

DAVID A. BEATTIE, Publisher
and General Manager

BRIAN MacLEOD
Editor

DAN TAYLOR
Advertising Manager

Phone 877-2201

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Nuclear crunch is coming



Queen's Park
Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

lapse and will therefore have to take over AECL's current role.

"I'm worried about them... getting out of nuclear funding altogether," Ontario Hydro chairman Robert Franklin is quoted as saying.

AECL wants to develop a third-generation CANDU reactor called CANDU-3, but this would be impossible without major federal (or provincial) R and D support.

Another pointer is a plan by Ottawa to sell off the profitable parts of AECL, including Nordion, the world leader in sales of cobalt-60 for cancer therapy, industrial application and food irradiation purposes.

Cobalt-60 is a byproduct of the nuclear process at Ontario Hydro's reactors and some estimates suggest \$60 million a year in sales could be made during the next decade.

But even more critical to a nuclear future will be the Liberal government's decision on new reactors.

SPLIT

Several cabinet ministers, including Treasurer Bob Nixon and House Leader Sean Conway (whose riding contains the nuclear-research complex of Chalk River), are publicly supportive of nuclear power.

But others, including former energy minister Vince Kerrio and Premier David Peterson, have indicated in the past that nuclear power is finished in Ontario.

They prefer importing energy from Quebec, although the cost

figures are horrendous and building the necessary transmission lines is likely to prove politically difficult.

They also want to push conservation, even though many observers believe Hydro will have trouble meeting its existing conservation targets, never mind doubling them - which would be required if a new, four-reactor nuclear station (or equivalent coal-fired plant) does not go ahead.

The real competition to nuclear is coal, although a special study set up to review Hydro's cost estimates apparently (it has yet to be formally released) endorses Hydro's conclusion that nuclear is cheaper by 25 to 50 per cent.

However, nuclear's main drawback compared to coal - anti-nuclear hysteria generated by activists in organizations such as Energy Probe - still exists.

Whether cabinet can summon up the nerve to reject such Chicken Littles remains in doubt. (The almost total Liberal cave-in to environmentalists on various other issues, from hunting to Temagami, doesn't augur well for CANDU.)

One bright spot is that there doesn't appear to be any shortage of friendly sites for a new reactor station.

There is wide local support for a further four reactors at Darlington, east of Oshawa. Two other possible locations are the north shore of Georgian Bay near Elliot Lake and at Chalk River in the Ottawa Valley.

It's a political fight

The Acton quarry is looking more like a quick fix to Toronto's garbage crisis every day.

Halton Chairman, Pete Pomeroy said of the Acton quarry last week: "I think people should be aware the site is under discussion."

While he didn't go so far as to say the newly formed Greater Toronto Area committee has discussed the Acton quarry, he did warn us of that prospect.

And some councillors are shocked.

They shouldn't be.

The announcement should be a surprise to no one.

But, during last year's municipal elections, local politicians consistently said there is little chance of the proposal by Reclamation Systems Incorporated being successful.

Even now Mr. Pomeroy says the proposal by RSI "doesn't have any possibility of ever being approved."

Don't be lulled into complacency by such statements.

No politician wants to be caught saying, "yes, there's a chance the landfill site in Acton could happen."

But that's just the case - it could happen.

Soothing words by local politicians claiming that the landfill site "can't" or "won't" happen are just the thing RSI is looking for.

It would seem that a crucial piece of advice offered by Lois Gibbs, the leader of the Love Canal battle, has slowly been forgotten.

At Georgetown District High School last year, Ms. Gibbs said the fight against the dump has to be a political fight. Those who fight dumps entirely on scientific grounds generally lose, she said.

It's great that the town is setting aside \$200,000 to fight the landfill site next year, but Ms. Gibbs' advice shouldn't be forgotten.

We know Metro Toronto is watching. Now, more than ever, it is a political fight.

"All the news..."



Editor's Notebook

Brian MacLeod
Herald Editor

Things will be a little different around the Herald on Monday nights from now on. Former editor Mike Turner has taken the reins of a Listowel newspaper and for me, that means poring over stories, sizing photographs and grease-marking pages, instead of taking in town council meetings on Monday nights.

It's Donna Keil who'll be covering town council and making the trip to the big green building in Oakville on Wednesdays to report on developments from Halton Region.

But after two years of covering town and Regional council, and after covering federal, provincial and municipal elections and after countless meetings and stories on the most explosive issue facing Halton Hills residents in the coming years - waste disposal - I haven't become jaded. Here at the Herald, we'll still attack those stories the way we always have.

I know Donna is looking forward to what will prove to be a challenging, interesting and at times controversial job.

In the past two years I have found that our local councillors enjoy good, constructive debate with local journalists and I'm sure Don-

na will be able to catch on quickly.

Here at 45 Guelph St., the door will remain open to comments, letters and opinions not just from the politicians but from you, the reader.

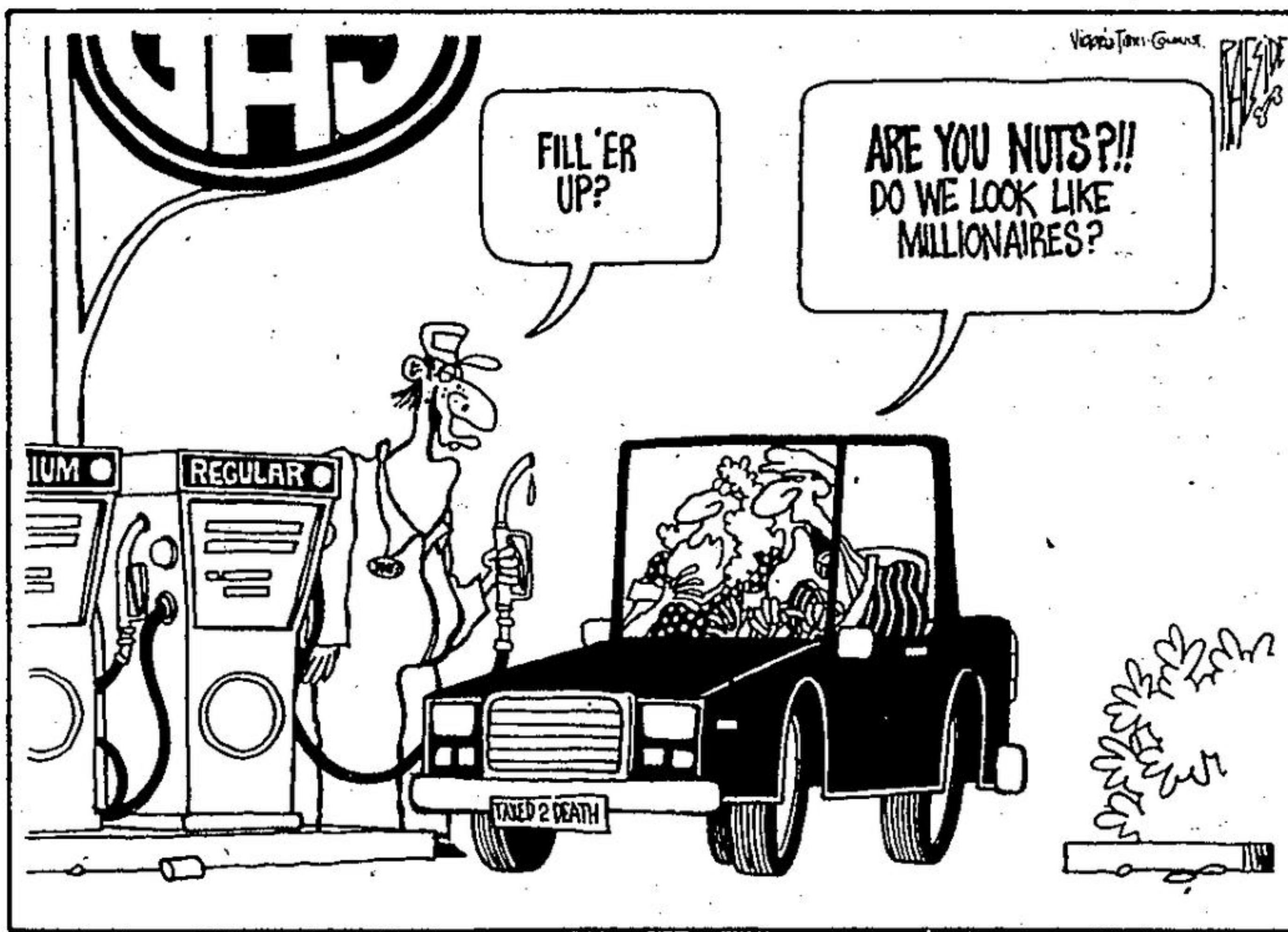
In the coming years we will continue to bring you "all the news that's fit to print."

There were some good sports events on around town for those who happened to be out and about on the weekend. Down at the Georgetown squash club, the club championships produced some excellent competition. While I was shooting the final between Wayne Pakkala and Terry Madill Saturday night, I was sort of pleased to notice that even the experts run into the same kind of problem that we rank amateurs do - that is they too can get in each other's way. Somehow though, Wayne and Terry made the countless deflections off the side walls look easier than I've experienced.

Oh yes, Wayne edged Terry in an exhausting five game match.

At the Memorial Arena hundreds of figure skating fans turned out to watch four performances of "Just Cruisin'," the carnival put together by the Georgetown Figure Skating Club. The southern theme was coupled nicely with action packed performances by guest skaters Daynia Cammick, who used to skate with the Georgetown club, and Jeff Gavin.

The junior pairs skaters finished eighth in Canada this year.



LETTERS

Put something back into Canada

Dear Sir,

I consider myself fortunate to have lived in Caledon for the past 10 years. This has meant that I have been part of a very large and diverse Federal riding. Prior to last July we were known as York-Peel and now our new riding is called Halton-Peel. Since I have always been one who feels you should put something back into your community, society, country, etc., one of the ways I try to do this is to be involved in the Federal Riding Association of my choice where one doesn't just criticize but attempts to make certain that the right candidate represents your principles. Hopefully, he/she is then elected to represent you and your fellow constituents in Ottawa. For these past 10 years I have

been associated with the Progressive Conservative Party and I have been fortunate to have my choice sitting in Parliament.

For this past election a whole new riding was created and we had to start from scratch to find the right candidate. As luck would have it, he found us. Garth Turner came to us because he believed it was time for him to put something back into this country and not to just criticize. Garth Turner does something else that all too few politicians forget - he represents everyone in the riding no matter what party they support, whether they support his philosophical views, or whether they differ completely with his beliefs. We, and I mean we, all of us, not just Progressive Conservatives, are for-

tunate to have elected a Member of Parliament who truly believes that everyone's view, ideas, etc. are important and deserve a hearing in Ottawa.

An additional bonus is that Garth Turner works as hard as anyone to obtain your input and views, and that is very difficult with a riding as large as ours.

My point is simple. Get involved and put something back into this great country of ours. Don't just criticize, but rather speak with your Member of Parliament. He cares, is easily accessible and wants to hear from you. We are extremely fortunate, to have elected Garth Turner. So get involved!

Ian Fraser,
President, Halton-Peel
Progressive Conservative
Association