

Opinion

Halton Hills **THIS WEEK**

Halton Hills This Week, Weekend edition is published every Saturday at 232 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1, and is printed in Oakville at Q.E. Web Printing. Halton Hills This Week claims copyright on all original editorial and advertising material created by its employees and reproduced by this newspaper. Such material may only be reproduced on written consent of the publisher. In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy EDITOR: Colin Gibson
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolsek CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt
OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell

HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.

PHONE: 873-2254

FAX: 873-3918

Say it ain't so, Bo

NEWS FLASH - The Ontario government NDP caucus-cabal met at a resort north of Barrie for a three-day mouth-bash to discuss the state of the province's economy. An informed source informs HHTW that because new direction signs haven't been transformed into bilingual direction-finders, the OPP has been advised to politely perform search-and-destroy missions in area watering holes to round up the poor lost souls who once huddled pathetically around the mound in a vain effort to protect the NDP standard from blasphemers - who are having second, or third thoughts on the previously No Damn Policy bunch.

Of course we jest. And to a certain extent, Premier Bob Rae is to be commended for insisting that Ontarians face reality.

But every now and then, these neophyte "Keepers of the flame" of Ontarians hopes, pee on the fire.

That our education system is in a shambles is a given! Too many fingers in the paid-for-by-taxpayers pie has resulted in a jam factory of dip-takers with only the bureaucrats being allowed to feast on the end result.

Meanwhile, those who should count, the students, parents and teachers, employed by the various school boards, are left with a pie pan to wonder about, with only the crumbs to suggest what was and what might have been.

Our steamed provincial head honcho Bob Rae - referred to in parts (some known and some best left unmentioned) as Mr. Bo-jangles, is attempting to change both the social and industrial context of Ontario.

It's about time.

For decades, Ontario has been a provincial Progressive Conservative goody-bag with party hacks, drunks, bagmen, backroomers and other political hangers-on taking a chunk out of the province and laughing all the way to the bank - for the most part, from education funds supposedly set aside to allow our young people to be able to compete, competently, in an increasingly technological-oriented world.

'Nuff said. Times were supposed to change under the NDP. Quick, where is the outhouse.

Since elected, the NDP in Ontario has done more to screw up our education system than the once sleepwalking PCs under the equally sleepwalking Bill Davis.

Tony Silipo was out of his depth as provincial education minister and Dave Cooke will need a life jacket simply to swim through the waters he has already churned up.

Cooke recently (fanfare please) announced yet another Royal Commission on the education system in Ontario - the fifth since 1986 and the third since 1988) then stepped backed to receive the expected applause.

This new commission was headlined as taking the education system to the people and asking (begging) for input from parents, especially.

Several days later, the NDPoppers announced the establishment of a Parents Council which will be doing, basically, the same job as the aforementioned Royal Commission.

Halton North MPP Noel Duignan, crows about parents finally getting involved in the education system, under the new Parents Council, in another section of our paper, but conveniently, fails to mention the \$600,000 cost.

Obviously, the two groups will have to get together to compare their respective findings and present a combined report - no doubt some time around 2025 - to the people.

I thought we were broke, Bo?

By the time these reports get out a lot of us will either be dead, nearly dead or looking for adult diaper bags. And the students, who were supposed to benefit from these costly studies, will either be married, looking for a job, or hooking on Jarvis Street in Toronto.

Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

Petition planned over poor cable reception

To the Editor:

I read with interest your article and what Mr. De Jong had to say about Halton Cable Systems keeping Visions for the time being.

My letter is not about Vision, it's about Mr. De Jong's comments about no price increases on basic rates, for the third year in a row.

I would hope "NOT". I have lived in all parts of Canada and at no time have I seen cable so bad as we get here in Georgetown.

As I write this letter, I cannot watch channels 5, 9, 25, 19 or 17, because of poor reception. After many calls, Halton Cable System claimed the problem was because of poor reception from the States, not because of their old outdated equipment.

Checking with friends who are under other cable systems in and around Toronto, I find they have no problems.

Immunization stressed in Halton

Adequate immunization is required for entry into Halton's daycare centres, nursery schools and elementary and secondary schools. The immunization requirements vary with the age of the child and the setting.

Injectable polio vaccine was reintroduced in April, 1993. As supplies of the oral vaccine are depleted, children will be given the vaccine by injection. The polio vaccine is combined with the diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus vaccines. This combined vaccine is known as DPTP.

The oral vaccine was introduced in 1990 because of supply and production problems with the injectable vaccine. New methods of production have resulted in an enhanced injectable vaccine that is now available in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the provincially-funded vaccine program.

DPTP is given at ages 2, 4 and 6 months and again when the child is between ages 4 and 6 years. Protection against polio is completed with the combined diphtheria, tetanus and polio vaccine (DTP) given between the ages of 14 and 16 years. As adults, polio vaccine would be required only when traveling to parts of the world where polio is common.

For more information about polio and other vaccines, call the Halton Regional Health Department, 825-6060 and ask for the Communicable Diseases Program.

So what's up Mr. De Jong?

I would like to thank Mr. De Jong for telling us there are over 16,000 subscribers

in our area. I now know how many names I can get to sign our petition to the CRTC to have this problem either fixed or have new operators brought in.

Jim Connolly,
Georgetown

Our greatest wealth is our people

By John Sommer

"The rich are fed up with the poor and if the poor don't shape up, the rich are not going to take it anymore." This quote by the American writer Gore Vidal made me laugh. It so perfectly illustrates our present mood.

The prevailing wisdom of the Reagan and Bush years preached to us that governments should stay out of things, that only the unfettered private sector could provide us with everything we might possibly want, and at a minimum cost. Remember the economist Laffer, Reagan's guru, who proclaimed that if income tax rates for upper income groups were lowered, growth would be stimulated to such an extent that income tax revenues would actually increase and therefore the government never be short of money? What blissful times he promised.

It was a scene right out of Goethe's great play "Faust". The Emperor says: "This, I suspect, is criminal, a gigantic fraud", and the Lord Treasurer answers: "Don't you remember? You signed it yourself only last night. The chancellor came up and said to you in your presence: Allow yourself the high pleasure on this festive occasion of ensuring your people's welfare with a few strokes of the pen. You can't imagine how happy the people are. Look at your city. It was rotting and half dead, and now it's alive again with pleasure seekers. Your name has always spelt happiness, but never before has it looked so benign."

In the meantime we have found out, of course, that it was fraud, and many of the rich and famous of 10 years ago are either bankrupt or behind bars. As a reminder of the years when milk and honey flowed we have the enormous accumulation of public debt in the USA in

Guest column

Canada, and an economic hangover of huge proportions. And yet, just four years ago, every middle income person in the country was on the way, or thought to be on the way, to becoming a millionaire. What happened?

We got in the habit of living by fanciful myths instead of the plain, and sometimes painful truth. Was there ever a chance that speculators and financial manipulators, as well as buy-out freebooters would become the longed for instigators of progress? Why should cosy-sitting corporate bureaucrats turn suddenly into wildly innovative entrepreneurs? Who has proof that astronomical salaries will automatically attract the best people? Where did we get the idea that all government actions and hand-outs are wasteful and demoralizing, unless given to big corporations in trouble, or to the military, or to middle class homeowners with tax-deductible mortgage interest payments, to give a few of the most glaring examples?

Had we forgotten that the true backbone of any country is small and medium sized business and farming? That our greatest wealth is to be found in our people, in particular the young, and that we better make sure they are trained and educated for the task ahead? Is it not a crime to let any young man or woman walk around unemployed, and is there not plenty waiting to be done in this country to find jobs for everybody?

What examples we gave to the young with this stupid fuss about millionaires, as if there are no better goals in life. The so-called lifestyles of the '80s were - most of them - vulgar beyond description and we should not be proud of the last decade. The supply-side economists and liber-

tarians talked lean and mean but I do not believe that they fell for their own nonsense.

It is perverse to think of our various governments as the enemy and to starve them for justified funds. Where would we be without them? In a democracy we are the government. If we are unable to control them and if we vote the wrong people into office we have only ourselves to blame. How are we to find the right people?

Let's pay them less for a start. It is simply not true that all the best people are money-grabbing. That's one of those cynical distortions that has given us the wrong kind of politician, the wrong kind of corporate manager, and also the wrong kind of sports/personality.

John Ralston Saul, the Canadian author of the widely discussed book "Voltaire's Bastards", has this to say and I quote him in closing:

"The imposition of short-term profit methods in an area which is only indirectly and in the long run profit-oriented could not possibly have worked. Expecting business methods and market forces to do the job of government, when business and the market fought desperately against every humane and social accomplishment of government over the last two centuries, makes no sense at all. The public interest and the profit motive may be made to cooperate through wise political leadership, but they are not interchangeable. They are nevertheless being treated at present as if they were."

John Sommer has been the director of Gallery House Sol, located at 45 Charles St. in Georgetown, since 1962.

Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week

reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are

not necessarily those of Halton Hills This Week.

Send your letter to:

The Editor
Halton Hills This Week
232 Guelph St., Unit 9
Georgetown, ON
L7G 4B1