

Designated cities are bilingual

EDITOR'S NOTE: Legislation has been passed to broaden bilingual services in Ontario, a prospect that delights some people and worries others. This is the first column in a series on language rights.

By DEREK NELSON
Queen's Park Bureau
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In November, 1986, the Ontario legislature passed Bill 8, the French-language Services Act. Some Ontario residents are cheering it. Others fear it.

The bill is being implemented in stages, with most of its provisions to be operational by late 1989. The final step after Bill 8, a move already promised by the Liberal government, will be to declare Ontario an official bilingual province. No date for that has been announced.

Under Bill 8, Ontario is divided into two parts for the purpose of extending French-language services: designated areas and non-designated areas.

In designated areas, all provincial government services, either direct or by agency, must be available in French as well as English.

It covers all government ministries, with health, education, and community and social services being the largest among them. It also includes more than 200 other provincial operations, ranging from Ontario Hydro to OHIP to the



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson
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Eastern Ontario Development Corporation to the Livestock Medicines Advisory Committee.

All their head offices and some regional offices, as well as an appropriate number of independent but provincially funded agencies (such as some offices of the Children's Aid Society), must also offer bilingual services.

'CONSULTATIONS'
The agencies, however, will only be required to offer such French-language services "after extensive consultations" with the government.

For community colleges and psychiatric institutions, where the government "anticipates some problems in recruiting qualified, French-speaking staff," designation will likely come later rather than earlier.

Municipalities and their agencies are excluded, as are universities, except where they voluntarily opt for French-language services. For example, municipal homes for the ag-

ed are exempt, while a Rotary Club home for the aged might be designated for French-language service. Police forces, however, remain a question mark.

The criteria for becoming a "designated area" are very broad. If, during the census, as few as 5,000 people in a large urban area describe themselves as francophone, that area will be designated as bilingual by the government.

That's why not only Ottawa-Carleton, where the largest number of urban Ontario francophones live (108,000 in the 1981 census and 123,000 in the differently calculated 1986 census, about 20 per cent of the population), but many other cities have been labelled bilingual. Good examples are Toronto (1981: 32,000, 1986: 38,000, about two per cent) and Hamilton (5,800 and 6,700, about two per cent).

Other designated cities, regions, counties and districts are: Windsor, Mississauga, Sudbury, Welland, Port Colborne, Pembroke, Algoma, Cochrane, Timiskaming, Nipissing, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell and Stormont.

There is a second means of determining designation. Any locale where 10 per cent or more of the population is of francophone origin is also deemed to be covered by Bill 8.

SMALLER CENTRES

This takes in many of the smaller population centres in the province, such as Ignace, Penetanguishene, Marathon, Tecumseh, and Winchester, Tiny and Essa townships.

Designated areas currently cover 50 per cent of the province's population and 85 per cent of its francophones.

Interestingly, while the provincial government can simply order that a town or district be added to the list of "designated" areas, to remove a place from the list requires an act of the legislature - regardless of the population figures. Colchester North, for instance, remains designated even though less than eight per cent of its 3,000-odd inhabitants are francophone.

And this raises the tricky question of how you define a francophone (or non-francophone, for that matter). Francophone and anglophone were words originally coined to describe one's linguistic community rather than one's ethnic background.

Statistics are boring, but they are vital in understanding that it is not need, but ideology - "Canada is a bilingual country, therefore Ontario should be bilingual" - that underpins the case for Ontario's massive and costly experiment in French-language services and (soon) official bilingualism.

So bear with me.

When the 1981 census was conducted, 653,000 Ontarians (7.7 per cent of the population) claimed French ethnic descent, but only 476,000 (5.3 per cent) said French was their "first language"; that is, the language initially learned at home and still understood.

There is another census category called "home use". People give the name of the language that is most used around their home and in which they feel the most comfortable. For French, that amounted to 278,000 (3.2 per cent) Ontarians.

A fourth category describes those who use only French. They numbered 61,000 (7 per cent) in 1981.

Postal dilemma

Canada Post Corporation came to Limehouse last week looking for input and suggestions, offering few options which would make residents happy. It's a lose-lose proposition for everyone.

Canada Post is mandated to end the career of all its rural postmasters, gradually replacing them with contract operators. The Corporation is looking for a retail business to take over duties on a commission basis to serve just as a postmaster would.

The impact on Limehouse residents, should the new Limehouse store owner accept the contract, is virtually negligible. However, very few people were happy after a public meeting March 8 when Canada Post explained the situation.

Residents are concerned about what the new owner of the Limehouse General Store must accept to keep the mail moving in the community. The Corporation would not release details of the contract, which gives residents no idea how profitable or unprofitable the commission-basis venture will be.

The residents don't want to see their newest retailer exploited, although they know their mail will bring in other business to the store. However, they are adamant about wanting the mail service to stay in Limehouse as it has for the past 131 years.

The dilemma is then placed on the shoulders of the new store owners. They could risk the goodwill of their potential customers by refusing to accept the Canada Post offer. The alternative, if no other business accepts the operator's contract, is to go to super boxes or a limited stamp and mail facility.

For Canada Post's part, there is little room to maneuver. The commission contract is non-negotiable. The Corporation must make mail delivery more profitable to meet its 1989 deadline for self-sufficiency. They argue the service can remain the same in the village if someone is willing to be the new postal operator.

Residents want the status quo and feel threatened by a change in Canada Post's policy. Few will blame the new store owners for not taking the contract. But an end to established, traditional mail delivery will be a blow to this tightly-knit, rural community.

Sour grapes?

In the far reaches of Halton Region, a police officer has been found guilty of neglect of duty.

The Burlington-based constable is to be sentenced March 25 and could face dismissal from his job with Halton Regional Police. The case has carried an interesting twist because of the publicity attached to the officer's failure to meet detachment goals or "quotas."

For years and years, ticketed residents have cursed at police officers in what they suspected was a vicious attempt to meet quota requirements.

Police deny this and did so again at the trial of the Burlington officer, instead explaining the force has a number of goals and objectives for each of its constables.

Now that's fair in our minds.

Every business has quotas and budgets and goals or whatever you want to call them.

Businesses have mileage budgets, typewriter ribbon budgets, telephone budgets and staff are measured on performance based on how good they are at staying on budget or within quota limits. That's only natural. It's a measurable way of evaluating a person's performance.

So what's wrong with police having a quota system if it means spreading the work around fairly and making sure officers perform their duties as asked to?

There's nothing immoral about it. There certainly would be if a motorist received a ticket and didn't deserve it just because of a system of juggling numbers. But that's not the case.

The police maintain its goals by objectives system is flexible and leaves constables a guideline to work towards. The public has nothing to fear if it is obeying the law.

Those who complain about unfair quota systems are more likely crying about spilled milk. Sour grapes, anyone?

A new master



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

One of the prettiest sites in Ontario, one of our last remaining untrampled natural habitats in southern Ontario has found a new master.

Scotsdale Farm near Ballinacree is a natural oasis known to few in Halton Hills. Now the Credit Valley Conservation Authority can hang a shingle out in front of the homestead claiming it's "under new management."

After five years of study and scrutiny, new questions will be asked about the 540-acre site bequeathed to the people of Ontario.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation, a provincial government sponsored agency has been the caretaker of the land with a mandate to find a capable manager to run the property.

The former beef and horse farm has been turned over to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority to manage.

The publicly-funded body will be given a free hand to organize the property under the wishes of the former owners, Stewart and Violet Bennell.

Unfortunately, one of the best proposals for using the site came from a horse park corporation that wanted to use the facilities to encourage participation and appreciation of

horses. The horse park group couldn't make a go of its idea when goals of a more financially-viable operation were expected.

Now, the CVCA will have its share of challenges within the two-year term of management granted to it by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The following are just a few of the issues that will have to be grappled with:

-even though the Conservation Authority is rich in administrative resources, where will the extra funding come to administer the property?

-can the CVCA accommodate all the requests for use of the property and still not destroy the passive nature of this beautiful site?

-should the land be used to attract more people into the area? How many people is too much? When will neighboring residents complain when busloads of people stop by for the day?

-what activities are compatible to the land and the wishes of the former owners who entrusted the property to the people of Ontario?

Initially I thought the land might have been well suited to a type of rural tourist attraction along the lines of Black Creek Pioneer Village. But the site is not well suited to accepting loads of people. The rural nature of the area isn't suited for handling day trippers from Toronto.

One can only hope the Scotsdale Farm property doesn't turn into a high-use commercialized operation with profit as a main motive for its existence.



Citizens' forum

School play was delightful

Dear Sir,
Is there anyone in Georgetown who about this time of the year does not get the Winter's Blahs? I have read many good articles in your pages, of solutions, therapy, hobbies, each of them having merit?

I had reasons to slip into depression, and very kind folks helped along the way, then suddenly!

A ticket took me into the John Elliott Theatre to see Centennial Middle School's presentation of No No A Thousand Times No. It was another world! I laughed till my sides ached.

Those lads and lassies sang, danced, and clowned their way to a standing ovation, and to the medicine I needed, telling me that their long hard struggle to bring happiness, was well worth their effort.

To each and every single one of you engaged in that production, my sincere thanks. Do we want more? Yes, Yes, A Thousand Times Yes!!
G. Mitchell,
Raylawn Cres., Georgetown

Demeaned by court system

Dear Sir,
Re recent rape sentence by Judge Ted Matlow. As Acting Chairperson of Sexual Assault Services of Halton I am writing to state our outrage at the apparent attitude of Judge Matlow as reported in the Toronto Star on March 5, 1988. It would not be so significant if this was not a pattern of past comments by other judges. The judicial system continues to fail to appreciate the long term effects that sexual assault has on the victims and their immediate families. The perception that women are ultimately responsible in con-

trolling men's sexual behaviors appears to remain strong. In our view rape must be appreciated as an act of power and violence which cannot be condoned in our society. The courts have to be leaders in transmitting this message.

Currently women continue to be victimized by their assailants and demeaned by the judicial system. We are asking when is this going to change and what steps are you planning to take to make it happen?

Yours truly,
Corrie Galloway,
Acting Chairperson of S.A.S. ff.

Remember the power you have

Dear Sir,
Please find enclosed a copy of a letter forwarded to Ms. Barbara McDougall, Minister for status of women in response to Carol Goar's article in the Star (March 8, 1988) "The choice is a woman's alone, says McDougall."

Dear Barbara McDougall,
It was with great interest that I read Carol Goar's article in Sunday's Star, "The choice is a woman's alone, says McDougall."

In quotations it states, "I'm a minister of the crown, not a minister of God." Each and every one of us is a minister of God, for our prime purpose, what we were created for, is to know, love and serve God on this earth so we may be happy with Him in the next.

Remember the power you have, has been given you from God. Pray and pray hard for His guidance. You and you alone are going to have to

live with your conscience for the rest of your life.

There are a couple of statements that you make that I have the "feeling" that you know the answer to this moral issue. It isn't a "thing" attached to a woman's body, it is a living human being.

When you plant an apple seed, you get apples not bananas, or pears. When a human seed is planted at the moment of conception, you have a human, not a thing or what. Today with our advanced information in embryology we know when life begins.

I agree with you that institutions, such as the government are not in the position to make moral judgements. Also I fully agree that our children should be better informed by their parents and in schools. They should have the information of what an abortion is, how it is done, as you say the pros and cons. The money the government spends paying doctors to perform abortions could be more wisely spent on single parent support and child care.

Please do not let your judgement be discoloured by the experience of your school friend. You are no longer a high school student. You are an adult in a responsible position. We, the citizens of Canada need you to make a responsible decision.

I shall pray daily that God may give you wisdom to make an appropriate decision. His will, not thy will be done.

Yours truly,
Gertrude Collins,
Glen Williams

Georgetown children's library.

In your opinion

The question what is your favorite type of book to read was asked at the

What's your favorite book?



BOB DONKER: "Adventure and mystery. They keep you in suspense. You really want to keep on reading and cannot put the book down."



CHRIS BLEN-COWE: "History. Basically you learn about the past, what happened before and how it affects today."



KEVIN LUMB: "History - knights and medieval types - and humorous types. I get a kick out of the humorous types. I am interested in knights and medieval times."



HEATHER DONKER: "Romance. I just like to read them. They are the only books I really enjoy the story in."



ANNE-MARIE POIRIER: "Mystery books. I just find them more interesting. They give you a chance to think about what is going to happen."

5 years ago

Alicia Scott had some advice for downtown Georgetown merchants: put out chairs for weary shoppers, especially senior citizens. Mrs. Scott made the suggestion in a letter to town council and the local Business Improvement Area board of management.

Johnny Lightowers, 5, found something at the Charis Pottery display held at the Georgetown Library, which was really a whistle. As part of her show, Charis Grace McKnight had shaped a number of amusing water whistles, which when manipulated correctly, filled the library with pleasant bird-like chirps and warbles.

Regional council recognized Esqueving farmer John McNabb's contribution to agriculture in Halton and presented him with a solid brass cow bell. Mr. McNabb was named Halton Farmer of the Year by the local Federation of Agriculture in the fall of 1984. He is one of a handful of Guernsey breeders in Halton.

10 years ago

Barry Shepherd, 33, was appointed school trustee for Georgetown by the Halton board of education. Mr. Shepherd was one of 11 candidates for the positions.

Douglas Lowe, 18, of Georgetown received a \$500 scholarship from the Aluminum Extruders Council Awards Program. Doug studied Radio Television Arts at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto.

Air Cadets of 756 Squadron raised \$500 in a 20-hour Dance-A-Thon to be used to buy a vehicle for the squadron. About 50 cadets and friends began dancing 8 p.m. Friday night and kept it up until 4 p.m. Saturday.

Angie Smith was selected Snow Queen 78 for the Winter Carnival at Georgetown District High School. Angie, who celebrated her 17th birthday four days prior to the crowning, planned to be a pilot.

15 years ago

James W. Martyn was appointed publisher and general manager of the Georgetown Herald. He succeeded Walter Biehn who left the newspaper to become manager of the North Halton Golf Club.

The petitions started by the Policemen's Wives Association collected in all 149,322 signatures. Cynthia Green was one of 10 policemen's wives in Georgetown, who stood in shopping plazas, knocked on doors and stirred interest in passers-by.

Mrs. Carol Fishburn of Georgetown won a 15 foot swimming pool as a door prize at the Jaycette interclub meeting in Elobocoke. The pool was donated to the Jaycettes by the manager of Tri-Men Pool Gyms Wellington Products Ltd.

30 years ago

St. John's United Church was decorated with pink and white standards of poms when Anne Minota of Georgetown became the bride of William John Earl of Norval. Rev. Morgan McFarlane officiated at the double ring ceremony.

Local hairdressers Mrs. A.E. Wheatley, who operated Louise Beauty Lounge, Laurene Baker, who operated Laurene's Beauty Shoppe, and Mrs. William Mohony attended the annual Hairdressers Convention at the Royal York Hotel.

Mrs. Ed Muszynski of Georgetown was crowned Shamrock Queen at the Lions Club St. Patrick's Ball at the Rose Room of the arena. The queen, chosen by lucky ticket number, was a new feature of the yearly ball.

