

Buying votes?

Can money buy you a political post? The answer is no, although figures sometimes don't support that theory. It takes a harder look at a campaign to realize that politicians win or lose at the polls based on their organization. Campaign expenses are just a means to an end.

Last week figures showed that MPP Walt Elliot had spent more than twice what his other two opponents spent in the last provincial election.

Mr. Elliot's Liberals paid out \$48,000 while the PCs, led by candidate Dave Whiting spent about \$22,000. Fern Wolf for the NDP raised \$10,000.

On the surface, one might suspect that our provincial member of parliament bought his way into power. But that is far from the truth.

Although Walt Elliot's campaign spent to its limit, money didn't provide the difference.

What the Elliot campaign team did do was organize themselves early and host a number of successful fundraisers in the community. Of course, it helps to be in the riding where the incumbent is a Liberal. It's much easier to raise money when the party is on top.

But the point is, the Liberals were organized and ready for a campaign while the Progressive Conservatives started very late and never really came up with a viable fundraising plan. We suspect the NDP in Halton North did better than other years with its fundraising, based in part from the strong showing of their candidate Fern Wolf and the backing of an experienced organization behind her.

An extra \$20,000 given to the other candidates couldn't have prevented the Liberal sweep in Halton North. Mr. Elliot kept to his plan and promoted his leader David Peterson who at the time was riding high in the popularity polls. He made no major blunders and that left his worthy opponents little room to gain ground.

More than contributing to the win, the \$48,000 war chest raised by the Liberals symbolizes a superior organization.

Getting better

Halton Hills is maturing as a community and although it may be getting older, there are signs it is getting better too.

Case in point: Arts Alive '88 is coming to town for a week-long stay May 1-7 featuring the excitement of local and nationally acclaimed talent. Arts is alive in Halton Hills and there's a renewed enthusiasm in the air.

In business circles there is the B.I.G. celebration planned for June 3-5 which features exhibits, demonstrations and events highlighting the expertise of local firms and retailers.

In the field of heritage, the recently formed group called the Local Architectural Advisory Committee plans to restore an early Norval burial site with proposals for more worthwhile projects.

And there is compassion. A benefit is being held for coma patient Paul Franks April 27 when Elizabeth's Fashions hosts a fashion show.

Get the picture? We're a growing community that refuses to stand still.

The last hurrah



Editor's notebook

By Dave Rowney

The Herald will soon be losing the worst third baseman that ever played for an Angels baseball team - me. Well, that's a reputation I've deserved over the years. But don't say my fielding and hitting was better than my efforts as an editor.

After nearly eight years as a sports and news editor with The Herald I'll be leaving to join Clarkson Gordon in Toronto as a public relations co-ordinator. Monday sports editor Mike Turner becomes news editor Mike Turner.

Rather than say a lot of thank yous and good-byes I'd rather use this last soapbox to talk about the field of journalism I'll be leaving behind - and so dearly love.

Most people don't understand newspapers and those who write for them. But that's okay because journalists are often accused of not knowing about their readers. The door swings both ways.

But readers who generalize about newspaper staff members who work so hard under intense pressure can depress an editor. A caller once said you can only believe about half of what you read in a newspaper. Ouch! That hurts when you say it to someone who takes pride in his profession.

A year ago I listened to a bespectacled accountant argue non-stop about making a newspaper with little or no news in the pages. Reporters only cost money and contribute virtually nothing to the paper, he said. That hurts. What's more, he's wrong.

In a small community such as Halton Hills, a newspaper plays an important role, if the townsfolk will give it a chance. Newspapers unite people, reporters challenge readers, remind them of their conscience, praise the worthy and criticize the wrong. Papers inform residents and record history.

But that doesn't mean The Herald can be compared to the Toronto Star or Globe. It doesn't have the resources in time, staff or size of newspaper. What it does have is a caring, professional staff equal to any found in any other newspaper across Canada.

Community newspapers are a different breed. The Herald doesn't have an attack mentality of the Toronto papers, but we've never shied away from a controversial story we thought was important to our readers.

To be a good newspaper you have to be, above all, consistent and objective in how you cover the news each week. At The Herald we've tried to show the community our jobs don't stop at 5 p.m. Friday. A sense of duty isn't taken lightly by anyone in our newsroom.

Still, there are readers who feel we've let them down. I've been threatened by a man who said he'd burn our building down if we didn't retract a story. A lawyer once gleefully wrote saying I was a snotty-nosed kid who was out of my mind. I've also been called arrogant and a weasel.

Discovering I would be leaving, one prominent politician said he always felt I was someone he could talk to... and I think I'll just leave it at that," he added. Editors can't be liked by 100 per cent of the community. If they were, they wouldn't be doing their jobs because not everyone is shined in a good light when a story is reported.

As my Ottawa landlady was fond of reminding me, "the truth hurts." A newspaper can only be respected if it uses all its resources and energy to search out the truth within the time restrictions imposed on it.

There have been tremendous "highs" while working at The Herald. An editor's most cherished moment comes after reading a reporter's story knowing that it has been carefully nurtured into a memorable piece that will reach readers in a meaningful way.

I'll miss the friendships and teamwork in the newsroom. I'll miss Marie's generosity and the hard-working composing room staff, the calls from the public and going out to meet people to write, learn and discover.

How will I be remembered? Not like a Lou Grant. Anyone with a Snoopy ruler and a Mallard duck tape dispenser doesn't deserve the comparison.

Like WKRP's Les Nesman? I'm about the right height, but I haven't ever worn a bow tie and my voice isn't squeaky.

Like Peter Worthington? I'm not that conservative and won't be attempting a run at politics.

Just remember me a good journalist.

Question of merit multi-faceted

Sometimes governments do the right thing for the wrong reason. And that is exactly what the Liberals did when they rejected a proposal to have a legislative committee approve their patronage appointments.

Conservative Bob Runciman moved a resolution here calling on the Grits to implement the recommendations of a 1986 all-party report on government appointments.

That report - which was signed by committee's Liberal members - called for a legislative committee review of the 1,500 or so government appointments made each year.

Runciman's motion, debated last week, lost 34-27. Conservatives and New Democrats voted in favor; the Liberals, reversing themselves from their 1986 position, voted against.

Both Runciman and New Democrat such as Ed Philip argued in favor of committee review because they saw it as making the appointments process fairer.

"Merit based" is the phrase used to describe the type of appointments they want.

BENEFIT OF ALL
"It is for the benefit of all tax-



Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

payers and all citizens of the province if we open up the system to ensure that appointees have qualities that are useful to those boards and commissions and are not there just because of a history of service to the party," Runciman suggested.

The Liberal response was to throw up a double defence line.

On one level, they challenged the workability of a committee actually reviewing 1,500 appointments annually.

Yet, the Grits know full well that the key to such committees is that it would pick and choose which appointments to scrutinize intently. Most pass automatically.

But the core of the Liberal defence of the existing patronage appointment system is simply that they are in charge of it - and because they are "as open and as fair and as non-

partisan about this process as one could ask" (to quote Toronto Liberal MPP Joe Cordiano), no changes are needed.

But have the Grits been open and fair and non-partisan?

Runciman analyzed the 12 appointments to the Social Assistance Review Board - appointments that were advertised and for which there were 1,500 applications.

He noted the interviews were done in the presence of a political assistant, and eight of those chosen have "clear ties" to the Liberal Party.

He wasn't arguing the quality of the final picks, he said, because he didn't know how good they were.

It was the Liberals' hypocrisy that bothered him. Even as they said they were opening up the process, the actual results showed well-qualified people without Liberal ties were basically ignored.

TOKENS

Philip said the few Tories and New Democrats the Liberals did appoint were tokens. Besides, he added, appointing some good people doesn't excuse other jobs being given to incompetents just because they are party faithful.

But that's unfair. Governments always argue their appointments are made on merit. Why would they appoint some dummy to a position and embarrass themselves?

Besides, one man's incompetence could be another man's genius.

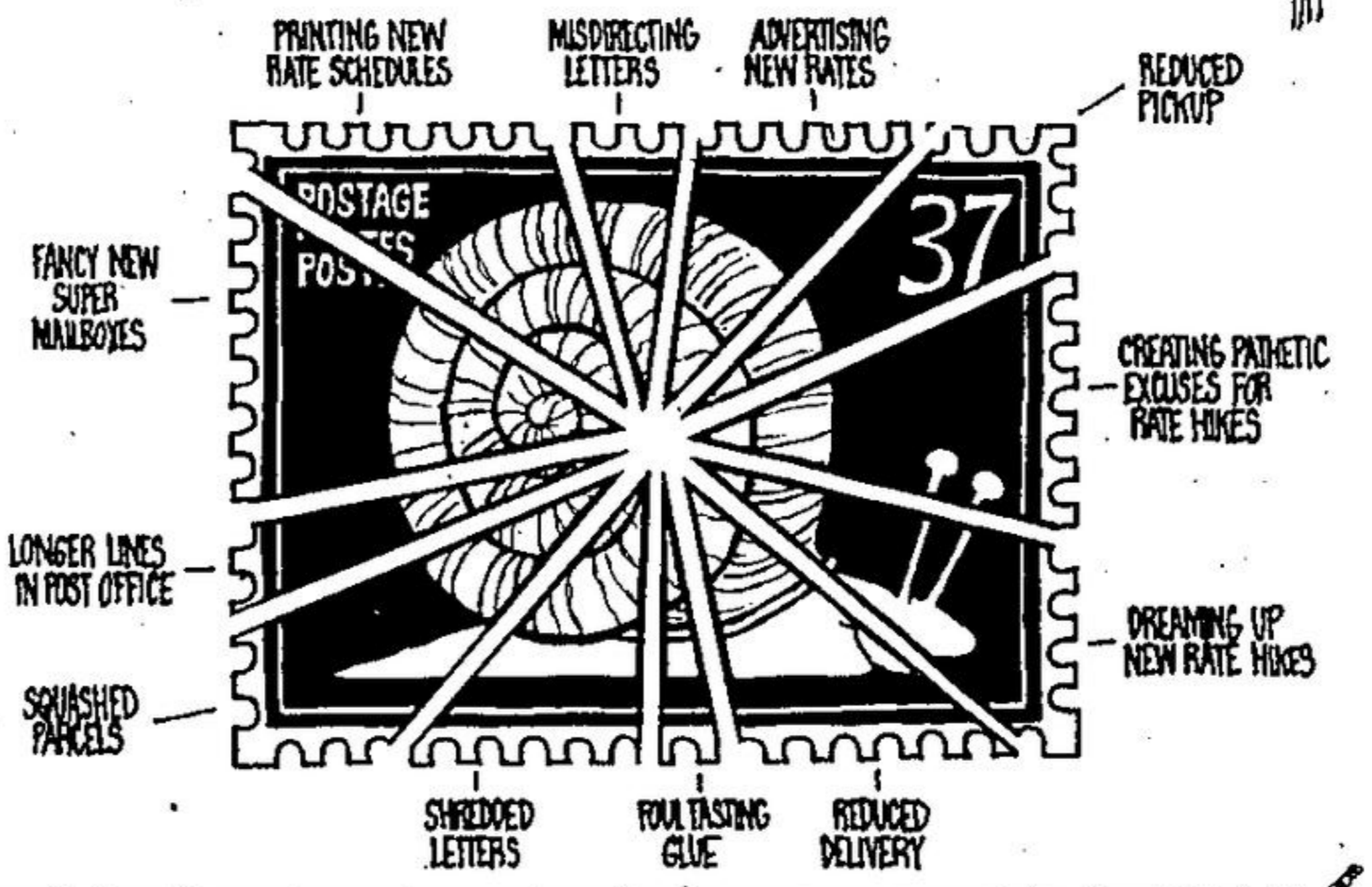
And that, frankly, is what is wrong with Runciman's resolution.

Committee hearings are just another form of witch hunting. Whatever is politically unpopular, or perceived to be because of political demagoguery and media manipulation, is doomed before such tribunals.

There is no fair examination of merit. (Look what has happened in the U.S. I call the late Senator Joe McCarthy and Robert Bork, a candidate for the Supreme Court, to the stand; McCarthy as a witch hunter, Bork as someone treated as a witch.)

Committee hearings in Ontario would follow the same pattern. For that reason, and ignoring the absurdity of the Liberals' sanctimonious denials about the patronage game, the Grits did the proper thing by opposing Runciman's motion.

WHERE YOUR 37 CENTS GOES



Citizens' forum

MD doesn't have privileges

Dear Sir,
In response to your March 30 cover story, "Ford Has 30 Days to Appeal", there are a few points that I would like to clarify for your readers.

Contrary to a quotation attributed to Mr. Joshua Kiswood, Dr. Jack Ford does not have courtesy privileges at Peel Memorial Hospital, and is unable to "use the hospital facilities under guidance and immediate supervision."

In the past, Dr. Ford has provided operating room assistance to other doctors on a case-by-case basis from time to time. In other words, Dr. Ford has simply assisted another doctor who has responsibility for the patient's care. If such assistance would appear to be in the patient's best interest.

It must be emphasized that our hospital is dedicated to the delivery of exemplary patient care, as reflected in our motto, "Care is our Commitment".

Sincerely,
Joanne Rider,
Media Relations and Events
Co-ordinator,
Peel Memorial Hospital

Proper course to reach Acton

Dear Sir,
The open letter to Mayor Mel Lastman of North York was very amusing but also misleading.

If indeed the gentlemen truly wish his honour to visit our fair town then they should make sure they have their directions on how to get here by bus correct.

It is not possible to get to Acton from Toronto by Grey Coach Bus Lines. If coming by Grey Coach one would have to go from Toronto to Guelph and then get the Go Bus to Acton. If one wanted to come directly to Acton you would have to take the subway to York Mills and then take a Go Bus to Acton.

Of course none of this would have been necessary if our Otto had come through and got the Via Train to stop in Acton as promised.

Yours sincerely,
Pat Patterson

We are proud to have so many friends and supporters in our organization.

Sincerely,
Neil Ramakers, President,
Georgetown and District Red Cross

\$600 raised for playground

Dear Supporters,

I would like to thank each of you for your generous time, donations and support in helping to raise money for the purchase of children's playground equipment in the Glen Williams Park. We have raised just under \$600 for "Project Playground" from our Tupperware Party and the sale of Hot Dogs April 9. That's a great start! I am very happy to see some of the members of the community pulling together for a very worthwhile cause.

My thanks to Angela Czerwinski, Deanne Fowler and friend Andrea, Vi Haines, Lorrie Juric, Peter LaBranche, Cathy MacDonald and Kristian, Theresa Mands and Nicole, Gordie Preston, Kelly Rowe, Gillian Scott, Carla Van Veghel, Denise Edwards, Steve Gemes, Michelle Jarvie, Liz Korzack, Jan Laflamme, Mary Rae Main, Gail McGourty, Jennifer Reynolds, Alison Schulze, Karen Seltz, Jennifer and Bob Weber.

Our next fundraiser will be the Lingerie Extravaganza to be held at the Copper Kettle on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tell all your friends and neighbors. It will be a fun night. Wine will be provided at a minimal charge. Coffee, tea and dessert free.

We also are looking into Bingo, a Garage Sale and of course our food booth and raffle on Canada Day. Food donations and volunteers to man the booth are needed for Canada Day.

If you or your friends have any ideas for fundraising or want to volunteer, please contact me at 877-0835. It would be great to hear from you. Again thank you all for your support.

Yours very truly,
Gail Bibby-LaBranche

Red Cross thanks to volunteers

Dear Sir,
The Georgetown and District Red Cross would like to thank all our volunteers who have worked together in providing essential community services.

Some of our volunteers have been with us for many years and have developed our Branch to the level of success we all now enjoy. Other volunteers are new to our team and have given us that added benefit of new ideas and fresh enthusiasm.

It is surprising to realize how many people in our town and nearby areas have at one time or another, volunteered their time and talents to the Red Cross. No matter what your particular contribution as a volunteer to our Branch is, I would like to let you know that we have all counted on your support and appreciate it very much.

The "AA" Bantam provincial championship tournament.

Hypocrisy is alive and well

Dear Sir,
I read with interest your Progress Edition last week and saw that hypocrisy is alive and well in Georgetown.

One story featured Interfab Steel on Armstrong Avenue. The office has a non-smoking policy, but owner Wayne Lister is quoted as saying, that customers who have a big order can smoke. Does that mean now that if you've got money you can smoke, and if you don't, you can't smoke?

If that is not hypocrisy, I don't know what is.
Annie Olsen

In your opinion

Is hockey too violent?



KAREN HARRISON: "I think if the refereeing was consistent, it might overcome some of the problem. The kids tend to idolize what they see on TV, and they see them getting away with it."



TREVOR HOY: "Since the masks came out, there's more violence in the game, itself. When I played hockey, a kid wouldn't think of putting his stick up above the shoulders."



JUDY PRIES: "Not really. I think they've got it pretty well under control. If the players use the right body contact, it's no problem."



DAVE MARTIN: "No, definitely not. There have been a lot of improvements with the quality of coaches. The national certification program has definitely helped."



HOMER STEN-NEFF: "Sometimes, yes. Most of the time, it's not so bad. I don't believe in slashing in the face. I think that's violence, and players should be punished for it."

Question: Do you think there's too much violence in hockey? (Asked at

30 years ago

The United Church paragon in Norval was the scene of the wedding of Mary Elizabeth Marchmont to Robert Wesley Brennan, both of Glen Williams. Rev. W. Edgar Gill officiated.

Tom Forgrave of Georgetown, along with 57 other Queen's Scouts, was presented with his Queen's Scout certificate by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario J. Keller Mackay.

A couple of strange looking beetles discovered at the B-A Service Station on No. 7 proved on investigation to be known as giant waterbugs. The beetles, some two inches long with a large wingspread, were noticed by Rev. Morgan McFarlane when he stopped for gas at the service station.

15 years ago

Georgetown Red Cross officer Elaine Sales was elected regional vice-president for the Hamilton-Niagara Region of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Harrison Public School Principal Eric Baskind and a member of the teaching staff, Ray Shier, are honored with a trophy presentation by Grade 4 student Graham Hill in recognition of their negotiating the Credit River Crazy Boat Race course.

Knights of Columbus past Grand Knight presented Holy Cross Grade 7 student Catherine DeHuek with a trophy for her winning speech on "Trials and Tribulations of a 12 Year Old".

10 years ago

Halton MP Frank Philbrook presented a flag to the Limehouse Women's Institute and to the first Limehouse Scouts. The Institute members raised a flag pole outside the Limehouse hall.

Outgoing president Jean Macdonald presented the president's pin to Marion Booth, who was the new president of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

John McDermid was nominated as the Progressive Conservative party candidate for the 1978 federal election. Mr. McDermid was the official PC standard bearer for the new federal riding of Brampton-Georgetown.

Fire Chief Mick Holmes and Acton District 1 volunteer firefighters were applauded as Acton Citizens of the Year. A special citation from prime minister Pierre Trudeau was among gifts and best wishes bestowed upon the firefighters.

5 years ago

Parent-volunteer Lynn Morey cut the ribbon officially opening the new playground at the St. Francis of Assisi Separate School. The students of St. Francis raised \$3,500 selling spices while service clubs donated the remainder.

Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy and fellow council members were tagged with Education Week pins by St. Francis of Assisi student Stephen Curry and George Kennedy student Paul Gardner when the mayor proclaimed Education Week.

Diviner Michael Kostuk preferred to use an iron bar when searching for water and, on occasion, gas or oil. Mr. Kostuk gave a demonstration on divining at the Georgetown Public Library.

A 17th century art technique developed by Italian painter Giovanni Costiglione was revived by Georgetown artist Jo Walterson.

Poets Corner

TO YOU FROM ME

I'll love you thru the site
tho darkness fills our lives
I'll share the pressing dawn
when new life surely arrives
I'll fill your days with thoughts
I'll tickle when need be
I'll listen when that helps
Mostly I'll be me.
-By MARLOWE C. DICKSON,
RR3 Beeton, Ontario