

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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Are we on snooze control?

Maybe it's just me, but doesn't it seem that the battle for the hearts and minds of Halton Hills voters in the upcoming Oct. 25 federal election is in snooze control?

I mean Halton-Peel incumbent Progressive Conservative Garth Turner's statement Monday blaming the inaction regarding development in Acton on local politicians should have elicited some response from the other contenders vying for the title of federal "leader of the people" in our area.

Yet not a peep from Liberal Julian Reed. Not a huff and puff from Dick MacDuffie of the Reform Party. Not even a meek "Oh yeah!" from Libertarian banner-holder Hilliard Cox.

Come on boys, there are some serious questions to be asked here and you guys should be asking them.

Such as: When was Mr. Turner made aware of the July 6 memo approved by Ross Reid, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans virtually giving the go-ahead to Acton development.

I mean just a short time before, (June 23 to be exact) Mr. Turner charged in from Ottawa and called a special 'town hall' meeting to address such concerns.

If Mr. Turner was aware of the approved Reid memo in July, why did he wait until the federal election was called to reveal its contents?

At the Acton meeting, attended by over 100 people, concerns about the held-back Acton development were raised and Mr. Turner promised he would do what he could to address their concerns. Why the delay?

If Mr. Turner wasn't aware of the Reid approved memo back then, that should raise another question.

Mr. Reid and Mr. Turner belong to the same governing party! I mean, don't these guys talk? And didn't Mr. Turner say he would address Acton's concerns on June 26! Surely he would have contacted Mr. Reid!

It's almost three months later, we're in the middle of a federal election campaign and we find out now the DFO and Mr. Reid aren't overly concerned about the water questions in Acton affecting the development issue!

That's quite a time lag. I'll bet it takes these guys a week to watch 60 Minutes.

The other commenting agencies involved, including Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills weren't even invited to attend Mr. Turner's press conference. Weren't even aware it was happening and weren't even forewarned about the revelations the press conference centered around.

Now surely this has to be questioned by our other wannabe Halton-Peel "protectors of the washed and the unwashed."

Another question might be, why did our local Chamber of Commerce call the press conference and not Mr. Turner himself. Was the Chamber aware of the infamous memo prior to calling the press conference and if so, why didn't the Chamber demand action earlier.

This is an issue that hopefully won't - and shouldn't go away. A number of other questions surrounding it beg for answers as well.

Come on Julian, Dick and Hilliard take off the snooze control and start motoring if you really are serious about wanting to win the Halton-Peel riding.

I've been curious about the no-show game the New Democratic Party has been playing in our riding and had a chat with someone in the know the other day.

I was assured a candidate will be running and that a nomination meeting is scheduled for Sunday night. After that, the NDP candidate will be brought in from the cold and be introduced to area voters.

We await the announcement with bated breath.
Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

Turner's Acton initiative lauded

To the Editor:

Garth Turner has now set the stage to resolve the remaining obstructions in the path of Acton's much needed growth. By clarifying and, in fact, correcting the "record" on the Minister

of Fisheries' actual position on the relevant sections of the Fisheries Act, Turner has provided the town and region with the assurances they require to proceed with the development process.

The ball is now firmly in the court of our municipal

governments who must also stare down the ludicrous theories and threats from the "special interest" groups and act on their oft-stated commitments to finally end Acton's 20-year development freeze.

After six months of

increasing confusion and inter-governmental bickering over this issue, let's hope this initiative by Garth Turner will resolve this standoff once and for all.

Steve Dawkins
Acton

Wants questions answered

To the Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to say how refreshing it is to read your straight forward, tell-it-as-it-is editorials. Other publications stick to their political correctness, whitewashing all the issues and public views that are prevalent within our society, for fear of offending the powers that be. You state the case of the common citizen clearly, frankly and honestly, getting across the real views and concerns as seen by the common people throughout Canada.

It is a shame that the larger publications throughout Canada do not adopt this approach to journalism. They should stop worrying about how it may appear to the governing bodies that regulate their being. Only then can Canadians have a fair and just say in Canada's future and really affect any Political changes within this great country of ours.

Colin, I thank you for this and for the opportunity to possibly get some of my political questions answered by those vying for power. I, however, do not hold out much hope of ever getting anything but political doublespeak back from our politicians.

They have never honestly or directly answered any questions put to them, I don't foresee it changing now. They are in essence self-righteous, self-serving, elitist parasites on society and will say and do anything to politically or financially better their positions.

For what it is worth, I am forwarding some questions, most of which by the way have already been submitted in writing over the past few months to Garth Turner with no answers as yet forthcoming.

John D. McConnell
Acton

Editor's note: Mr. McConnell is writing in reference to HHTW's offer to direct readers' questions directly to the respective candidates seeking election in the Oct. 25 federal election. His question: "What are your policies on employment equity? Do you intend to bring into law any bills in this area that will create the reverse discrimination that Bob Rae's NDP has created in Ontario?" It was directed to Garth Turner. The question was faxed to Garth Turner's re-election campaign office last Tuesday. As we went to press for our weekend edition, we were still awaiting a reply.

Got a beef or a comment?

Send your letters to: Letters to the Editor, Halton Hills This Week, 232 Guelph St., Unit #9, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1 or fax us at (416) 873-3918

Firefighters offer thanks

To the Editor:

Re: Georgetown Fire Fighters Association Annual Golf Tournament

On September 10, the Georgetown Firefighters Association held its Annual Golf Tournament and without the generous donations from the corporate community and fellow citizens it would not have been the success it was.

Your generosity was very much appreciated by all the

firefighters and they would like to extend a sincere thank you to each and every one of you who contributed to this annual event.

On behalf of the Georgetown Firefighters Association, thank you for your kindness.

Mark Musclow,
Chairman
Annual Golf
Tournament
Georgetown
Firefighters Association

Economists used by politicians

By John Sommer

The longer one listens to economists (or to politicians talking economics), the more one becomes convinced that economics is not a science but a faith.

From reports in the media, I get the message that economists are unable to accurately predict what will happen tomorrow, nor can they explain, in any clear way, what is happening today. Or why, for that matter, the economic decisions of the past got us into the present mess.

The so-called experts are trotted out daily, but all they come up with are tired predictions that have again and again turned out to be wrong. We should refuse, therefore, to bestow the title "scientist" on the economist. Economists, like theologians, are oracles that politicians tend to use for their own wily ends.

Take the matter of free trade. It is fashionable in Progressive Conservative quarters to believe that free trade is good and absolute free trade might very well be the solution to all our ills. But absolute free trade is impossible to achieve because powerful interest groups in all trading countries are constantly lobbying their elected politicians to allow only the kind of "free trade" agreements that are far from free, but designed to benefit their limited and special interests instead.

As examples, I name you

Guest column

GATT and NAFTA. Under these trade agreements, capital will be free to travel anywhere in search of investment, goods will be able to travel in search of markets. Only labor is not free to travel to higher wages. A worker in a Thailand sweat shop will not be able to get a higher paid job in Europe, for instance, nor can Canadian workers follow their vanishing factories, if they had that desire.

The strategy of these trade agreements is to enable companies to go to low-wage countries to produce goods for high-wage markets. GATT and NAFTA want to create low-wage ghettos in third world countries for the benefit of companies and customers in the so-called first world.

Economic growth, in the long run, comes from investment in education, from better management, from a broad spread of wealth in our own countries, not from slave labor in Asia or Mexico. One reason for Canada's poor economic performance is the lack of secondary industry in this country. We import far too much, instead of producing most of these goods ourselves. A great portion of the earnings of our working people is going into the pockets of off-shore entrepreneurs.

There is the amusing theory that if you give money to a poor man (through welfare payments because he has lost his job), he will get lazy. If you give money to a rich man, however (by cutting his taxes), he will start to work even harder than before. There is absolutely no proof anywhere that this is true and meets with reality.

There is a tendency in certain economic minds to believe that unions are evil incarnate. The fact is, that countries where unions have become partners of management, far out-perform countries where disenfranchised workers slave for a pittance. Unions are part of the engines of economic growth.

Lastly, we are prodded to believe that without the national debt and with balanced budgets, all our sorrows would vanish. Sixty-three years ago the economists and politicians in North America did everything possible to worsen the just-starting depression by focusing on reducing the national debt and balancing the budget. Right now, here in Canada, we follow again this discredited line of reasoning, instead of putting people to work by upgrading our outmoded infrastructure.

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

OCT. 25 Exercise your Franchise GET OUT AND VOTE