

A day with Mel

North York Mayor Mel Lastman's visit to Acton on the weekend was an eventful one, and those in charge of setting up the good-natured fun are to be commended.

When Mayor Lastman made his infamous comments about Acton, many people could have easily shook their heads, and bristled at such audacity.

Instead, the incident was turned into something positive, and a lasting bond of goodwill was achieved.

Mayor Lastman should also be commended for being such a good sport through the entire proceedings.

The following is a poem written by Halton Hills Councillor Gerald Rennie, which fittingly capsulizes the day's events.

On His Worship's Visit And Subsequent Education By Gerald Rennie

Let all the world, both near and far Know Acton is a rising star. Upon this firmament we stand, Full famous in our Motherland.

Apologies we make to none, But proudly bask beneath the sun For we have snared unto our fold The Mayor of North York - Oh so bold!

He little knew of our fair town And dared to doubt our great renown. Said he: "What's Acton? Who would drive? That burg's a hicktown; couldn't thrive!"

Thus raised he then the ire of Rick And other folk to play a trick. They cast him down their gauntlet strong To prove to Lastman he was wrong.

When Mel arrived with horses twain And donkey making up his train, He scarce had lighted from his cart But Acton folk began their part.

Police in handcuffs gripped his wrist And hauled him down under arrest, While Pomeroy in Bobby hat Pronounced the charge - and that was that.

A prisoner, Mel was forced to view The sights of Acton old and new. He saw the streets; he saw the town. He rode his buggy up and down.

And he confessed and all did hear That really he held Acton dear. All was forgiv'n and he could boast That Acton was the finest host.

Reporters gathered here in force To tape his words, to pat his horse, And make a record for our land To music sweet from George's band.

Then on the News the world did see The Mayor of North York, sure 'twas he That praised our fair and lovely town And never more would put it down.

He knows as all the world doth know That Acton is the place to go. Here commerce, industry so thrive That Acton's truly worth the drive.

Sing it out

Well, the BIG Weekend is finally upon us, and what better way to herald its arrival than with a song about Halton Hills.

Following are the lyrics of a song composed for the occasion. But don't worry if you don't know the music. You're sure to hear it where ever you go in Georgetown this weekend.

Head for the Hills - Halton Hills It's the place where everyone should go. Pack up the car - come as you are. The best place in Ontario.

It's a place to wander - It's a place to live It's a place to head for any day. We've got friendly people - We've got sights to see. There is no place I'd rather be.

Head for the Hills - Halton Hills It's the place where everyone should go. Pack up the car - come as you are. The best place in Ontario.

Come on down, cousin

Dear Cousin,

How have you been keeping up there in Georgetown? We have had some excitement down in the Glen lately. Barney just put siding on his place, while Fred put a whole new front lawn in. It's rumoured that Shelagh is getting a new fancy car to drive down the road to church in.

However, the big news is that we're celebrating Canada Day in the Glen again this year: Friday, July 1 is the big day.

Nothing begins until the day is almost half over, on account of the chores which have to be done. So if you can wait, the baseball club will be serving breakfast at the ball park from 7:30 a.m. They'll be there until 10:30 if you want an early lunch. Then the diamond will begin to sparkle when the Villagers will field a team against the Town Councillors (your system kind of people).

The grand parade will commence at 12 noon right down Main Street. Then the politicians get a chance to talk up some woe. After "Q. Canada" we'll all share some homemade birthday cake. Well, the

afternoon is chalk full of fun. There'll be entertainment on the stage while the kiddies can have fun in their own play area. The Town Hall will have their usual adult "play" area. Speaking of the Town Hall, that's where the Seniors can get a quiet tea at no cost. Afterwards there'll be bingo in the hall.

The afternoon games will include the obstacle course, ladies log saw, the egg toss and the search for the best pair of men's legs on this side of the Credit! The pet show is on for 1:30 at the school. The Equine Historical Society will be conducting a walking tour about 2 p.m. Roger Temple is organizing the Tour de Glen (like my bilingualism) bicycle Race from St. Alban's at 3 p.m.

Well, there is so much more to tell you, but I'd better cut it off for now. The garden needs some serious weeding and then several of us are going over to watch Mike spread manure on his garden. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar.

Sincerely Yours, Cousin Glen

Medical care rationing opens can of worms

In order to reduce soaring costs, the government intends to ration medical care.

That's not what they'll tell you, of course.

But it is the clear implication of several recent trial balloons floated through the media by the Health Ministry, seeking public reaction.

This government squeezes on the public's use of doctors and hospitals won't be known as rationing.

Instead, it will be called "utilization management" (managing the use of medical care), or some other bureaucratic euphemism.

But whatever the label, the underlying reason for it is the Liberal government's increasingly desperate desire to get the escalating costs of health care under some kind of control.

Up till now, the Grits have responded to health care's financial elevator by just piling more money

onto it. The result has simply been stimulation of the monster's appetite to climb skyward.

Yet, as this column has noted before (quoting from legislative committee testimony of a decade

ago), there are only two ways to put a brake on the rise in health-care costs: either reduce the incomes of the people in the system, or reduce the public's use of the system.

GOAL That second option appears to be the ministry's goal.

Take, as a possible pointer, a recent column by a Queen's Park colleague, the Toronto Star's Rosemary Speirs. The column dealt with the overuse of medical services.

She often has knowledge of the latest government thinking.

Listen to what she said about patient use of hospitals and doctors: "Under the current system, who is to decide whether costly heart surgery should be performed so often on elderly patients (where the benefits aren't clear)?"

"And not just in the case of hearts. There's lots of evidence around that the rate of gall bladder removals and/or caesarian sections is too high, that drug prescribing is often useless or even dangerous, and so on," she said.

The conclusion she draws about all these supposedly unnecessary activities is that: "By default, all the

decisions on which patients get what kind of care are being made by individual hospital physicians. No one is in charge of the overall pattern."

And who should be?

"Presumably, the health minister should be studying the benefits and laying down some guidelines for hospitals," she suggested.

"What the health-care system needs is planning," she summed up. Well, the trouble with vague words like "planning" or "guidelines" is that they have to be translated into specifics.

If too many elderly people are having heart surgery, there are only two ways of restricting such operations.

LIMITS One is to forbid the operation for everyone above a certain age. The other is to limit the number of people who can go under the knife.

The first solution is democratic in the sense that it subjects everyone to the same risk (except the rich, who will only go elsewhere to have the operation).

The second option can't be sold in a system where "equal access to medical care" is an article of faith, an untouchable icon. Remember, that was the reason the Liberals gave when they banned extra-billing.

Who will tell Mr. Jones he will likely live and Mr. Smith he will likely die?

Certainly, if Speirs' column accurately reflects ministry thinking (and I think it does), then some kind of rationing is inevitable.

And it may not just apply to heart surgery and gall bladders or caesarian sections, but everything from use of dialysis machines to going to see a doctor.

The politics of selling such restrictions in a province where everyone takes for granted that medical services are free - without any limits on access - will prove very interesting.



Citizens' forum

Thanks to two caring people

Dear Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to a pair of teenagers who stopped to help my eight-year-old son Nicholas on the evening of Friday, May 13.

Nicholas and I were riding their bicycles along the paths in the treed area to the east of Park School. Someone had strung wire between two trees across the pathway. Before he knew it, Nick had been thrown from his bike. These good samaritans helped him up and assured themselves he was fine. They then took the wire down and went on their way.

We were fortunate that Nicholas only received burns and scrapes along his neck.

I thank God that these young men were on the spot and willing to help. Thank you and God bless.

Pamela Johnston, Gardiner Drive, Georgetown

Residents put through hell

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a copy of a letter addressed to Minister of the Environment James Bradley, submitted to the Herald for publication.

Dear Sir,

I fail to understand how this government and your ministry can put the residents of Halton Hills through this hell. The Acton Quarry Landfill proposal forces us to sit in committee meetings reviewing technical documents with no independent experts to explain the consultant's reports. There is little point in questioning the consultants hired by the proponent, Reclamation Systems Inc., since they are not under oath and it is their job to make the best case for their employer. Each discipline has its own terms and jargon. We would all need courses in transportation, landfill design and hydrogeology to comment intelligently on these reports. If we bring our concerns forward, the proponent, not being able to

answer, immediately hires another consultant to mitigate that problem.

The proponent, owned by Comcor Waste Systems Ltd., Armbrro Materials and Construction Ltd., St. Mary's Cement Corporation and the Lake Ontario Cement Ltd., has money. We have no money. Ninety-nine per cent of the Georgetown residents, who all drink well water, do not realize the danger of landfill in a quarry surrounded by the Amabel Rock Formation. The Amabel Rock Formation carries the Amabel Aquifer from which all water in this region (including country wells) is pumped.

No one in Ontario wants a landfill, but this situation is unique. This sets a precedent on four counts.

1. First private developer of a landfill. The license, once obtained, can be sold to Metro or any other municipality allowing them to bypass the present process.

2. First landfill where 34,000 residents are on well water.

3. First Environmental Assessment where no alternatives are considered. The law is not being applied equitably.

4. First landfill in the Niagara Escarpment where many other quarries exist.

Recommendations:

A. Specific to this case: 1. Stop this proposal now! or 2. Provide intervenor funding. We cannot continue these meetings without it. 3. Mail each resident of Halton Hills an information letter explaining that their well water will eventually be contaminated.

B. To deal with a province-wide problem of garbage disposal: 1. Seek out information from countries like Japan, where 80 per cent is recycled. 2. Host a world-wide packaging conference in Toronto to develop packaging that is environmentally sound. 3. Provide incentives to municipalities to sell compost containers to residents at a reduced rate. 4. Give a tax credit to residents who regularly use their composter. 5. Provide penalties for municipalities not recycling.

This is one of our most serious problems. It will not go away. It cannot be buried. Why must this govern-

ment be dragged along kicking and screaming as the situation worsens?

Provide leadership. Take action! Billions of dollars will be saved in doing Environmental Assessments and developing sites. Think of the future. All safe potable water sources must be protected. We don't intend to drink the chemical soup coming down the Niagara River.

Trusting in your urgent action,

Barbara Halsall, Member of the Presubmission Consultation Committee for Acton Quarry Landfill

Post Script: Halton Hills residents, your drinking water will suffer. P.O.W.E.R. is the only organized group opposing this landfill. Support their legal fund. Attend the P.O.W.E.R. fund raising dinner Tuesday, June 7 at the Olde Hide House.

Yours truly, Barbara Halsall

Special thanks from Auxiliary

Dear Sir,

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary would like to thank the following businesses for their donations to the Penny Sale at our Family Fiesta on May 21: Emerald Isle Bedroom Gallery, Georgetown Yarn and Crafts, North Halton Sports, Georgetown Decorating Centre, Carol's Hair Salon, Hillside Sand and Gravel, Cachet, Young's Pharmacy, G S Television, Sheridan Nurseries, Galyn Shoes, Little Angels, Office Magic, My Generation, McCarthy's Olde Tea Room, Green Meadows Garden Centre, Georgetown Fruit Market and Bacardi Rum. These donations were appreciated and greatly added to the success of our day. Thank you.

Yours truly, Shirley Chaplin, Penny Sale Convener

question: If you could make one change to get the Blue Jays flying again, what would it be?

In your opinion

What's with the Jays?



ABAD MORA: "Trade Jesse Barfield for a new starting pitcher."



ANDY DOMINGOS: "Fire Jimmy Williams and hire Cito Gaston as manager."



JEFF HANNAM: "Trade George Bell and Todd Stoddlery to New York for Dave Winfield."



GORD BURKE: "Make a blockbuster deal and get rid of Todd Stoddlery."



SCOTT VANDEVALK: "Stick with Todd Stoddlery. Move Lloyd Moseby to left field, George Bell to designated hitter and move Sal Campuzano to Centre field."

30 years ago

Ola Berg, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Berg of Limehouse, received his B.A. degree in Maths and Physics from the University of Toronto. Mr. Berg is a graduate of the Georgetown District High School.

William J. Collier of Georgetown was congratulated by the lieutenant governor of Ontario, the Honorable Keller Mackay, when he received the long service medal at an investiture at the Parliament Buildings.

A member of the Georgetown Kinsmen Club, Tony O'Byrne of Georgetown, was the seller of the winning ticket on a 1958 Ford-Tudor sedan. An Oshawa man, Brian Hickey, won the draw.

John A. Hunter of Georgetown completed a professional course in industrial relations at Queen's University in Kingston. He is a graduate in Arts, class of 1955.

15 years ago

William Hunter, a past warden of Halton County, announced he would be running for mayor in the northern borough. The councillor was currently serving on Georgetown council as a Ward Two representative.

A pilgrim to the scene of their first Canadian home, now Cedarvale Community Centre, was made by 100 men who came to Canada 50 years ago as penniless Armenian orphan boys.

The new industry Mold Master, which was in Downsview, started operations in Georgetown. The plant, built by McNally Construction, is located on Armstrong Avenue.

Elizabeth Robson of Georgetown announced she would seek the presidency of the Halton Liberal Party. Miss Robson had been a vice-president of the Halton and Halton East Liberal Party Association since 1963.

10 years ago

There is nothing quite as soft and cuddly as a young lamb as Kim Collier discovered during a visit to the farm of Dr. Brian Buckrell. Kim and other children from the Maple Avenue Nursery spent the morning touring the farm.

The Halton Hills chapter of the Knights of Columbus was awarded first place for their monthly bulletin "The Scribe" at the Ontario State convention.

A Georgetown cadet, Kim Haliburton, appeared briefly in a film shown on CBC TV stations. The History of the Canadian Girl Guides showed three White Oaks girls.

John Richard Hall of Terra Cotta graduated from Trent University in Peterborough with a bachelor of arts, while Jill Cunningham of Georgetown graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo with a degree in general arts.

5 years ago

Charlene Baker of the Georgetown Christian School could not resist a table full of equipment which was part of the town's public works display.

Award winners at the 756 Royal Canadian Air Cadet 15th annual inspection were: Julie Schwyer, Julie Balch, Lis Grookorth, Andrew Bosticher, Arnaud Ng, Francisco Moya, Erank-Bernhardt, Greg Sturko, Kevin Lamb and Darren Harvey.

Teaching is no longer limited in materials to books. Nowadays, audio-visual equipment and field trips give children a broader education, said retiring teacher, Mary Brown, who spent 22 years as a teacher in Halton.