

Election opening

One by one, the three major political parties are dusting off their election machinery, anticipating a federal election within the year.

Founding meetings are being held to usher in the new riding of Peel-Halton. Georgetown and Acton will now be joined together federally. Incumbent MPs Otto Jelinek (Halton) and John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown) will almost certainly not run in the new riding which covers Halton Hills.

That leaves the field wide open for a new face to emerge as a political leader. Deciding to run for Member of Parliament is a big step for a person to take. There's plenty of prestige, long hours away from home, and few rewards. MPs must endure a lot and feel that, in some significant way, they are helping the people of Canada.

MPs must love their country and feel proud to be a part of our governing system. They must fight their hardest for their constituents when it's possible to re-work the system to everyone's benefit.

Of course, there is other criteria necessary for taking a run at office, some of which we've listed below. While almost anyone can seek a nomination with one of the three major parties, those who most fit the following model will probably win.

-A readily known face. In a short election period, a person that isn't easily recognizable by name or face has a severe disadvantage. There just isn't enough time to become familiar to everyone in a large riding, so having a name that people remember favorably can help.

-Good health. This is needed for the rigors of campaigning door-to-door during the election, but also afterwards when elected and faced with 16-hour working days.

-Good political sense. This can mean being aware of the issues, knowing the people, having good connections to help with campaigning and a load of loyal friends.

-Longevity in community. Constituents don't always like candidates parachuting in from other ridings. Nor do they always respond well to new arrivals in town. A hometown candidate has an advantage. It indicates he or she loves the area and knows the people.

-Strong convictions. People like a decisive leader. At least they respect and expect a decisive leader. They want someone who will stand up for their rights when the need arises.

-Former political membership. This helps in getting past the nomination stage. If a lot of old timers show up at nomination selection time and you're a newcomer, your chances are not good. People like ambitious politicians, but they don't like them to be too ambitious.

-Money. Candidates must either have money or be able to raise money, especially during the nomination stage. A well-run campaign can be financed by the party once the election begins.

-An image. Someone who casts an image of approachability and respectability will do well during election time.

-Media sensitive. A candidate must be a natural campaigner and be a good speech maker. He or she should look composed and confident in front of television cameras and return calls when reporters phone. It's for their own good. A quotable candidate who is able to excite and entertain his constituents also has an upper hand.

Though no one candidate can possess all of the above attributes, the person who most closely matches them all will be tough to beat. With no incumbent, the new riding distribution plus the closeness between the three parties federally, voters will be keying on the local candidates.

The candidates had better do their homework because it's going to be a dogfight.

Bicycle tour master



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

Herald Sports Editor Mike Turner deserves to take a bow for his strong placing in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association awards. Members of The Herald's news department were at the luncheon banquet Sunday to receive three individual awards for excellence. But we found out afterwards Mike missed placing first in our circulation category for sports by one point. The Napanee Beaver was first.

Charles Hildenbrandt of RR1 Georgetown is arranging a bicycle tour through northwestern Europe, from Amsterdam to Hamburg. A little notice about the event was seen by Herald staffers when we were sent a copy of the Bruce Trail News, now in a new glossy format.

A while back The Town of Halton Hills discussed making public notices of meetings easier to read. However, those drab, difficult to read documents are still with us. Who would know the following meeting is about concerns over well water and aquifer contamination?

The Town of Halton Hills intends to dispose of surplus property on Princess Anne Drive for residential dwelling construction. Concerns regarding the sale of this property will be addressed by staff of the Town of Halton Hills, the Regional Municipality of Halton and members of the Municipally-Owned Property Committee at the meeting.

A resident in the area, Barbara Halsall has been attempting to gain support against the project to build 15 homes on top of a town well. The experts say it's safe, but...

Confused about government at the local level? The school boards, Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills are combining their efforts to host a course on government.

Topics will include the structure of local government, the electoral process, council procedures, the budget process and municipal decision-making. The course runs Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. April 19 - May 24.

With a municipal election coming up in November, here's a chance to be well informed about local politics. Registration is March 31 (878-6113).

A meeting at Stewarttown Public School about AIDS in education last week was surprisingly civil. Somehow, I had expected parents with clenched fists rising to their feet and accusing school board members of encouraging teenage sex. Nothing of the sort. Most parents were more concerned their children had enough sex and AIDS education and that it be taught properly. Some parents offered their own suggestions about teaching the program.

The board does deserve a great deal of credit for being well prepared in its presentation and answering all questions in a candid manner.

Since entering municipal politics 2 1/2 years ago Council Joe Hewitt has fast been making a name for himself as a political animal.

He was a Liberal candidate for the provincial riding nomination last year, eventually won by Walt Elliot in the new riding of Halton North.

Now he's taken on duties as the president of the new federal Liberal riding association of Halton-Peel. With his intense interest in politics, one wonders if he's contemplating a run for the position of mayor in November.

Luring back Chretien to politics

Some rather influential Liberals have lately been devoting a great deal of time and thought to Jean Chretien. What they're searching for, with some desperation, is a method of luring him back into politics.

Mr. Chretien, a runner-up to John Turner in the 1984 leadership campaign, may be enjoying the talk and attention, but he's not giving any indication he's interested. He didn't enjoy the opposition benches - particularly under Mr. Turner's leadership - and quit active politics in 1986 to join an Ottawa law office.

He is, by all accounts, doing very well financially.

"They'll never succeed in getting Jean back so long as Turner is the leader," says a former Liberal cabinet minister. "They may as well forget it."

This man had been asked to approach Mr. Turner to see whether he could somehow "extend the hand of friendship" to his former colleague.

A good many Liberals see the return of Mr. Chretien as the salvation for the party in Quebec. Despite claims by party officials that everything is shipshape for the Grits in the province, there is great concern about the next election. The return of Mr. Chretien, they feel, would help eliminate present divisions, while resurrecting one of the most popular campaigners in Quebec's history.



Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod
Thomson News Service

There is no doubt Mr. Chretien misses politics. After all, "the little guy from Shawinigan" had been in Parliament since 1963. And during that period, he served as minister of revenue; Indian affairs; Treasury Board; industry; finance; justice; energy and external affairs.

After that, it isn't easy to keep your eyes focused on legal taxes. But, as things stand, there is little chance of the likeable lawyer returning to active politics - unless the party leadership became available. And there is no opening there.

Nor is there apt to be. Mr. Turner has never displayed any tendency to

retreat from difficulties. Furthermore, despite deep concerns about Quebec, it's important to remember that the Liberals are still significantly ahead of the Tories in national opinion polls.

It's unusual for so many concerns to be expressed about a party that leads the polls, but these are unusual times.

The party's difficulty in raising money is a cause for continuing concern. And the lavish endorsement that Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa gave to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in Montreal last week has not helped party morale one little bit. The premier, who strongly supports free trade and the Meech Lake Accord, called the Tory prime minister "a great artisan of national unity."

DISAPPOINTED
Raymond Garneau, Mr. Turner's Quebec lieutenant, said he was "very, very disappointed and I am not going to hide it." Mr. Garneau, a long-time friend of Mr. Bourassa and his former finance minister, said that Mr. Mulroney "was the big winner in this."

Mr. Garneau realized that, by speaking out, he was giving further

publicity to the Mulroney-Bourassa "love in", but "I don't want to be a complacent cuckold."

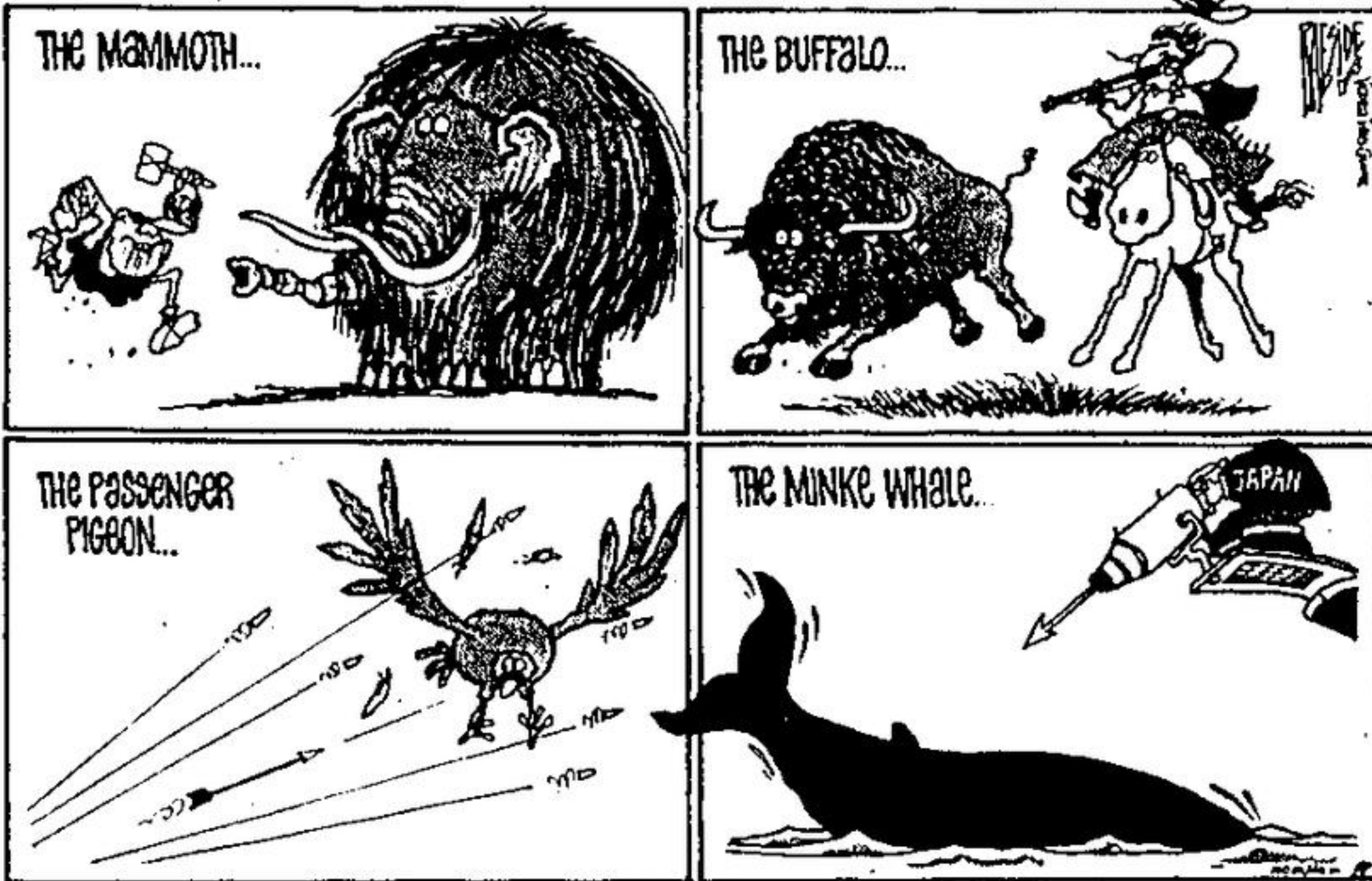
What has helped revive talk about Mr. Chretien is speculation that Mr. Garneau might not remain in politics beyond the next election. Mr. Garneau entered Parliament in 1984 as an opposition MP. He had given up a lucrative career as a bank president with realistic expectations of becoming finance minister in a Turner government.

Although he obviously won't say so, he is not the happiest politician in the country.

There are some optimistic Liberals who think Mr. Chretien could be convinced to return as the Quebec lieutenant with full control of party activity in the province. And nothing is impossible; Methodists have been known to become Muslims.

But Mr. Turner is highly unlikely to go on his hands and knees to get his old colleague back, and there are other caucus members who still resent Mr. Chretien's lack of interest after the 1984 election. These facts apart, there is no potential party role, except one that's unavailable, of the slightest interest to him.

KILLING FOR 'SCIENTIFIC' PURPOSES THROUGH THE AGES.....



Citizens' forum

Pierre Trudeau of Ont. politics

Dear Sir,
Now we see the real Premier Peterson - he's the Pierre Trudeau of Ontario politics!

Peterson, like Trudeau before him, stands for higher taxes, higher spending, higher debt - in short, he stands for bigger government.

In 1986-87, Peterson's government squandered an historic opportunity to balance its budget in one year. Its revenue grew by \$3.3 billion, which meant the government could have increased spending by \$1.7 billion, or 5.9 per cent and still balanced its budget.

Instead the Peterson government increased spending by \$3.3 billion, or 11.4 per cent, in a wild vote-buying spree. As a result, Peterson burdened Ontarians with a deficit of \$1.3 billion for that one year alone.

That will be added to the huge debt burden that our children will have to pay - and Canadians are already among the most over-taxed people in the western world.

Premier Peterson should look to the Conservative government of Great Britain and to the Labour governments of Australia and New Zealand for guidance. They have all balanced their budgets by controlling spending and pursuing privatization - not by raising taxes.

Yours sincerely,
David Somerville,
President,
The National Citizens' Coalition

Newcomers say thanks

Dear Sir,
Thank you from The Georgetown Newcomers Club to Cachet Complete Car Care, Downtown Pizza and Submarine, Delrex Smoke Shop, Dreamscape Landscaping, Exclusively Yours, First Choice Haircutting, G and S Printing, Georgetown Bowl, Goodlet's Furniture, Jeannette's Dutch Deli, M

and M Sports, Mac's Convenience Stores Limited, Marty's Too, Main Grocery and Variety, Miracle Mart, North Halton Sports, Schipper Fish and Chips, Oxbow Books, The Fairer Sex, Vanderburgh Flowers, Video Buff, Whimsy's, Yong's Restaurant, Young's Pharmacy, Zellers for their kind donations.
Pat Ellis,
Newcomers Club

Metro behind Halton recycling

Dear Sir,
Count myself among the many who are definitely opposed to allowing Metro Toronto access to a landfill in the Halton Hills area.

Concerns about possible contamination of local water supply, increased traffic etc. seem valid to me.

Halton is a community that is attempting to recycle as much waste as possible; can Metro say the same?

At present there is no comprehensive waste recycling program in place in the Metro area. Many feel this type of blue box system would not work in a high-rise apartment or condominium complex.

I see no reason why separate bins for paper, glass, aluminum could not be placed in a convenient area within these buildings. There are many ecology-aware citizens who would be happy to be able to recycle.

It's deplorable that a recycle program has not been put into place for Metro's home owners; if blue boxes are too expensive, go with the system of separating waste into grocery bags.

Should I feel I can trust the ecology of my community with a city who doesn't seem to care about its own?

Answer... not in my backyard Jack!

Yours sincerely,
Claire McAllister-Gass,
Georgetown

Looking at positive side

Dear Sir,
In reference to the comments made at the Halton Board of Education by the businessmen from Burlington. Well I know it's easy to criticize the board or any large government body for that matter, we have to also look at the positive side.

We in Halton are fortunate to have an educational system such as we have. The program for such a vast diversity of educational needs, such as special education for the enrichment of students who require extra help; example, the show learners. We have a special program at our son's school for the trainable mentally handicapped, that as I have observed is second to none with the emphasis on bringing the affected children up to the highest level possible. This is done so they could possibly someday go out and live on their own.

These are only two examples of our education system at work. Unfortunately they all cost money and are expensive. But I submit to you if they help the children is it worth the cost.

I know people find it hard to see ways to approach the board of education because it is so large. It is confusing when a trustee changes his mind on an issue such as pupil teacher ratio in Halton and then changes his mind on the hiring of vice-principals to assist the principals.

If people don't agree then phone your trustee or the superintendent of schools and through them maybe we can change the system or improve it.

We in Halton are fortunately blessed with first class teachers and principals. It would be nice if the parents could visit the school and see for themselves what actually does happen when their children are in school. I really feel they would be quite impressed.

Yours truly,
Tom Politi

In your opinion

The best time to get married



SANDRA PACHECO: "In early fall because it's still green out and the weather is nice. It's not too cold."

MAUREEN GARVAGH: "Spring. Because it's a new season and it's starting a new life being married. The weather's nice and the buds are coming out."

CATHY DOOLEY: "Anytime when you're in love."

DEBBIE BUTLER: "The fall. I was married Sept. 14 for the fall colors for pictures and it's not a busy (time) for taking a honeymoon."

COLLEEN SEEGER: "December is good because it's a great tax break."

5 years ago

Bruce McIntyre was recognized for his scholastic achievement at George Tech, a university in Atlanta, Georgia. The Georgetown resident was inducted into a select national honor society for attaining marks in the top 10 per cent of his class. Mr. McIntyre became a member of the Gamma Beta Phi Honor society.

Georgetown's swimming Rebels proved they were the best high school team in the province by winning the OFSSA senior championship at St. Catharines.

As a kick-off for the Red Cross Society, MPP Julian Hoed acted as master of ceremonies as well as joined a talented crew of entertainers at St. George's Anglican Church. One of the evening's highlights included a Fats Walker interlude of songs.

15 years ago

A Georgetown real estate salesman, Lloyd Crichton, was a member of a Brampton Curling Club rink which won the Canadian Seniors Curling Championship.

Georgetown high school student Werner Kraus studied the situation during a match in the high school's continuing chess tournament. Tournament play progressed every Wednesday among chess club members at the school.

Circulation at the Acton Library increased by 3,000 to 36,787 in 1972 from the previous year, chief librarian Isabel Watson reported to the library board.

Two hundred ratepayers who jammed the Esquimes Community Hall in Stewarttown made it clear they did not want any of Metro's garbage baled, compacted or any other way. Only two in the audience seemed to favor the proposal to have baled blocks of tightly compacted garbage stacked in the worked out parts of Indusmin quarries on the Fourth Line.

10 years ago

Molly Green earned the title of TOFS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Queen for 1977 by losing 46 1/2 pounds. Runner up Dorothy Pearson lost 25 pounds.

Bob Crawford was elected chief and Bill Campbell deputy chief of the Georgetown Volunteer Ambulance when the drivers selected their executive for 1978.

Paul Howard won a new Buick Skylark, an additional \$700 in prizes and \$4,000 on the television quiz show "The \$128,000 Question". Paul competed in the game show using the category of "Star Trek".

Cub Mike DelGuidice proudly showed his father Joe the four new badges he received at the Father-Son banquet held in St. Andrew's United Church for members of the 4th Cub and Scouts.

The Georgetown high school senior basketball Rebels, with help from the juniors, won the Peel-Halton "AA" championship with a 37-36 win over Mayfield.