

Editorial

Let's just be Canadians

Canada - and Ontario in particular - is going down the tube faster "than a speeding bullet" (to borrow from the phrase which once described the knocked-off comic book hero).

This is what our politicians tell us. This is what our editorial writers tell us.

Not to worry. Whenever these two groups of admitted arch-enemies agree on anything, the safest route is to believe the opposite and wait out the storm.

One only has to go back to the flawed and fraudulent Charlottetown Accord as an example.

It was foisted on the Canadian public by both the politicians and the mass media as the sole solution to Canada's problems. Problems, it should be noted, which weren't apparent until the aforementioned cabal of crustaceans - with nothing better to do - decided to create a crisis.

The phony referendum (by definition, the results of a referendum are binding by law) cost Canadian taxpayers millions of dollars - not to mention quite a few bruised egos - yet the sky didn't fall. Quebec neither seceded nor fell into the ocean and at last report, our native Indians were still clinging to the national bosom.

Which brings us to the point of this exercise.

Halton Hills This Week received a number of calls after radio station CHML, AM 900 in Hamilton, played a song several days ago written and performed by a group of Hamilton elementary students. It was titled simply, "We are Canadians".

As it turns out, this writer also heard the song, and was struck by both its honest simplicity and the message crying to be heard by these youngsters.

They sang about how proud they were to be Canadians, how great Canada was, from coast to coast, and how lucky we were to live in such a country.

If there is a crisis of confidence in Canada, it's been caused by the pandering of the politicians and the media to those who care little about the country, do little for the country and offer nothing to the country.

We are referring, of course, to hyphenated-Canadians, special interest religious or gender groups and those who come to Canada to complain about the conditions in the country they chose to leave.

Politicians kow-tow to the above-mentioned groups simply to get their vote. The media does the same, but for financial rewards they hope to accrue by espousing ridiculous causes and equally ridiculous crusades; the sole purpose of which is to simply sell advertising space either in newspapers or the airwaves.

In both cases, it is doubtful if much research was done on the subjects themselves.

The politically correct term 'visible minority' was coined so as not to offend those perceived to have been previously offended. As things stand now, the term is being used by groups ranging from the homosexual community to extremely short people. And most of these groups are being funded by taxpayer's dollars.

A recent Maclean's magazine poll revealed that just over 2% of Canadians were non-Christians - Jewish, Hindu Muslim, Buddhist, etc. - yet to talk about Christianity is now perceived as a slight to any other religion.

Somewhere along the line, by attempting to satisfy the whims and demands of every group - religious, cultural, gender-oriented or whatever - we have lost the sense of simply being "Canadian".

As the youngsters who sang the song referred to might say, "Have we said a bad word? Have we offended someone?"

If so, too bad. Maybe if the powers-that-be concentrated on making a Canada for Canadians, we might not be in such a mess!

Let's just be Canadians - if that's not too much to ask.

Colin Gibson

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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The People's Corner

NDP government is inept

To the Editor:

It is difficult to imagine a government less inept in managing finances than the current Ontario NDP government. This group of ideologues who focus solely on the interests of their trade union friends and selected special interest groups, will very shortly double the provincial debt on behalf of all Ontarians.

Regardless of one's political leanings, whether they favor NDP policies of more government control or Progressive Conservative policies of less government control, there is an overriding law of economics curtailing our future options, the "law of the empty till".

The NDP spent \$11 billion more than they took in during their first year in power despite frantic efforts to minimize the deficit through slick accounting such as liquidating assets, burying debt in crown corporations and pushing half-a-billion dollars in commitments into next year's expenses. Their own projections reveal yet another huge deficit increasing Ontario debt by \$25 billion during their first two full years in power. By the end of their term Ontario debt will more than double, thus effectively mortgaging our future and that of our children.

I sincerely believe most taxpayers would not tolerate this kind of deficit if they had a better idea of the enormity of \$1 billion. For example, if we had a "money machine" that printed a dollar bill every second the machine operated around the clock every day of the year, it would take over 31 years to produce \$1 billion dollars. During our NDP experiment in Ontario we have achieved the distinction of becoming the highest taxed jurisdiction in North America and despite this, Messrs. Rae and Laughren will once again increase taxes and reduce our personal and corporate spending power.

Perhaps Mr. Duignan's report in your newspaper a few months ago

Editor's Notes

The typesetting gremlin crept into our editorial page content last Wednesday and we would like to right the wrongs.

In the Lois McClure letter, headlined - 'Protest groups' tactics questioned' the first paragraph did not appear correctly. It should have read:

"It is said that if you can't attack the idea, attack the person. This tactic was never more closely followed than at the recent Town and Regional meetings when delegates from protest groups spoke in opposition to the transfer of Niagara Escarpment development control to the region. In reality, the protest groups had no environmental cause to champion and no real enemy to fight."

In the Marcia Crossman letter headlined - 'Knechtel service is overwhelming', the store's proper name is Knechtel Georgetown Food Market.

Halton Hills This Week regrets the errors.

lauding more government spending should not have been headlined "Ontario Emerging From Economic Recession" but should have read "Ontario Engineering Economic Depression". Inherent in NDP ideology, whether in government or opposition, is high spending and high taxes, there is no mistake on that.

As we become more mired in debt our options decrease meaning less money for social programs, a

Hypocrites in Halton Hills?

To the Editor

The Town of Halton Hills and its residents have understandably been demonstrating quite loudly about the proposed Peel dump sites just to the east of Georgetown.

What I find hard to understand is how the Town of Halton Hills in its own backyard is allowing an oversized garbage refuse to be built for just 11 townhouse residences in the new Kingsmill on the Credit townhouse complex.

It is to be located on Edwin Lane, a dead-end street which backs on to the woods of Maple Avenue which leads down to the Credit River. Where are the envi-

ronmentalists in town? less competitive business community but most tragically, for the average Canadian like you and me, it will mean no jobs and a very bleak future. Mr. Rae has stated that his top priority is "to bring down the Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa", possibly he should re-direct his priorities toward the Ontario economy. Let those who have ears to hear listen!

Glenn Duff
Rockwood

Edwin Lane has the only green area in the complex. All this because the town doesn't want their garbage truck to back down 100 feet of Edwin Lane.

I moved to Georgetown to get away from the pollution and garbage of the big city. If I had known that I would be looking into a garbage garage from my front lawn I would have stayed put in Toronto. Is there not a better solution? Who's the hypocrite in Halton Hills? If you have any comments on this matter please contact me at my home 877-5995.

Charles Black
Georgetown

Guest Column

Welcome home Steamer

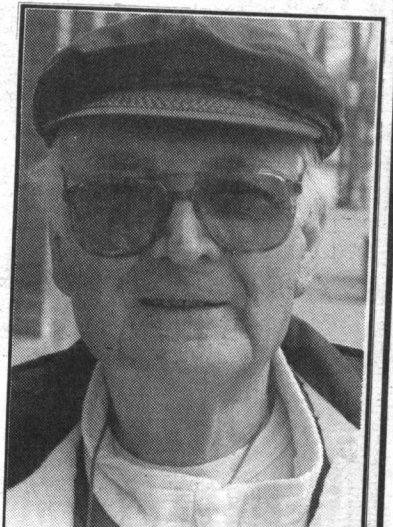
By Bill Hyde
Special

A glimpse of Canadiana sped by my door and stopped at my enthusiastic shout. Steamer Emmerson sat poised and alert, and brought his electrical buggy to a sure, safe stop. Only a whit the worse for his hospital stays and convalescence, he took stock and chatted happily.

We have missed him for almost a year. For him, it has been a long half-year wrestling with incapacity. The stroke had taken away mobility and freedom of movement. Even now the legs were stricken, necessitating the buggy. But the courage and determination, nurtured in depression years as one of seven siblings, hadn't flagged one bit.

It had been nurtured during hostilities, honed while overcoming war wounds, survived the treacheries inflicted on bailiffs, and finally served as the town's mayor, with dignity and wisdom. The blue eyes were steady, the hands now subtle with hours of painful repeat exercising, left no doubt that challenges ahead were in the bag.

But more than that, nothing missed his keen perception. The tales gushed out, humorous and self-effacing, but clearly of quiet victories over age and debilitation. Each child darting past his parked buggy, along the path to playground or friend's house, was warmly greeted, "Hello there, how are you doing?" The eyes kept



Steamer Emmerson

moving, they missed nothing and words kept coming, "Where was I? Oh, yes! now about Russell." Steamer brightened my day.

In the Burlington hospital someone asked, Who is this guy? Who would take the rest of the year off to get well, do the university English credit he has dreamed of over a lifetime, before resuming his local sardonic tales? Indeed, who else would promise his editor that he will walk in with his copy, in the fall.

Fight on Steamer, we need you as icon and symbol of courage, joy and goodwill. Fight on as a gift of love to those who benefit from your aliveness, or would suffer by your absence. Welcome home old warrior.