

MPP observes free elections in Yugoslavia

On April 22, 1990 Earth Day was celebrated and I would have liked to have been there to celebrate it with you. This wasn't possible because I had been asked to participate in another event of importance on the same day.

Sunday, April 22, 1990 was the date chosen by Federal Republic of Croatia, in Yugoslavia, for their first free elections in decades. Canadian members of the Croatian Democratic Union asked me to travel to Yugoslavia to act as a neutral observer when the citizens of Croatia voted in a multi-party election that would bring an end to the Communist one party sale.

In a country such as ours, where governments rise and fall regularly, the sheer joy of being able to express an opinion is taken for granted. When I am

Queen's Park Report

By WALT ELLIOT
MPP for Halton North

back next week, I'll let you know what it was like to be in a country that is just now struggling to win back what we all consider to be ours by right of birth.

In my last two Queen's Park Reports I have talked about what I would like to see happen on the Niagara Escarpment and about the problem of water quantity in an area that depends on wells for both its urban and rural water supplies. The search for sufficient water in the Halton Hills and Milton area is well documented. The need for new water supplies for

the urban areas and the problems of rural residents with dry wells are well known. What is less well known is that even when water is found it is not always useable.

Ground water which is not contaminated with man-made pollutants can still be undrinkable because of heavy concentrations of salts or other minerals. This type of contamination is not controllable by man but it should help us to understand that we can't take the chance of destroying what good water we have.

Northwest of Ottawa, several communities are trying to cope with an ever-growing underground plume of gasoline contaminated water. The contamination was originally caused by leaking underground

storage tanks at two or three gas stations. The stations were closed and destroyed several years ago, but the small amount of gasoline that was left in those tanks continues to haunt an ever-wider circle of residents.

Perhaps the most frightening thing about contaminated ground water is that it is virtually impossible to clean up. Once gas, or leachate or any soluble chemical has been poured into the ground, it is there for all time. The best that can be hoped for is that time and distance will dilute the problem.

In Ontario, water is the least expensive of those things essential for our survival. However, if we continue to treat it as if it is only worth what we pay, the future will hold some problems.

Region hires caseworker

Children's Services Coordinating and Advisory Group has hired Helen Ferguson as of April 2 for the position of Case Resolution Coordinator.

Helen comes to CSCAG with many years of working at the Hamilton/Wentworth Children's Aid Society. Helen most recently was the Coordinator of Services at the CAS until her retirement in 1987.

She brings with her a wealth and breadth of personal and professional experience that will be a great asset to CSCAG and the Halton Children's Services community. Helen will be working on a part-time basis and will be available Monday to Friday mornings. Information, consultation or referrals regarding Hard-to-Serve children and youth can be directed to Helen at 827-2151, Ext. 432.

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