

## MPP visits Croatia for elections



**Walt Elliot**  
MPP  
Halton North  
LIBERAL

On April 22, Earth Day was celebrated and I would have liked to have been there to celebrate it with you. This wasn't possible because I had been asked to participate in another event of importance on the same day.

Sunday, April 22, was the date chosen by Federal Republic of Croatia, in Yugoslavia, for their first free elections in decades. Canadian members of the Croatian Democratic Union asked me to travel to Yugoslavia to act as a neutral observer when the citizens of Croatia voted in a multi-party election that would bring an end to the Communist one party state.

In a country such as ours, where governments rise and fall regularly, the sheer joy of being able to express an opinion is taken for granted. I'll let you know what it was like to be in a country that is just now struggling to win back, what we all consider to ours by right of birth.

In my last two Queen's Park Reports I have talked about what I would like to see happen on the Niagara Escarpment and about the problem of water quantity in an area that depends on wells for both

its urban and rural water supplies. The search for sufficient water in the Halton Hills and Milton area is well documented. The need for new water supplies for the urban areas and the problems of rural residents with dry wells are well known. What is less well known is that even when water is found it is not always usable.

Ground water which is not contaminated with man-made pollutants can still be undrinkable because of heavy concentrations of salts or other minerals. This type of contamination is not controllable by man but it should help us to understand that we can't take the chance of destroying what good water we have.

North west of Ottawa several communities are trying to cope with an ever-growing underground plume of gasoline contaminated water. The contamination was originally caused by leaking underground storage tanks at two or three gas stations. The stations were closed and destroyed several years ago, but the small amount of gasoline that was left in those tanks continues to haunt an ever-wider circle of residents.

Perhaps the most frightening thing about contaminated ground water is that it is virtually impossible to clean up. Once gas, or leachate or any soluble chemical has been poured into the ground it is there for all time. The best that can be hoped for is that time and distance will dilute the problem.

In Ontario, water is the least expensive of those things essential for our survival. However, if we continue to treat it, as if it is only worth what we pay, the future will hold some problems.

## Respondents want foreign aid cut

**Garth Turner**  
MP  
Halton-Peel  
PROGRESSIVE  
CONSERVATIVE



Just as this year was getting underway, I sent out a pamphlet to everybody detailing all the money the feds spend and asking for suggestions of where to cut.

Some people gave me a shot for wasting money. Others thanked me for involving them in the process. Many hundred responded to the challenge, designed their own budgets and mailed them to me. I, in turn, gave them to the big guy with the spending scalpel - Michael Wilson.

Now, once place that a lot of people took aim at was foreign aid.

The common line was, why are we spending money helping other people when we need it to help ourselves?

It's a fair question. Certainly in a time when Ottawa is cutting spending on things like VIA Rail, while bringing in the GST, Canadians want some assurance the feds are spending the right money in the right places.

So the other night Joe Clark came to visit.

As most people know, he's a former prime minister, so he gets to put "right honorable" in front of his name. He's our foreign minister now, known officially as Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Joe works in a big brown building down the street from where the prime minister lives - a building named after another former PM, Lester Pearson. He was kind enough to come to Georgetown last week and give a

speech to a bunch of people who largely represented our local business community.

I have heard many of these people in the past question me about Canada's foreign aid spending, and looked forward to how Clark handled those questions and concerns.

The man was careful to spell out that there's a difference between giving money away and investing it. Canada's aid, he said, usually goes into countries which are developing. And what are they developing?

Markets. Markets which in the future Canadians can sell products to.

This is exactly what Clark said in the golf club banquet hall, as dusk fell outside on the duffers on the greens:

"The new markets of the next century will not be found in North America, or the Pacific Rim, or Europe. They will be found in the developing world."

"By the year 2000, Latin America will represent 600 million potential customers. By the year 2005, India alone will have a middle class of 250 people. That represents a market larger than the American market of today."

"Those markets are worth developing, and developing those markets means developing those countries. It means giving them the tools, the advice, the expertise to stand on their own."

I must admit, I hadn't exactly looked at it that way myself. But it does make sense.

Canada has 26 million people, - or just a tenth of the American population. We get about a third of all our income from trading with other countries. And in the six years from 1981 to 1986, we lost \$24 billion in exports to countries that used to buy from us.

But because of debt or drought or economic problems, they lost the ability to buy - as developing countries.

And that loss cost us 130,000 Canadian jobs.

If we can't find a way out of a growing international debt problem, that could cost us another 200,000 jobs over the next decade.

So Clark's message was that foreign aid payments Canada makes end up creating jobs in this country - in fact, there's no way, with such a small number of people living here, that we can afford to ignore new trading opportunities.

Still, this is a message many people will not believe, or choose to see.

The National Citizens' Coalition, for example, has scored points with a lot of people for criticising Canada's contributions to build better latrines in Guatemala. But quite apart from the fact that five million children a year die from diseases they get from unsanitary conditions, this country should interest us.

## Hank Russell is new Legion president



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At the general meeting last Thursday night, the membership voted to donate the sum of \$15,000 to the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital for the purchase of a "Cryostat". This badly needed piece of equipment will help the staff to diagnose tissue samples. This donation is part of the on-going commitment to the people of Georgetown by the membership of the Legion.

Car Club: The catch-up draw for Car Club #40 was held last Thursday night. Here are the results so far: March 29 - 364 Shirley McDonald, 106 Joan Hayes, 100 Glad Caldwell, 43 Marian McGugan, 458 Ken DeRose, 209 Russ Smith, April 5 - 381 Glen Hillock, 440 Harry Archer, 261 Joanne Zona, 431 W. Lawrence, 217 J. and G. Storm, 172 Rita Rayner, April 12 - 300 Dave Stapleton, 282 Jack Presswood, 432 W. McPherson, 287 Jason Layton, 006 Doug

Sargent, 104 Jim Alderson, April 19 - 264 Glen Sproule, 185 Ev Haines, 191 Jim Emmerson, 64 Kim Kirk, 116 David Clarke, 285 Peter Smith, April 26 - 335 Irene Curry, 401 J.R. Barber, 224 Mike Sargent, 347 Tom Masena, 134 Danny Fraser, 374 Sharon Middleton.

Saturday afternoon meat draw: Pat Chamberlain, Bill Simpson, Rod McDonald, Jean Thomas, Pauline McNeily, Denny McCartney, Jim Hayes, Betty McLean, Herman Nicholson. The roast was won by Terry Bludd.

The Branch elections, held and conducted by the officers of Branch 114 Oakville, produced the following results: President - Hank Russell, 1st Vice - Jean Nary, Second Vice President - Bob McNeily, Executive - Dave McNeily, Ray Clarke, Marg Tutty, Harry Bottoms.

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