

Opinion

Willow Park situation must be resolved

Meetings! They can either resolve an issue or stall the same from being resolved.

For the sake of the Willow Park residents, I hope an upcoming meeting between the Town, Halton North MPP Noel Duignan and perhaps representatives from the Ministry of Housing and/or the Ministry of Natural Resources, is of the former sort.

However, I'm not that optimistic. Consider it has been two weeks since the latest meeting idea was suggested and no date has yet been set for the proposed meeting. Two dates were tentatively set but both were cancelled because Mr. Duignan couldn't rearrange his schedule. At press time a third date was still being worked on.

Assuming the meeting date is soon decided upon, it should centre on two issues if the Town and province are truly concerned about the residents' welfare.

The residents either need a new location or they need improved compensation as a result of the park being expropriated by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. The CVCA expropriated the park because it is located in the Credit River Flood Plain. If a major flood happened the residents' lives would be at risk.

On the question of finding another site for the residents, the Town's position is clear. There are no sites. Earlier this year the Ontario Municipal Board rejected a site in Acton that had



Ben's Banter
by
Ben Dummett

both Town and Regional support. Since the rejection, the Town has continually told the residents there are no more sites available.

At the last Willow Park meeting, Mr. Duignan suggested

the province might be able to find an alternative location for the trailers. However, no sites have been offered by the province. Mr. Duignan on past occasions said he has heard of local landowners interested in establishing a trailer park. Yet the Town reports receiving no formal applications from anyone.

Since the Town and the province have not offered any realistic sites it's difficult to imagine the proposed upcoming meeting will reveal any new information on the issue.

That leaves compensation. The residents believe they were unfairly compensated by the CVCA, having only received money to move their trailers plus money for any improvements they had made to their trailer plot.

The Town, however, has always taken the stance it has paid its fair share towards attempting to resolve the issue and as a result, is not prepared to pay any more. That leaves the province. Mr. Duignan previously suggested the residents are entitled to a fairer compensation package. Yet as far as I know no money has been forthcoming from the province.

The issues have been clearly defined and so have the positions of all parties involved.

If the upcoming meeting isn't to be a waste of time, all involved should be prepared to tackle these issues head on and compromise their respective positions if need be to bring the issue to a satisfactory conclusion.

People's Forum

Lunch at Queen's Park

To the Editor:

LUNCH AT QUEEN'S PARK

If it wasn't for the devastating landfill proposal that brought Halton Hills residents to Queen's Park, the event would have been great fun. Under sunny skies we picnicked on delicious food supplied by Cocktail Hour Catering. We would like to express our gratitude to Jennifer Alton who picked up the cost of 50 portions with P.O.W.E.R. paying the balance.

Unfortunately, it was not a happy occasion that brought us to the legislature. People who came were angry that a private company could put our water at risk, affect property values, and cost us a possible 17.5% on our taxes.

A big thank you to all who attended. People like real estate

agents Sandra Nairn and Brenda Payton who took time off work. Thanks to Mark Poullos and Lois Fraser, who have businesses to run, to Dr. Landry who gave up a day of seeing patients, to Malcolm Mackenzie who took a day off work and to the Fitzpatrick family who in spite of just moving, joined us.

Thanks to Mayor Miller and councillors Currie, McCarthy, Elliott, Bonnette, Hewitt, Johnson and Serjeanston who were there. We also appreciate the assistance we got from Noel Duignan and his office staff.

A thank you to the Halton Hills residents who drove down and the Toronto workers who taxied over to Queen's Park to join in. We acknowledge the special efforts of Halton Cable, the Herald and

the Independent who were there to cover the event.

Special mention to Park School who allowed us to use the laminating machine for the 12,474 name petition. And, thank you to the P.O.W.E.R. phone committee, to Doug Young and to Rita Landry. We are sure to have left out someone who truly deserves thank and for that we apologize.

If you weren't there, shame on you. There is still time to write to Ruth Grier, c/o Noel Duignan's office. Tell her we don't want a dump in the Niagara Escarpment that will put our water at risk. Be sure to watch Cable 4, Thursday, May 30th, at approximately 7 p.m. to see the demonstration.

Thanks Halton Hills,
Barbara Halsall,
President of P.O.W.E.R.

Military museum concerns

To the Editor:

In response to the article that appeared last week covering the difficulties of Al Fraser and his "Collectors Corner" operation at his residence in Limehouse, I would like to make it clear that The Canadian Military Studies Museum in Limehouse, which is non-profit, does not sell firearms to anyone and never has.

I think however, the news release had some serious implications that can affect everyone and should be emphasized.

Al Fraser was deemed innocent

of any wrongdoing by the provincial justice system yet will have to bear the considerable cost of his defence. He also had his property seized by the state without compensation.

I see two dangers here to the average citizen, the first, the prosecution by the crown of a case where no written law was broken and the seizure of an innocent man's property without compensation. This is not an isolated case and will be repeated again unless the Solicitor General's Office is made more accountable

for the type of case the province wants to address.

Secondly, and more deadly, is guilt by implication. Fraser was acquitted but the property was taken. Is this the way the innocent are dealt with? There is a notion that the courts are a level playing field and our system works well but I think when it attempts to "create" criminals something should be said.

Your truly,
Frank F. Grant,
Director, The Canadian
Military Studies
Museum,
Limehouse.

Seniors Watch Program a boon to community

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to the recent article and photo showing Constable Leoni and the residents of the Durham Street Apartments, initiating the "Senior's Watch" Program. Constable Leoni, and the Halton Regional Police are to be highly commended for making such a program available to our Senior Citizens.

In August, 1990, both of my parents died alone in their apartment. The Senior's Watch would not have prevented my mother's death, but for my father the Senior's Watch would allow him to still be alive.

I was a good daughter. I cared about my parents. I kept in close contact with them, and yet I will always blame myself for their deaths. My parents had a family - what happens to those who don't? Who looks out for them? I sincerely hope that this program will prevent others from dying this way. This is why I have

decided to tell my story.

No son or daughter should ever have to go through the horror of finding a parent dead. Our seniors are a very valuable asset and someday soon it will be us who are elderly and might need

someone to look after us.

Once again a heartfelt thank you to Constable Leoni for all his hard work and for allowing me to be part of his endeavors.

Barbara Wilson,
Georgetown.

Park School thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of the staff and students I would like to extend my personal thanks for inviting Park School to be part of your Education Week newspaper with Centennial.

The children were so very pleased to see their work made public as were the staff. It encouraged real writing. I have been most pleased with the coverage and support of your newspaper for our special programs and activities.

I look forward to working with you again.

Rick Nodwell,
Principal,
Park School.

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters due to space limitations.

NDP budget furor

Dear Editor,

The NDP budget has many people upset. More than just the truckers. Even assuming that the budget the NDP inherited from the Liberals was not \$900 Million in the black, but as much as \$3 Billion in the red, how can we explain an Ontario deficit that has tripled in one year to \$9.7 Billion? How can the provincial debt increase in one year by over 23 per cent from \$42 Billion to \$51.7 Billion?

To support the Ontario debt and the government expenses is going to cost over \$27,000 per year, for an average family of four. The other levels of government, combined, want an even bigger share.

Why such mismanagement? It has to do with more than just the bureaucracy-hungry policies of taxing, borrowing and spending. More than just the dream of spending our way out of recession. More than the illusion of NDP-style social justice (just take from the rich and give to the poor) which results in a government taking from us (the rich), keeping a large share for the bureaucracy and giving back the leftover to us (the poor) in the form of often unwanted or unnecessary programs.

It has to do with the utopia of social engineering (believing that governments can plan people's lives) combined with the myopia of governments that have no long term vision.

The myopia of this government is reflected in the measures it is taking "to fight the recession". When less money is around, a family would spend less and try to reduce costs. Why should the government strategy be different? As the government has no money of its own, it is our money that is spent in a way exactly opposite to how we would spend it as responsible families.

To compound the problem (and the interests), the Treasurer is planning for a long term spending and taxing policy: deficits of Billions are already planned for the next few years, until and including 1994-95. Do not be fooled:

this is exactly the way this government plans to gather more power and completely control our lives. It is not a recession-fighting stop-gap measure.

What would we in the Family Coalition Party suggest to do during a period of recession? When a business is slow, it puts its house in order. By eliminating duplicate programs, reducing bureaucracy, reducing spending (we just heard of candle-light dinners for MPPs, hosted by the speaker of the Legislature, that cost us \$90,000) the government could save us money, perhaps just enough to survive through the recession or may be enough to give confidence to a few investors and shorten the recession period.

The best and perhaps only active measure that a family or a government could take during a period of economic downturn is to invest in education. Higher job skills and education will produce results in the longer term. As a byproduct, the building of education infrastructures can temporarily boost some service, high-tech and supply businesses.

The bad news about the NDP budget is that we will have to pay even more in the future. More bad news is that the NDP did not satisfy the various lobby groups with their new spending programs of this budget; not even the environmentalists who voted NDP in hope of radical changes. Thus we can expect more spending in the next few years. For example, as residents of Halton Hills, we just heard last Wednesday from the Environment Minister Ruth Grier that we will have to pay for the process of an Environmental Assessment for the Acton quarry/megadump.

The good news is that by 1994-95 we will have another provincial election, when the FCP's government reduction policies may finally have become popular.

Sincerely,
Giuseppe Gori
Deputy Leader
Family Coalition Party
of Ontario.

R.A.I.D.D. clarification

Dear Colin:

Thank you for mentioning R.A.I.D.D. twice in your Friday, May 24th edition. I would like to clarify two points.

First, the initials, R.A.I.D.D. stand for Residents Active in Development Decisions. This reflects our mandate of promoting public education and involvement in existing governmental processes.

Second, my primary purpose in speaking at Council on Tues., May 21 was not to support Mr. Rucciuto's strip plaza proposal on Hwy. 7 just west of Norval. It

was to point out the significance of its highly visible location at a major entranceway to Georgetown.

I asked Council to take measures to insure that the building's architecture and landscape reflect its prominence and the character of Georgetown. To support R.A.I.D.D.'s request, I reminded Council of the effort and expense put forward by the downtown merchants to create a charming and quaint atmosphere.

Cordially,
Gail Rutherford,
President, R.A.I.D.D.