

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown L7G 3Z6, Ontario

DAVID A. BEATTIE, Publisher
and General Manager

BRIAN MacLEOD
Editor

DAN TAYLOR
Advertising Manager

Phone 877-2201

Second Class Mail - Registered Number 0943

Page 6 - THE HERALD, Wednesday, July 26, 1989

Editorial

Do it!

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, we are appalled that the recent developments on the abortion issue have occurred simply because your government has been dragging its feet for months.

In the past few weeks the entire nation has watched as three young women have had their personal lives dragged out in court and in public.

We have watched as Barbara Dodd fought a court injunction filed by her former boyfriend - parts of which were later found to be in error - stopping her abortion.

We have looked on as a 20-year-old Winnipeg woman fought and won a court injunction filed by her former boyfriend preventing her from having an abortion.

Now, 21-year-old Chantal Daigle's personal life is being scrutinized while she awaits a court appeal in Quebec.

Prime Minister Mulroney, your failure to act promptly once the original abortion ruling was deemed unconstitutional, has put these women through hell, because of the public scrutiny they've endured.

And there will be more.

You can't be enjoying this.

If you believe women should have access to an abortion restricted, tell us and let the public fight it out.

If you think a woman's body is hers to do with as she wishes, then tell us and let the public fight about that.

Either way you're going to have to let the public get involved in this one.

God knows politicians have avoided it long enough.

Abortion is a political and moral issue. It should not be left to the courts.

You tell us that "there are events that have brought (abortion) to the front burner more than has been the case."

You mean it hasn't been front and centre since the law was struck down in January 1988?

What you have been doing?

You tell us you're going to introduce legislation in the fall but you won't tell us when we'll have a law.

Legal experts say there is now a possibility that someone completely unrelated to a pregnant woman can get a court injunction forbidding the abortion.

If you agree with this situation, then tell us. If you don't agree with it, then let us know.

It's time, Mr. Prime Minister, to lay what may be your career on the line.

You can't wait any more.

Do it.

Origins



Editor's Notebook

Brian MacLeod
Herald Editor

Did you know that 15 per cent of Ontario's population has a "mother tongue" other than English or French? Did you know that the largest "mother tongue" group in Ontario other than English or French is Italian?

The Ministry of Citizenship has released a set of statistics of what language Ontario residents speak. Most are based on the

1986 census.

A "mother tongue" is defined by the ministry as the language first learned in childhood and still understood.

The ministry says 21 per cent of the people in Ontario have Italian as a mother tongue. German follows that group with 11 per cent. Nine per cent of Ontario residents call Chinese their mother tongue, eight per cent have Portuguese and five per cent call Polish their mother tongue.

Of the 15 per cent of Ontario's population whose mother tongue is not English or French, only 22 per cent were born in Canada. But 20 per cent of them were born in Ontario.

Liberals as popular as ever



Queen's Park

Derek Nelson
Thomson News Service

The Liberal government may be reeling internally from daily media and opposition assaults on its ethics.

It might even be true that various schemes are being hatched in the Liberal backrooms to organize and re-organize the government to avoid such embarrassments again... perhaps with the Liberal's elder statesman himself, Deputy Premier Bob Nixon, acting as watchdog.

But all that is put into a lot better perspective by the latest provincial party preference poll.

The Liberals may be enmeshed in scandal - or, at least, the perception of scandal - but the electorate doesn't seem to care much.

Enviroics Research's poll taken June 23 to July 6 showed the Liberals would get just about the same vote today they would have got six months ago, before the had news for them began.

In round numbers, the Liberals have 45 per cent of the popular vote, the Conservatives 30 per cent and the NDP 25 per cent.

When you smooth out a few bumps, such as the major Tory drop in 1989, that is just about the way the polls have stood since September of 1985, a couple of months after the Liberals were given power here by their deal with the NDP.

The question is why several months of Liberal trials and tribulations on ethical matters have had little effect on their standing with the public.

WORSE AND WORSE

After all, the news for the Grits got worse and worse - starting from former solicitor general Joan Smith's improper dealings with police, through the campaign contributions of resigned Ontario Place head Patti Starr, to the resignation of the government's top political bureaucrat, Gordon Ashworth.

The Enviroics' poll was taken in the two-week period following Ashworth's leaving the government after it was revealed he had received a refrigerator arranged by Patti Starr that had never been paid for.

Backbench Brampton Liberal Bob Callahan was quoted as saying the poll results show: "The people of Ontario are fair. They don't buy the politics of sleaze" stirred up by the media and opposition.

As a Liberal, Callahan should know. The Grits made a career out of attempting to tar successive Conservative administrations in Ontario with scandal - usually erroneously.

But even when the Liberals had their facts straight, as in the now almost-forgotten scandals such as NONG and Fidinam, the electorate yawned and moved on to other things.

The Enviroics poll indicates nothing has changed.

It is not, mind you, that the public is oblivious to the scandals. An Enviroics official said people are judging the government on other issues - one of which is that the PC and NDP alternatives to the Grits aren't particularly appealing.

Political polling expert Fred Fletcher at York University also cautioned that "a lot of Ontario voters don't focus on Ontario politics unless a particular issue touches them or an election campaign is under way."



LETTERS

Civic Centre is "dangerous"

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter, addressed to Mayor Russ Miller, was filed with the Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Miller,

I couldn't resist going over to the new Civic Centre on Tuesday (June 20) to look around with my children (ages two and four years) and to pay my taxes. I didn't realize that it would be such a dangerous experience for us all.

We parked the car in the parking lot and approached the building from that side. On the left as you walk in is a sunken garden - it drops about 10-15 ft. - and there is no fence around the top. The kids thought it was great and went running up to it to look down. There is absolutely nothing there to stop them from falling down into that pit. Please put a guard rail up.

We entered the building and went to pay the taxes. As I was transacting this business at the wicket the woman serving me suddenly screamed. Someone had thoughtfully placed a bench in front of the concrete bannister. My children had climbed up on the bench and on to the bannister and were looking down on the concrete floor of the next level down. Thinking that it was just my kids I asked the woman if this had happened before. It was the second or third time that someone's children had done the same thing. Someone keeps putting that bench under the bannister.

I retrieved the kids and then

looked at the bannister. It doesn't meet the wall or the elevator so there is a four to six inch gap in which a child could get stuck or worse, squeeze through and fall down one floor.

I realize that when architects design buildings like the Civic Centre that safety for children is not their main concern - they assume that only responsible adults will be using the building. This is understandable but you should know that people with small

children do visit this building, especially since parks and recreation is in the basement. It is the responsibility of you and the administrator of the Civic Centre to correct the safety deficiencies and you had better do it quickly before you have an "unfortunate accident" occur. I hope it isn't one of my children to whom this "unfortunate accident" occurs.

Sincerely,
Mary Jane Walzak

Why nuclear power?

Dear Sir,

The desperation of our national atomic sales force - which hasn't sold a reactor for years, and can't even give one away - is apparent in the Canadian Nuclear Association's 15-page advertisement in Maclean's magazine (June 12). Nuclear power is clean and cheap, they say. What they don't tell us is that the cost of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station, under construction east of Toronto, has just jumped by almost a million dollars. This is the second time in less than a year that cost overruns and delays have plagued Darlington.

And if this isn't bad enough, the atomic establishment never seems to factor the environmental and health costs into their miscalculations. Obviously the nuclear people don't feel accountable in these fun-

damental areas.

Let us compare the amount of money the Canadian atomic establishment is willing to spend on protecting our health, with the figure they've committed to protecting their health: The Atomic Energy Control Board is reluctantly forking over a measly \$136,000 for studies on the effects of radiation on populations living near Ontario's nuclear facilities. You couldn't even buy yourself one family home in Toronto with that figure! Is that all our nuclear regulatory body thinks we're worth? Is that all the government says we're worth?

But in order to protect their business interests, a colossal \$6-7 million of our tax dollars is earmarked so people in the pay of the nuclear industry can tell us that

Continued on Page 7