

## People's Forum

### Objects to demolition of house

Dear Editor,

Last Saturday morning shortly after 7:00 a.m. residents at the west end of Maple Avenue were dismayed to awaken to the sounds of heavy equipment beginning the demolition of a second home in their neighborhood. By the evening there was nothing left.

The destruction of this perfectly sound house is deeply disturbing for a number of reasons. Indeed, it was the similar demolition this time last year, of a century old home which angered and shocked residents. We banded together, formed R.A.I.D.D. and began the long fight to stop the planned attempt to build two highrise condominiums on the site.

The scheme will require

drastic changes to the existing Official Plan of Halton Hills and radical rezoning of the three properties involved. The entire neighborhood is presently zoned R-1, single family residential and the developer, Mr. Zupet, will require Town Council to approve a zoning by-law change to R-4, multiple family residential, if his speculation is to pay off. This must not be allowed to happen. Not only would it destroy the character of one of Georgetown's charming old neighborhoods but a very dangerous precedent would be established. If a speculator can assemble a parcel of land and then have it rezoned to suit his wishes, no neighborhood in town will be safe.

It is equally disturbing to think that Mr. Zupet is so certain of the

outcome of this business that he has seen fit to demolish two of the three homes which he has acquired. It is certainly to be hoped that the demolition of two dwellings cannot be used as leverage to encourage Council to approve the necessary zoning changes. It is equally to be hoped, that the change in the description of the existing land use from single family home to vacant, in section 4. a) of his revised Development Application, will not add any credibility to the application, either in the eyes of Council or in the opinion of the Planning Department.

Sincerely yours,  
Ken Thorn,  
Chair,  
Maple Avenue Group,  
R.A.I.D.D.

### Hollow ring to objection

Open letter to the Chairman of the Halton Board of Education, Mr. Bill Harrison.

Dear Sir:

"Thou Doth Protest Too Much Now!"  
Unless you were misquoted, your objection to having the Ontario Municipal Board hold an "open hearing" when they review the debenturing of the 18 million dollar replacement of Oakville Trafalgar H.S., has a hollow ring to it.

You voiced no objections to the following:

1. The closing of O.T.H.S. neighboring 20 million dollar G.E. Perdue H.S. and leasing it for one dollar because of declining enrolment in south Oakville for both high schools.

2. You voted to replace O.T.H.S. in October 1989 after G.E. Perdue closed in June 1989.

3. After your vote on replacing O.T.H.S. you voted to have another new 25 million dollar Oakville high school built. Combined cost for 2 new Oakville high schools to Halton's taxpayers to exceed 43 million dollars with a one loonie \$ return on a 20 million dollar property owned by the

Board.

4. By January, 1991, you were aware that the Town of Oakville would not issue a building permit for the replacement of O.T.H.S. until the Board had the approval of the O.M.B. Yet, the Board proceeded to make an application to the Town of Oakville and paid the fee of 206,700 dollars which is now in a daily interest bank account of the Town of Oakville.

In March the Board finally submitted its application to the O.M.B. and must await a hearing date before proceeding further.

However, as much as you wish to protest, your recourse can only be within the rules of the O.M.B. Any attempt to avoid an "open hearing" at the O.M.B. will be construed by the Taxpayers of Halton that a "back-room" arrangement is being withheld from public scrutiny. If this Board has nothing to hide or cover-up, it merely has to provide its data to the O.M.B. At risk is the Board's credibility unless it welcomes an "open hearing" instead of "protesting!"

Yours truly,  
George Pickios,  
Oakville.

### Red Cross offers thanks

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Georgetown and District Red Cross I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all of the people who took part in the recent Acton Blood Donor Clinic. Three cheers for the 139 people who came out to the Acton Legion Hall to donate a pint of blood on Thursday, March 28. It was our best turnout in some time!

Special congratulations go to

Mrs. Bollert who received her certificate for making 50 donations of whole blood. Also receiving certificates for 35 donations were Mrs. Frankland and Mr. John Ancker.

Special thanks goes to the Acton Legion for being so willing to continuously host the clinics at their hall. And of course the clinic would not be such a success without the many volunteers who man the clinic.

Thank you to all of the great donors and volunteers from Acton and all of Halton Hills. Through your efforts you have made it possible to give others the gift of life.

We look forward to seeing you again at the next clinic on June 27. We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Sandra L. Moon,  
Acton.

### Taxpayer looking for advice

Editor's note: The following letter was released for to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Copy of a letter to Rt. Honorable Michael Wilson M.P.

Dear Sir:

There have been reports in the news media, that the present government's fiscal policies are driving Canadians into poverty.

### Volunteer thanked

Dear Editor,

I would like to take the opportunity during Volunteer Week to thank our Red Cross volunteers for the time and dedication they have given, toward many programmes and services in our community, and world wide through our International Services.

I wish to emphasize these reports, by giving you my personal financial standing in total, and although you may use this information any way you wish, I respectfully request that my name and address be treated with the fullest confidentiality.

I have lived and worked in Canada for thirty-two years, including six and a half years in the

R.C.A.F., and have never claimed or collected unemployment or welfare benefits.

My income places me in what the Federal Government claims is the lower middle class. Thousands of others, like me, are shouldering the heaviest tax burden, and I for one am totally sick of it.

I am asking you for advice on how to make a decent "Take Home Pay" that will encourage me to continue on, and not "Throw in the Towel!"

In closing, I would like to emphasize that I paid out a total of \$978.24 a month in 1990, for Government and Property Taxes alone.

Yours respectfully,  
Brian Amphlett,  
Rockwood, Ont.

### Dumb legislation

Dear Editor,

Writing letters to the paper is time consuming, so I have been trying to cut down on the number I have been writing. The problem from my point of view is that both the Feds and Ont. government gives one so many pieces of dumb legislation, and are so greedy it is difficult to keep one's cool.

Did you know, that according to the CAA federal excise tax on gas has gone up by 466 per cent since 1984? Ever wonder why the money in your pocket goes nowhere? And how much have wages gone up in the same time frame?

The NDP in their wisdom sent out a pamphlet, paid for by tax payers asking if we wanted information on the PC's, NDP or Liberal parties. Since when have tax payers been responsible for putting out information on political parties. It seems one more way to spend money on a dumb idea. Since the minority parties obtained about 15 per cent

of the vote in relationship to the NDP, how come they were not included? Is this discrimination? Personally I am proud of the fact that Libertarians were not included in this.

Garth Turner in his letter to the paper dated April 10 once again, like owning property, suggests tax payers should get out and complain. Funny thing, that is what he was elected and paid to do. Most people are too busy trying to keep their head above water to take time off to do Garth's job for him.

One more item - officers of companies, under the NDP are now going to be held responsible for failure to pay wages in the event the company gets into financial trouble. Question - who will be stupid enough to be a company officer, and be held personally liable for things that may be out of his/her control?

Sincerely,  
John Shadbolt  
Libertarian  
Acton.

### Opinion

## Mulroney appointment smacks of pure sleaze

OTTAWA - There's an overwhelming view, by those who've ranted on the subject, that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made a horrendous mistake in appointing John Crispo to the CBC's board of directors.

The feeling is that since this University of Toronto professor is Canada's most vociferous critic of the CBC (for example, he once called the CBC a "lousy, left-wing, liberal, NDP pinko network"), it's outrageous that he now helps direct the institution he loves to hate.

Perhaps it is. But it seems to me that if the other 14 board members cannot handle the contrary views of Mr. Crispo, it might just be time for some fundamental changes in the way the outfit is run. His arrival should spice up the meetings.

In other words, I am not convinced Mr. Crispo is a bad choice.

What I am convinced of, however, is that the manner in which he was appointed smacks of pure sleaze. Put another way, it stinks to high heaven.

Qualifications aside, the new member of the CBC board should be paralyzed with embarrassment. Come to think of it, the

prime minister should be even more embarrassed. But Mr. Mulroney has always managed to be stoic about even his most astonishing appointments. Practice, they say, makes perfect.

Let's not fool ourselves about the timing. It's no idle coincidence that the prime minister made the appointment one day after Patrick Watson, the CBC's chairman-designate, tore a strip off Mr. Mulroney in public - and one day after Mr. Crispo appeared before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to remind everyone how much he detested the corporation.

#### NO CONSULTATION

Does anyone think it was merely an oversight that Mr. Mulroney broke tradition and failed to consult the chairman-designate about the appointment?

Sure, sure. How about some nice swampland in Florida?

No, there is absolutely no doubt the prime minister was furious over Mr. Watson's reaction to his comments on the corporation's budget cuts. Mr. Mulroney did put a certain, government-serving spin on what the chair-

Ottawa  
Bureau

by  
Stewart  
MacLeod

Thomson News  
Service.



man had said about the CBC budget - a spin that infuriated Mr. Watson.

He said the prime minister was "playing a cheap trick" on him, in a way that "expresses a lofty kind of contempt for all those people who've lost jobs," and that it was "unworthy of a prime minister."

No prime minister is accustomed to getting that kind of response from designated heads of Crown corporations. And Mr. Mulroney, as we've learned, is not without his sensitivities.

Anyway, within 24 hours and without any advance warning, the man who, coincidentally, holds the CBC in contempt for

"deliberate, continued and repeated intellectual dishonesty in virtually all of its news and public-affairs programming," was suddenly on its board of directors.

Now, if you were Mr. Crispo, wouldn't you feel like one of those "smart bombs" the Americans fired at Baghdad? The prime minister undoubtedly chalked up a direct hit.

#### NEW FORUM

The new director, a prodigious proponent of the Canada-United States free-trade agreement, now will have an interesting new forum in which to advance his views - one of them being that the CBC was biased against that deal. He'll also no doubt explain to his fellow directors what he meant when he said the CBC "has lost anything resembling journalistic integrity."

In fact, he can expect to be asked for a lot of interesting explanations. And that in itself won't be a bad thing. As he told a reporter in a recent interview, there's no point having a group of "yes"-people sitting around the same table.

"I think you need different points of view ... I don't want to be a token anything. I don't want to be co-opted and I don't want to be stubborn."

Acknowledging the fact that he dabbles in overstatement, Mr. Crispo says many of his comments have been taken out of context. It's not true, he claims, that he wants the corporation abolished. But he does want some mechanism to ensure the CBC provides balanced coverage.

Just working on this should keep things interesting for Mr. Crispo and his fellow directors. Should also keep Mr. Watson on his toes as he chairs the meetings.

No, there's nothing wrong with having this man sitting on the board of directors. What was wrong - wrong, wrong, wrong - was for the prime minister to appoint him as an apparent act of vengeance, hurriedly and without the usual courtesies.

Nothing would have been lost had he waited even a week or two.

Nothing, that is, except the sleaze.