

Group out of touch with Halton's waste program—Serjeantson

Both the chairman of the Region's planning and public works committee and the Regional chairman questioned a delegation's knowledge of Halton last Wednesday after a representative of the group It's Not Garbage asked committee members to support several waste reduction policies.

Gerrard Coffee of It's Not Garbage - a Toronto based coalition of public and private groups - appeared at the committee meeting requesting support for the following:

- that Halton introduce mandatory separation of waste for all materials that can be reused, composted or recycled;

- that Halton secure storage for used material that can be recycled;



Marilyn Serjeantson

- that Halton allocate resources to develop waste reduction initiatives;

- that Halton create a waste reduction office to find markets for recyclable goods;

- that Halton seek community involvement to find recycling facilities.

But committee chairman Marilyn Serjeantson said: "Most of what you are expounding we (the Region) is already doing or about to do. It shows me that you don't know much about what you are talking about (as it pertains to

Walkway may open

The town of Halton Hills has decided to prepare a report on the possibility of re-opening the walkway leading to the ravine on Regan Crescent in Georgetown.

Councillors recently asked staff for the report after receiving the letter from a Regan Crescent resident who asked for the walkway to be re-opened.

Leslie Moore indicated in her letter she wants the walkway opened again because her children enjoy playing in the ravine so she would like to have them to have access to the ravine through a public walkway.

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Local Croations rejoice in seeing the country free

By BEN DUMMETT
The Herald

An interview between a reporter and Halton Hills residents John Zdwnc and Ivan Mudrnic this past Saturday about Communist rule in their homeland would have, until recently, landed the reporter and the two Croatian-born men in prison.

But Croations no longer have to fear for their life when criticizing their government, since the recent election of the Croatian Democratic Union. The freely elected non-Communist party will take power of the republic May 30.

As enthusiastic supporters of the free election process, the two men agreed the Croatian Democratic union will mean the end of communist rule in Croatia and the beginning of "political, economical and social freedom," in a republic where freedom has only existed as an idea in the minds of Croations at home and abroad since the end of the Second World War, when the Communists came to power, said Mr. Zdwnc.

Mr. Zdwnc and Mr. Mudrnic, who are both actively involved in the Croatian community in Halton Hills, emigrated to Canada in 1959 and 1966 respectively. Although first and foremost Canadians, the two said they feel a real sense of satisfaction to finally see their homeland free.

Croatia is one of six republics that make up the federation of Yugoslavia. The recent Croatian election would be the equivalent of a provincial election in Canada. The Central government is a collective comprised of a representative from each of the republics who sit as part of the central government for a year. The central government is currently controlled by Communists.

Both men said they came to the country because Communist rule prevented their families from effectively establishing a stable and prosperous life.

Mr. Mudrnic came to Canada with his father and mother. He said unless a person was a member of

the party of which the vast majority of Croations were not, it was impossible to properly provide for his family.

As an example of how difficult it was to conduct any business in Croatia, Mr. Mudrnic said a person couldn't make more than five phone calls a day.

Mr. Zdwnc tells a story of how friends from Croatia recently visited his dairy farm and were astonished that his 32 cows could produce 960 litres of milk a year. The same number of cows wouldn't even produce a third of this milk in Croatia, they told him.



John Zdwnc

Under Communist rule there was no motivation to produce more milk because the farmer's wage is not related to production, Mr. Zdwnc said.

People rose up against Communist rule because they were in a

no-win situation, said Mr. Mudrnic. "Kill me, I have nothing anyway," is the way he described people's feeling towards the Communist rule.

Mr. Mudrnic was one of 30 Croations from Halton Hills who were observers during the recent elections. Between 300 and 400 Croatian Canadians attended the elections to ensure there was no wrongdoing.

He was there to provide technical support in case of any breakdowns of the election computers and fax machines.

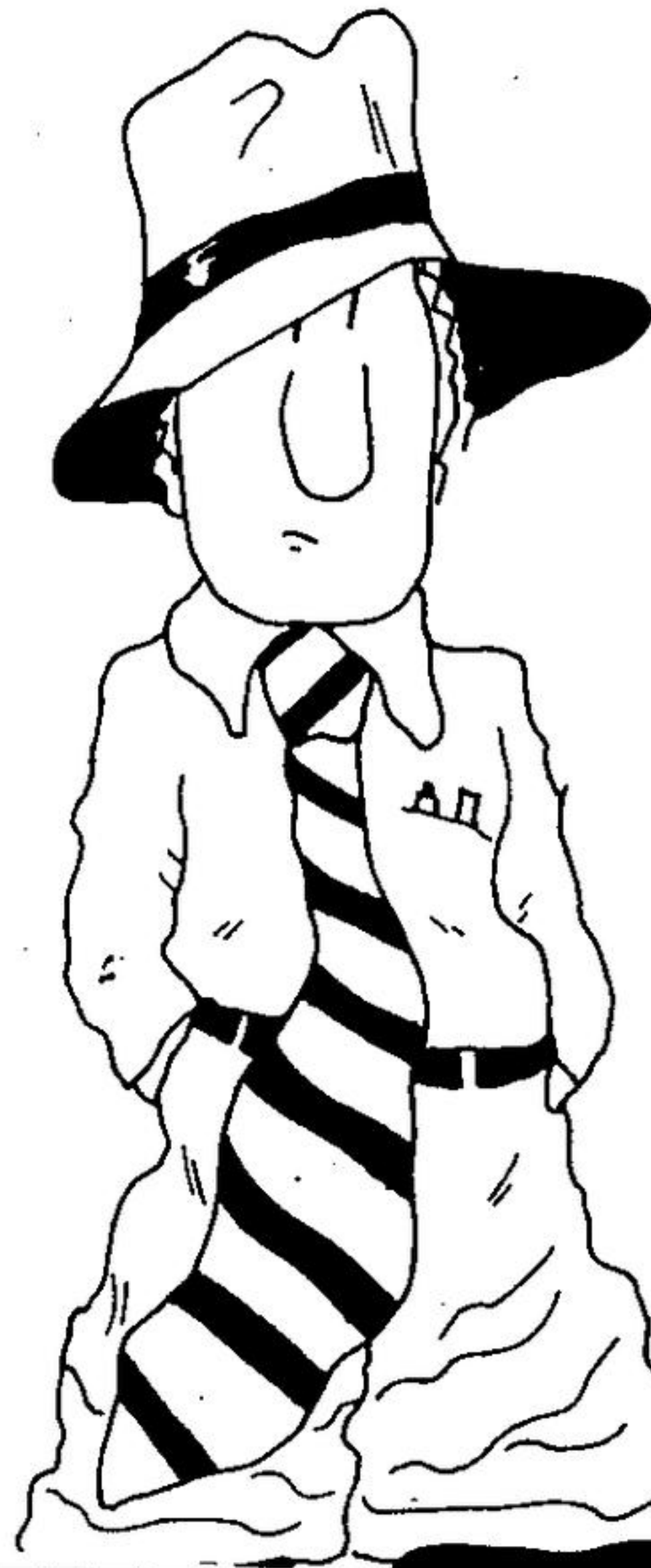
Halton North MPP, Walt Elliot, who was also an observer at the election, described the experience as "emotional". "The exciting part was seeing the older people, who could remember the last time there was a free election in Croatia, go to the polls this time with tears in their eyes, said Mr. Elliot.

In another incident, Mr. Elliot tells how during a taxi ride the driver put his hands up to his head and said "I never dreamed a year ago that we would have the freedom to vote."

According to Mr. Mudrnic the Democratic Croatian Union party's first task is to reduce the size of the government at the republic level. The current size of 365 various politicians is unmanageable, said Mr. Zdwnc.

Eventually the party will hold a plebiscite to find out if the people want to separate from Yugoslavia, he said.

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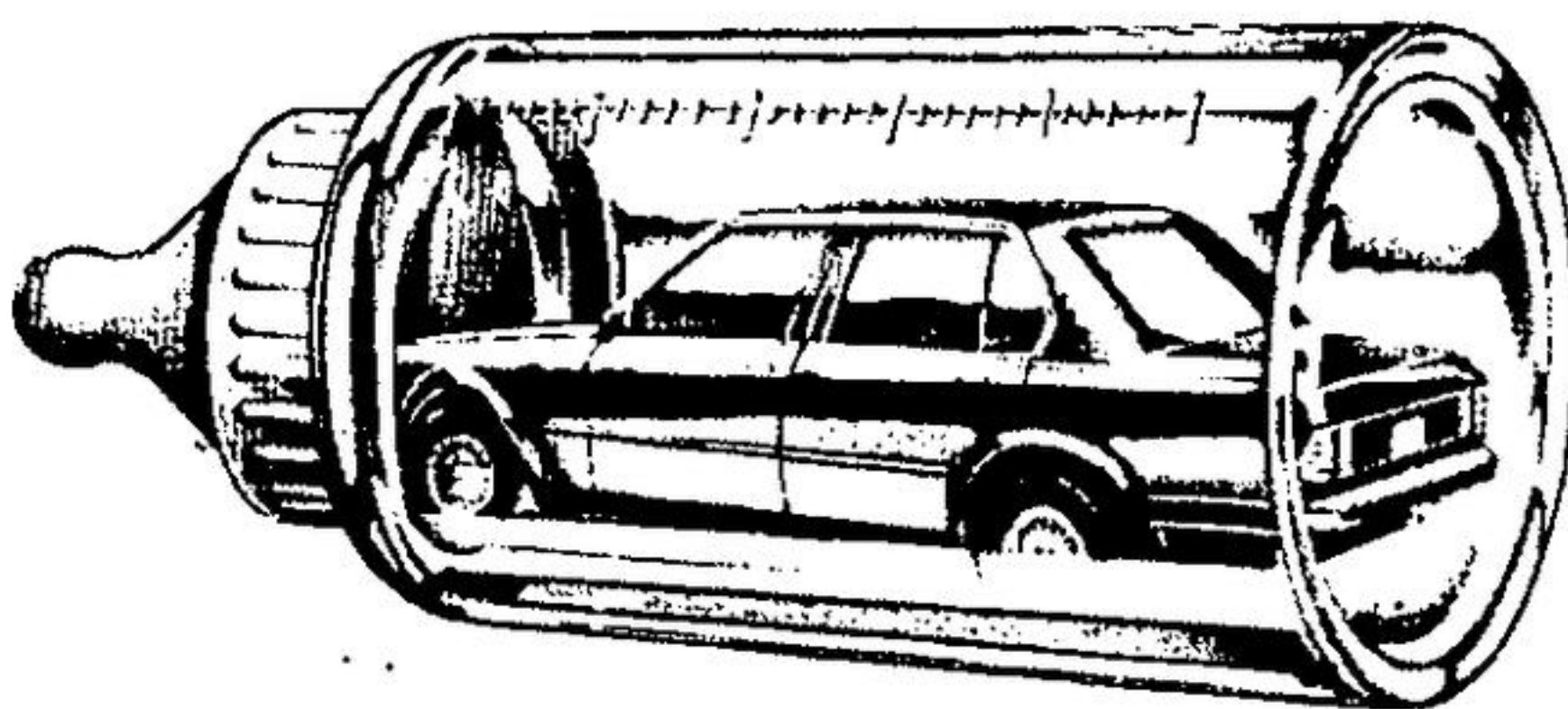
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