

Notes and quotes from the election campaign

Now that the municipal election is over it's time to focus on some of the strange, funny and just plain nonsensical comments made during the campaign.

People should note I wrote this column before election day and therefore the election results did not in any way influence the column.

Under the nonsensical category falls the claim, "I'm not a politician," popularized by Ward 2 Regional councillor candidate, Bill Robson, during the campaign.

Inevitably, Mr. Robson would introduce himself by making the above statement.

I'm sure Mr. Robson used the phrase to disassociate himself from the public's perception of politicians as possibly being crooked.

Call me crazy, call me nuts, but when I hear the claim it tells me one thing: Mr. Robson must think Ward 2 residents have never figured out

who their Regional representative for the past three years has been.

Just to let you in on a little secret Ward 2 residents, your Regional representative has been Joe Hewitt.

Still on this comment, it was good to see Mr. Robson realize he wasn't a politician, but, if it turns out he's elected to represent Ward 2 I'd challenge him to describe himself in the same way.

Another strange, and I'd add unfair comment, was made by Ward 4 Regional Coun. candidate Linda Walton during an all candidates meeting, when she referred to our immediate westerly neighbors who chose to move to Georgetown as "Brampton refugees."

I bet it's news to Brampton residents they live in a war zone, or could it be, unbeknownst to the rest of Canada as well as Brampton residents, the city is controlled by some mad dictator who has imposed marshal law.

It's ironic that Ms. Walton, as



Ben's Banter
by Ben Dummett

well as others, implicitly refer to Brampton in such a negative way, especially when many area residents travel to that city to shop, and or work.

It's acceptable to express opposition to the type of development characteristic of Brampton, but it's unacceptable to imply people are desperate to leave the city.

One of the more humorous episodes during the campaign in-

involved mayoralty candidates, Russ Miller and Rob Barlow.

During one of the all-candidate meetings, the two were asked if and when they would start to take steps to dismantle Regional government.

Both supported the idea. In response to when they would take action, Mr. Barlow said as soon as possible, then turned to Mr. Miller and asked whether the new council would be sworn in on the first of December?

Mr. Miller responded yes, however, realizing he had just inadvertently conceded defeat, grabbed the microphone and said he would get started on the idea Nov. 13.

If anything, the questioner has assurances the next mayor is committed to looking into the dismantling of Regional government.

One of the more innocent and humorous comments came from Ward 3 Town councillor candidate, Grant Emmerson during an all-candidates meeting.

Commenting on the length of time allotted to the candidates to introduce themselves, most agreed three minutes was too short, while Mr. Emmerson said, "as far as I'm concerned three minutes is too long."

Someone in the audience was heard saying, "At least he's honest."

Mr. Emmerson's willingness to run for municipal office despite his fear of speaking to large audiences brings me to my last point.

As a result of covering the all-candidates meetings it hit home how difficult it would be to stand up to people and try to convince them they should vote for you.

For simply deciding to run, all candidates should be commended-win or lose. I'd like to send out a special thanks to all of them for providing all that juicy news copy. I don't know where I would have been without you.

Some suggestions to overcome negative thinking

So, you are fed up with hearing and reading about how bad we are. Right, we all are. We seem to be living on a steady diet of whining.

If you are careful you will note that even the above statement is just that, another negative statement about ourselves. Now, to get out of an unsatisfactory situation, (and we are in an unsatisfactory situation) there are some tried and true ways

It does not matter if you are a left-winger, a right-winger, or even a no-winger at all. The steps are always the same. Please follow me.

Step one - Recognize the problem.

Step two - Identify ways of action.

Step three - Choose and plan.

Step four - Implement.

From what we hear or read it seems as if we were stuck on step one, with some modest attempts to deal with step two. I personally think we are stuck on step two having never dealt properly with step one. Negative thinking

again? Not really, except if you are willing to believe that it is possible to build a house starting from the roof, and that it is "negative criticism" to suggest that some foundations would not be out of place.

Let us overcome the stalemate by an act of force and faith. Let us for a moment (you can get out at any time, but let us try, for one moment together, ok) accept one, opinionated, definition of the problem; eg: deal with step one.

This opinionated position is: we are in trouble because we have failed to realize that Canada is no longer a WASP or French society. We are in trouble because we refuse to use our best human resources because of racial and social barriers. We are in trouble because a frightening percentage of our population is functionally illiterate, another large percentage is misinformed and a third group is mired in self gratification.

We are in trouble because we are not willing to accept that in today's world there is only one



Another View
by Carlo Testa

source of wealth: brain power.

This opinionated position also says: we are not in trouble because of lack of money, because of Quebec, because of the quality of our workforce, because of our institutions, because others do not like us, because of the USA.

Are you still with me? Let us assume you are, okay?

If we agree with the analysis, we can move to step two. And as

we will deal with only one small segment of the plan we will move not only to two but to three and four.

In other words for this time, and for this time only, I give you an "opinionated" plan to deal with our perceived weakness.

Ignoring the potential of our fellow Canadians is part of our problem (step one). We want to obviate to our ignorance (step two).

Step 3. To obviate to our ignorance we are going to have dinner, at our house, with a couple/family/person who belongs to the ethnic group we most dislike. We are going to do so, not to be nice to them, but to learn. Don't forget, we are in trouble, not them. We are going to cook our best food, bring out our best bottle, as if our boss would be coming for dinner. And we are going to chat, argue, disagree as if the guests were our best friends. No patronizing condescension. No hypocrisy.

Step 4. It is up to you to implement.

Please note: We have not been bitching about our sad state of affairs. We have agreed on a simple, affordable, easy to implement plan of action. Useless!

Well, my friends, you agreed on the premise, try to stay the course.

Why should we do it? Not because we are do-gooders, but because we cannot afford to ignore talents and visions of other ethnic groups. (Do not forget: to whichever ethnic group we may belong, we are always a minority.)

Because we cannot afford to let the wealth of experiences our multicultural society provides us get wasted. As we are not an homogenous ethnic nation, we cannot afford to assume we are one.

We can, however, do something better, exploit the advantages of variety.

Do you not agree? Right on, that is why I think you should try the above plan. Or some variations of it.

I am easy to please.

People's Forum

No level of contamination is acceptable

Dear Editor:

Citizens must have the right to choose whether they want to be part of an experiment in water contamination.

In a letter responding to concerns by Mayor Miller, Jamie Connelly, hydrogeologist in the Approvals Branch at the Ministry of the Environment, wrote: "The Ministry is satisfied that leachate from the landfill will not in any way put in jeopardy the water supplies for your community."

(Emphasis added).

P.O.W.E.R. quoted those words in a letter to Jamie Connelly and went on to say: "Is this your personal guarantee? Are you prepared to personally bear financial responsibility for any failure of RSI's engineering? Clearly you have more faith than RSI's own hydrogeologist, Very Dixon, who told a public meeting that he could not guarantee that leachate would not reach Halton Hills water supply."

In our letter P.O.W.E.R. also raised the issues of: 1) Black Creek and Test Well no. 15. 2) Pop-ups (fractures in the quarry floor). 3) How long will the site be

monitored? and 4) Who pays when the dump leaks? Since Ruth Grier's decision is imminent, we faxed the letter and requested an immediate response.

Jamie Connelly was on holiday, so Don Andrijiw, Supervisor of Waste Sites and Systems Approvals, phoned to explain that no one would be available to answer the letter for three weeks. He went on to say that Jamie Connelly's statement that "...leachate from the landfill will not in any way put in jeopardy the water supplies of your community," did not mean that no leachate would ever get into the water, but that the amount of contamination would be within Ministry guidelines and therefore, acceptable.

While chemical contamination

of our drinking water may be "acceptable" to someone living outside this area, I am sure it is not acceptable to the citizens of Halton Hills. It should be our right to choose. Prevention of pollution must be the key. Once an aquifer is contaminated it cannot be returned to its original state.

We expect an announcement from Ruth Grier very soon. Be ready to write to the Premier to show that no level of contamination is acceptable! P.O.W.E.R. will collect your letters and deliver them in person to Queen's Park. With your support we can save our community.

Yours truly,
Barbara Halsall,
President of P.O.W.E.R.

Food drive successful

Dear Sir:

The Guide and Scout Movements of Acton and Georgetown would like to use this facility to pass on a sincere thank you to all who participated in our recent Food Drive.

The drive was an overwhelming success, thanks to the efforts of many, many people. Thanks to the many youth, and adults who participated in any way. Thanks to the corporate sponsors who made donations of goods and money. Thanks to the people of Georgetown, Acton, Limehouse and area who donated to the Acton Foodshare and Love in Christ Foodbank. Thanks to the Acton Calvinist Cadets and members of the Georgetown Optimist Club, who assisted Guide and Scout people. And a special thank you to Scouters Ron Birrell and George Henderson for all the hours of preparation and organization.

The people of Acton and Georgetown made this first annual foodbank drive the great success that it was, and from the Guiding and Scouting Movements - thank you.

North Halton District
Scouts Canada.

Christmas Seals the gift of life

Dear Sir:

Over eighty-five years ago Canadians began a tradition of caring and giving each other the gift of good health by supporting Christmas Seals. This tradition is continued as Christmas Seals from the Lung Association Halton Region arrive by mail throughout the whole area of Halton. We would like to thank all the generous residents of Halton Hills for their past support and for their continuing support.

In the beginning, funds raised through Christmas Seals went to control the spread of Tuberculosis. Nowadays, funds are used in the prevention and control of all lung disease including lung cancer, asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, smoking prevention and to a lesser degree

tuberculosis. In fact, the majority of the funds raised through the Christmas Seal Campaign stay in Halton to help our community and to provide community programs.

Lung diseases are a leading cause of disability and death in Canada. One in five Canadians, adults and children suffer from some form of respiratory problem. Every twenty minutes a Canadian dies from some form of respiratory disease.

Christmas Seals represent a tradition of giving life and breath to millions of Canadians. Thank you for giving the most valuable Christmas gift of all.

Sincerely,
Dr. Roger Haddon, M.D.,
President, The Lung Association
- Peel Region.

Disappointed senior

To the Editor:

Recently I attended a meeting held in the auditorium of the new Regional headquarters. A building so vast that when asking directions to the back parking lot, an employee stated that even the employees get lost. By the time this building is completed it will have cost millions if not billions of dollars. It is located in Oakville.

On my way home I drove through Milton, past the reconstruction of the Milton Manor. More millions of dollars are being spent to rebuild and renovate these premises.

From there I went to the Milton Seniors Recreational Centre which is at present located in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch. A group of Seniors were enjoying an afternoon of recreational square dancing. I hear rumors that consideration is being given to build a permanent Seniors Centre on the grounds of the Manor.

From there I drove out Main St. past the new 8.5 million dollar (starting price) Leisure Centre in Milton.

Then I drove in to Georgetown.
F. Carswell,
Resident Senior,
Georgetown.