

Don't be fooled by PC pig-in-a-poke proposals

'Oh say can you see, where is Brian Mul-ron-ey.'

Lost in the netherlands of what might have been; could never have been and never will be. Because he will never admit to being less than perfect; and we've all heard that same story time and time again during the Christmas season.

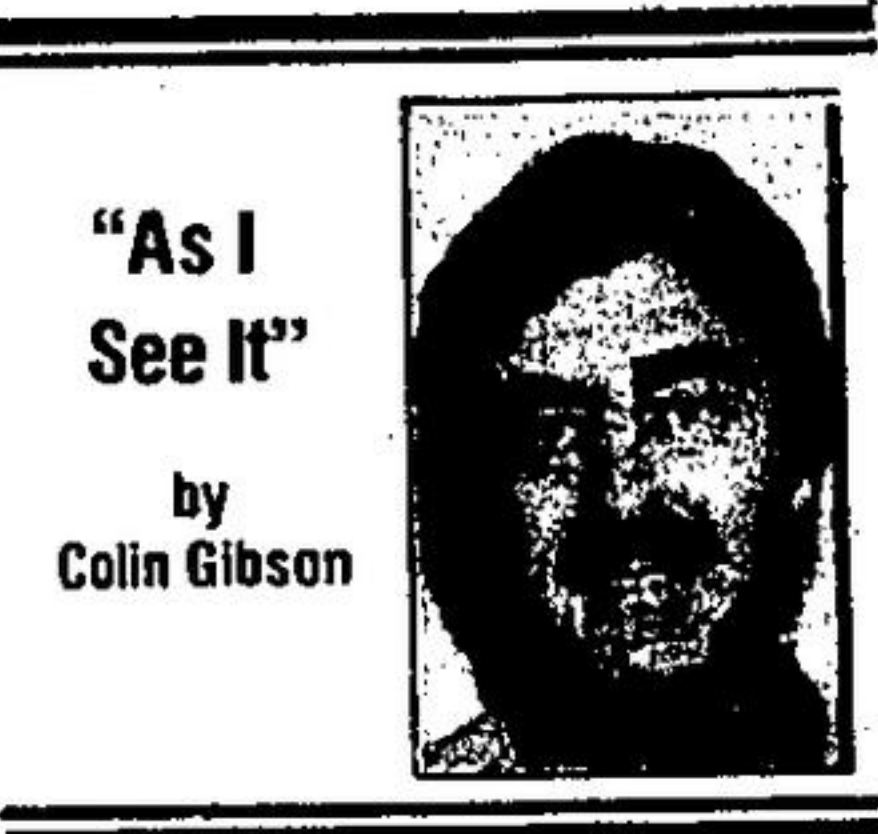
Mulroney suffers from the same contractive disease that seems to afflict all politicians. It's called brain death. Once you're elected, the grey cells begin to deteriorate and you forget why your constituents voted for you in the first place.

So what do we do with Brian and his new proposals to save Canada! Throw Brian and his proposals in the dumpster, along

with the rest of the fat-cat bureaucrats and pork-barrelling syncophants who have wasted so much of Canadian taxpayer's hard-earned money while going through the motions of a politically-motivated charade.

In his column this week, Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner waxes eloquently about the new constitutional proposals. Mr. Turner also announces in his column he will be holding Town Hall meetings in Georgetown and Bolton to discuss these proposals. What a joke!

A proposal is merely a suggestion, Garth. The only answer you can give to a suggestion is that



"As I See It"

by
Colin Gibson

it will be discussed further and that is the same meandering, maudlin, muddling metaphor we have been hearing for years, from your leader

and your political party and others of the same ilk.

So what do the purported new proposals offer to patch-up our poor, torn Canada—a pig in a poke.

The new constitutional proposals are a political document "Bash Buffoon" has come up with to take people's minds off the sad state his party has dragged Canada into—nothing else.

We have all read about the proposals in the large southern Ontario newspapers and heard about them through major radio and television outlets. The reaction to them, throughout Canada has been mediocre, at best, tepid at worst.

The biggest joke of all, is that these proposals still must go

through at least four months of parliamentary committee hearings before the final federal governmental stance is revealed.

Even after that, it will be Meech Lake revisited, with a further cost to the Canadian taxpayer, with more meetings.

There is a solution to this made-by-politicians Canadian crisis.

Quebec must call a referendum and decide to be a part of Canada or go it alone.

Once the results of this referendum are in, a federal election should be called to allow all Canadians a voice in the future of their country.

As I see it, anyway.

Developer's fee viewed as wishful thinking

Local councillors may believe their recent decision to phase-in the new Town commercial and industrial development charge over a five-year period will attract industry to the area. However, the facts suggest it may be nothing more than wishful thinking.

Council's decision means industrial and commercial developers will be required to pay the Town \$0.18 per square foot in year one to build in the area; \$0.28 per square foot in year two; \$0.75 per square foot in year three; \$1.32 per square foot in year four; and \$1.88 per square foot in year five.

The development fee is meant to cover the cost of services, such as roads, that must accompany a new development. Only when the fee is a \$1.88 will the development charge be sufficient to cover the total cost of Town-related services ac-

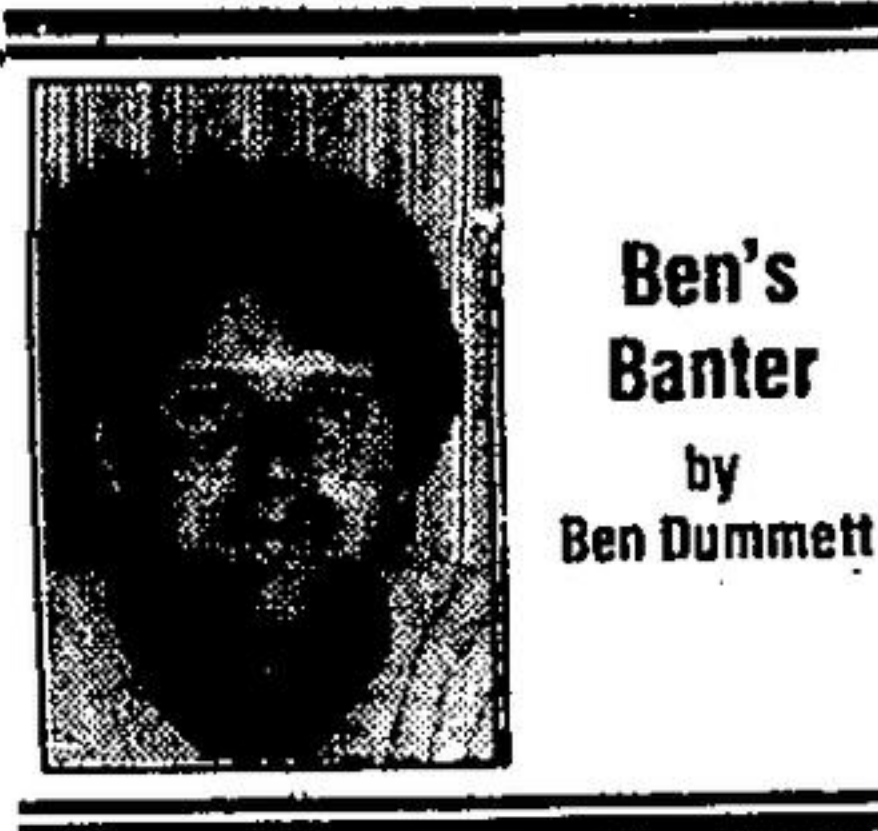
companying a new development.

Until this time, the Town will be required to use taxpayers' money to cover the amount the development charge doesn't.

Council decided to give the industrial and commercial development community a break on the development charge at the expense of local taxpayers to encourage industrial growth. Council rationalized, in light of the slow economy, Halton Hills has to be as competitive as possible if it is to attract industrial and commercial development.

Taken at face value this line of reasoning makes sense. Especially since increased employment comes with industrial and commercial development.

However, the reasoning doesn't make that much sense given the fact the Town has never before im-



Ben's Banter

by
Ben Dummett

posed a charge for industrial and commercial development and there has been no significant development of this type during the past several years, including the economic boom times in the 80's.

What makes council think

phasing-in a charge will make a difference?

When Town staff first released the report on the new development charges earlier this year, it was recommended the \$1.88 per square foot charge be approved without being phased-in.

At that time, Town Administrator-Clerk, Dan Costea, said the charge wouldn't discourage industrial and commercial growth. He explained the lack of this type of development results from the significant distance separating Halton Hills from Highway 401. The existence of a development fee therefore won't play a major role in affecting industrial and commercial growth.

Mr. Costea's comments make that much more sense knowing it has always been more expensive to

build industrial and commercial development in the cities of Brampton and Mississauga compared to Halton Hills, while at the same time, they have had no trouble attracting this type of development to their municipalities.

Obviously no easy answer exists to how the Town can attract industrial and commercial development.

However, it appears before dealing with the establishment of a new development charge, the Town should have first done a comprehensive study on what type of development it could attract regardless of a charge.

On that basis council, would have been better prepared to make a decision on whether or not a development charge should have been approved.

Politicians learn little from history

The presentation of the new constitutional package shows how little our politicians have learned from the Meech Lake fiasco.

At issue is not the content of the constitutional package; there will be plenty of time to discuss the matter. At issue is the role of government in our times. Assume for a moment that as chief executive of a corporation we ask our staff to give us a proposal to build a new facility. We would logically expect to receive two or three alternatives for our consideration, with the pro and con clearly stated, we would then make a decision.

Every single politician, at whichever level, claims to be at



Another View

by
Carlo Testa

our service. Unfortunately, when it comes to the crunch we are handed one proposal and told, in no uncertain terms, we better get along with it, or...

The blackmail process is already under way. "We are facing the break-up of Canada," "we will face a lower standard of living," "it is our last chance," these and more is throw at us to gain our support. Step back in the shoes of the chief executive and tell me what would be your reaction if presented with such manure!

There are at least three major alternatives for the future of Canada:

- a strongly centralized country, with administrative powers delegated to local authorities,
- something along the lines of what the government is now proposing,
- a Canada without Quebec.

To allow us to make a decision we need to know the pro and con of each alternative and their implications. For example: which territory would be given to an independent Quebec? A Canada which would retain the Southern shore of the St. Lawrence and return Quebec would be independent and probably become economically associated with us. A bad solution? I do not know until I am given the facts!

As most politicians, nowadays, are less competent than the people they represent, the role of the elected representative must change. They can hardly be trusted to make decisions for us (and giving us one option to consider, to accept, is presenting us with a fait-accompli).

Politicians, to serve us properly, should play a "staff" role: prepare and submit options to the people, their masters. It is a major, far-reaching change, one which we already see taking place in Eastern Europe.

The politicians there are, however unwillingly, following the people. To simply throw at us one solution and tell us to take or face the consequences is foolish.

To solve Canada's problems there are many ways. We are entitled to be offered all the options and be allowed to make up our mind.

Poets' Corner

THE DRUMMER

Bass drum like thunder
on comes the storm
with sticks like trees
The sound began to form
Every crash of the symbol
your heart curves
every crash of the snare
Total sound wave.

Angie Priestman, Acton.

THE JUNKY

I am all
by myself
but my best friend is here
no one understands.
Why
I am so
weird
I am on the street
and steal to live
but now it's time
for my friend
to take
my life.

Shawn Dryden, Acton.

WINTER

I can hear
my mother calling
happy
glad
I can feel
the cold wind blowing
bitter
crisp
I can smell
the sweet brown maple
tangy
rich
I can taste
the bright
white snowflakes
crunchy
fresh
I can see a world
of winter
perfect
cold.

LaVonne Bugala, Acton.

BEDTIME FOR AN OFFICE CHILD

The face with its smile,
is put into its file.
It's cheeks all nice and red,
are finally put to bed.

Trine Fisker, Acton.

RAIN

The driving rain falls,
the teardrops of
burdened clouds.
Refreshing the world.

Nicole Charles, Acton.

WINTER SNOW

Crisp clean winter snow.
The wind whistling softly.
Everything is still.

Lisa Sprostranov, Acton.

LIGHT BELOW

Waves crash upon rocks,
lifting mists on the mountains.
Giving light below.

Steve Sheppard, Acton.

SPARKLING SNOW

The first
flurries of snow
fall from the sky
like streams of
falling stars
glistening
from the moon's
beams to the
ground where they
lie, in seas of
glittering,
blue, red, green
and yellow
like a
magical dust.

Lonnie Patenaude, Acton.

DANCE OF THE LEAVES

Leaves rustling in the wind
Fluttering freely in the
sunny spring day
Drifting along in no
particular direction
Dripping and diving,
curving and climbing
Until they settle
peacefully onto,
The soft bed of grass
On the ground.

Patricia Monte, Acton.

THE TREE

The tree stands proudly,
limbs grabbing at the
night sky.

As it tumbles down.
Nicole Charles, Acton.

SNAFU® by Bruce Beattie



"I don't understand this eleventh commandment: Don't rip those little tags from pillows and mattresses."