. Remember the parable of the Judge and Justice (Luke chapter 18).

Let it be heard that Canada is a People of Faith!

Case Blersteker,
820-9968 or 858-4033,
Seminary of Christ the King
Mission, B.C., Canada, V2V 1A7
God Bless You. He loves you.
And will never forget you!

1988 reunion for Lucknow

Dear Sir,
The Reunion Committee for Lucknow's Celebrate in 1988 would ask your assistance in letting former residents of Lucknow and area know about our upcoming reunion, June 30 to July 3.

All proceeds from this venture will go towards the reconstruction of the Lucknow Arena, which will of course be considerably expensive.

Former residents are invited to come home to Lucknow for a sun-filled weekend, meeting and visiting with old friends and families, as well as participating in a ball tournament, barbecue, beauty contest, church services, dances, fireworks, pancake breakfasts, parades and much more.

For further information write to Box 572, Lucknow, N0G 2H0, or call 519-528-3138.

Yours very truly,
Ian and Jean Montgomery,
Chairpersons, Celebrate in 1988

Question: What do you enjoy most about being a Big Brother?

In your opinion

About being a Big Brother



BOB McNAUGHTON: "I think it's the opportunity to be involved with the young boy. And to join him in doing different activities, things I wouldn't normally do."



SHAWN MARK: "It's the times spent fishing, with my little brother."



RON JOHNSTON: "I enjoy getting to do many of the things that otherwise I might not get to do."



DAVID BRADSHAW: "Getting to play. I get to spend time with a fantastic eight-year-old, and a good friend."



AL GALLOWAY: "Basically, it's the day in, day out, one-to-one relationship. The joy of getting to watch them grow into adults."

30 years ago

William G. Marshall of Georgetown accepted the appointment as the attendance officer for Georgetown District High School. Mr. Marshall, a former Georgetown reeve and police chief succeeded Harold Moyer in this appointment.

Ron Brighty of Georgetown gave a brilliant performance when he played the starring role in the Brampton Players' production of the venerable "Charley's Aunt".

Aurora United Church was decorated with bridal baskets of fern and white mums, white carnations, and white iris for the marriage of Sharon Kathleen Knoll and Marvin Edward McClenny. Rev. J.F. Morris performed the double ring ceremony.

Junior Raiders' high scoring right winger Doug Richardson pumped in six goals and picked up an assist in a game against the Bowmanville Juniors C Radisson. The Raiders wopped Bowmanville with a score of 14-5.

15 years ago

A Saturday morning fire that kept firemen at the scene for five hours completely gutted one of the oldest houses in Ballinafad. The family lost everything but the clothes they were wearing in the house fire, which caused approximately \$22,000 damage.

Centennial school students Deirdre McMurdy and Sherry Smeaton won one of the Oral Communications Festival Elementary Elimination Contests sponsored by the Ontario Public School Trustee Association and Ontario Hydro.

Tracy Barrager skipped his curling team to victory for the trophy and first prize in the Standard Products Men's Club bonspiel. The men participated in the spiel which lasted a week.

Five Georgetown women, all wives of policemen, joined the battle launched by Metro police wives, calling for changes which they felt would make their husbands' jobs safer.

10 years ago

Skipping meetings of Halton Board of Education to attend to business dealings cost trustee Don Long of Georgetown his seat. Mr. Long, who had business in Calgary, missed meetings on Jan. 5, 12, 19 and Feb. 2.

Jack Harrison, trainer for the Georgetown Chrysler Raisers, was awarded The Herald Portrait at a hockey heritage dinner. The award was presented to recognize dedication and service to the hockey community.

Pianist Robble Beaumont, 16, competed in the Kiwanis Music Festival in Toronto and walked away with top honors for the Under 18 class. The Georgetown student performed with the Georgetown Choral Society in their Potpourri Of Melody at the Knox Church.

Halton high school graduates who took part in a literacy test at Erin-dale College did better proportionately than about 650 students who took the test. In the group of 28 students 75.6 per cent of Halton's students passed while 50 per cent of the 650 who tried the test failed.

5 years ago

Scouts Russell Law, 11 and Chris McHale, both of Georgetown, indulged in war games of a sort of the Scout-A-Rama at Cedarvale Park. More than 150 scouting groups and guide companies turned out for the carnival in celebration of the 75th anniversary of scouting in Canada.

The art of talking was honed by Travis Gardiner, 11, and Michelle Douglal, 12, both of Georgetown, to win their awards at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic School in Georgetown. Running shoes was the topic of Travis' speech while Michelle's subject was teddy bears.

Councillor Finn Poulstrup presented a certificate of recognition on behalf of Halton Hills to Kinaman Brian Markham during a gala and party night for the Kinamen service club. The Kinamen were celebrating the club's 25th anniversary serving the community.

In their final game of the season the Georgetown District High School Junior Rebel eagles edged by the Q.E. Park Royals in double overtime. The final score was 44-42.