

# Why not a diversified yet united society?

Poor Brian Muirone! The Spicer report was not very strong on specifics, but on one subject it left no doubts: Brian is not the most loved of Canadian politicians.

I wonder how he copes? It is not very nice to ones ego to be told people despise us!

There is not much to say about the Spicer report. The commissioners did a reasonable job and the report reflects the anxieties and confusion of the country. It does not offer solutions; perhaps a few bromides.

But the report is a reasonably fair mirror of our woes and the lack of solutions is only to be expected. Why?

For the first time in at least a century, our society, and this includes most of the developed world, lacks an intellectual or philosophical underpinning. In the past, societies took major evolutionary/revolutionary steps as the result of some reasonably well-developed theories.

The American revolution was intellectually supported by the work of the British economists/philosophers and the

French Enlightenment.

The unification drives of the 19th century, which shaped Germany and Italy, had strong roots in the concept of nationalism.

The great Russian revolution had firm roots in the works of Marx and Engel. Even Fascism and Nazism had some form of shaky-intellectual foundations.

(I do not intend to claim that the philosophical underpinning of any of the above major social upheavals were "good" or wise, but they DID exist.)

If we look at our Canada of today and of our attempts to reform the nation we have to recognize we hardly have a base for strong emotions.

Why do we want to preserve Canada? Because it is nice to be together, because it gives us an extra dollar, because we have medicare? Hardly the stuff dreams are made of.

Only a few decades ago we had a solid base in the shared experience of the military prowess of our troops and the strong national pride which it did generate. But the world wars are far away



Another View  
by  
Carlo Testa

in time and the warriors and their families are fading away.

Politicians and bureaucrats, commissions and committees are seldom capable or inclined to dwell in philosophy, but without a philosophical base we are bound to reach for bromides or pedestrian concepts. Humbug, as Parizeau rather aptly put it. As one of the media commentators rather nicely said "give me three ideas I can sell." Well, I do not have three ideas, in many hours of discussion I only run across

one.

We have something unique in Canada, something which HAS a philosophical base, something we could be proud of, if we would take the chance to follow it.

No, it is not medicare, or the size of the nation, or the climate.

In Canada we have evolved the concept of accepting differences. Differences in race, differences in religions, in cultures, in customs. We have not succeeded yet in fully accepting each other, but we have made progress. We are on our way. Tolerance and diversity are profoundly different concepts than those at the root of most nations. Tolerance and diversity are a thing of the future not of the past. Germany united "Germans", Japan is a one-race nation, Britain is proudly one culture...

We are, and can dare to be different. We are in the process of overcoming bigotry (slowly, I know, but we are trying) of looking for ways of allowing for diversity within unity.

I respectfully submit that our present crisis is caused by the on-

ly too-natural fear that our new reality creates. Let us recognize that by allowing diversity, not just in Quebec but across Canada, by allowing citizens to form new units, we are entering a new model of "State", a model suited to our technology and way-of-life.

Let us allow the Indians to try some form of self-government, let us allow the people of Northern Ontario to form their own "province", let us allow minorities to lead their own life.

The only limitations? The respect of basic human rights and of the rights of others.

We can, in fact we have found in ourselves, the courage to informally accept diversity, let us make diversity our banner. We are strong and, notwithstanding our present plight, wealthy.

The concept of a diversified but united society has been with us for years. By recognizing it as Canada's philosophical underpinning, by acting to give it administrative and political reality we would have something to cheer about and to...unite us.

## Features

# Big Brothers of Halton 'Fundtastic' fundraiser

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

In September, some of North America's top jugglers, magicians and comedians will be arriving in Georgetown under the direction of Marty Putz a Hollywood producer to support Big Brothers of Halton.

The performers will gather at Georgetown District High School September 7 to put on a variety show and the fall of the curtain will consummate Big Brothers Fundtastic campaign which annually raises close to 40 per cent of the organization's budget.

"It's our largest fundraiser," said Maria Scanga, Fundtastic campaign co-ordinator. "It's a real successful fundraiser for us because the show is arranged by volunteers so we don't lose proceeds to a promotion company. We also try to keep it personal."

Ms. Scanga and Big Brothers fundraising committee chairman, Jim Hynes started this year's Fundtastic campaign last week by calling residents and selling tickets to the variety



Jim Hynes

show. People can buy tickets (they're \$25 for five) or pledge money to the organization.

Last year, Big Brothers raised \$10,000 in Georgetown alone which contributed to the \$40,000 total they collected from Halton region (excluding Burlington).

"When people donate, they're not just donating to the agency, they're investing in a child's future," said Ms. Scanga. "They're also investing in their community. When a young boy has a good role model, he's less likely to use his peers as role models and more likely to be a productive member of society."

Although Georgetown residents have been generous with their money, they haven't been so generous with their time.

In Georgetown alone, there are 23 little brothers. Only two have been matched up with a big brother. In comparison, Milton has 49 little brothers and 38 of them are matched.

"Some of the Georgetown boys have been on the waiting list for two years," admitted Mr. Hynes who, as a Big Brother, cannot imagine why more men aren't involved with the organization.

"At first I was worried being a Big Brother would take up a lot of my time, but then I found I wasn't even worried about the time because I was having so much fun," he said. "You get to do things you used to do when you were a kid and you have a companion to do things with - things like going to a baseball game that maybe your wife or friends don't want to do."

Mr. Hynes has been a Big Brother to 13-year-old Bertram for



Maria Scanga

two years and he's found it to be a learning experience in how to deal with kids.

Aside from matching young boys to Big Brothers, the organization also works closely with little brothers waiting to be matched.

Un-matched little brothers are offered specialized counselling which allows for a thorough assessment of the boy's needs. Moreover, Big Brothers has a camping service which provides sponsorship for little brothers from low-income families so no young boy will be denied the chance to go to summer camp.

Big Brothers executive hopes to promote the organization and get new Big Brothers as they campaign for funds. They want to clear up misconceptions some people have that Big Brothers have to travel to Oakville to be matched with a young boy and that the program costs the individual.

They explain that the service is for boys between the ages of 6 and 16 who do not have regular male support. They are matched with Big Brothers, men over the age of 18, in their own community who are required to spend four hours a week with little brothers for at least one year.

For more information on Big Brothers, contact Evelyn Gransaul at 847-7267 or 976-4756. To make a donation to the organization or purchase tickets for the upcoming variety show, call 878-0344.



## Family walk

Mothers, whether human or in this case Canada Geese, share the common problem of having to deal with children who refuse to acknowledge the importance of good posture. This Canada Goose mother tried valiantly but unsuccessfully through example to teach her children about good posture while out for a family walk Saturday in Acton's Prospect Park. (Herald photo)

## ECOLINE

by Catherine Foley  
Caring for Our Land

THE COST OF GARBAGE  
It costs taxpayers over \$100 per tonne to collect and dispose of household garbage.

WHAT'S IN THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE?

Food waste	30%
Yard waste	5%
Newspapers	10%
Other paper	30%
Glass, plastic, and metal	20%
Other	5%

- Compost food and yard waste, or put it through the blender and use as nutrient rich food for house plants.
- Reuse or recycle metal cans, and plastic and glass bottles.
- Don't buy products that are overpackaged.
- Put a "NO JUNK MAIL" sign on your mail box, or return unwanted mail to sender.



MARTIN PUTZ