

The Senate's OK — with me!

I can't help thinking that those high-powered premiers and bureaucrats who continue to be so befuddled by the issue of the Senate are somehow missing a boat or two. While they fiddle away trying to find a formula to please 11 different governments (one of whom is not even at the table) the real ship of state — The SS Economy — is sailing almost directly onto the rocks and the results, for average Canadians, are disastrous. Just look around you and count how many folk you know who are hurting and you're looking directly at what happens when there's little or no leadership at the top.

At the round of talks which have just concluded, only Joe Ghiz from PEI and our own Bob Rae made any sense at all — close the damn thing down. Presumably, we could then get on with the job of running the country. Many Canadians heartily endorse the sentiment but, "Sure as God made little green apples," they also know that it won't happen. With that in mind here are two further suggestions for your very serious consideration.

Plan One: Let's make the Senate a place of honour to which citizens who have served Canada and Canadians well can be elected for limited periods of time; a five year tenure with the possibility of one further renewal might work well. For such a symbolic institution the pay would certainly be more nominal than is presently the case; limited perhaps to whatever the average Canadian wage is for the current year plus moderate expenses. Such remuneration would be in keeping with the best democratic traditions and would remind us that, yes indeed, all citizens are equal. So as not to appear miserly however, we might also consider allowing a few extras like daily lunches and free haircuts once a month.

As honoured citizens, our senators could take on many of those flashy public ceremonies which political figures seem to love so much — like opening new offices, schools, public works or what have you. If senators got to handle these public occasions, then those elected to govern would have more time to do just that — govern — instead of having to waste so much time in the limelight. Moreover, comes the election the public might be more inclined to look at the overall state of the country rather than being distracted by show and glitter and whatever's been happening in home ridings.

A symbolic senate could be a good start towards limiting and perhaps eventually eliminating the endless rounds of patronage which continue to be a particular hallmark of the Ottawa way of living.

Plan Two: If the idea of a Symbolic Senate isn't acceptable (and if we can't bring ourselves to act on the eminently sensible suggestion put forth by Premiers Ghiz and Rae to close the place down) then I am reduced to my rock bottom proposal. To put it to you quite plainly, if there's going to be no real change then ... I WANT IN! Now, you ought to know that I have weighed the matter carefully but despite the disadvantages (which I won't go into right now) I am willing to make the sacrifices needed in order to take my place in that hallowed private establishment known as the Canadian Senate.

Imagine having someone you know (or who you've at least read) in that posh club on the Rideau. Why, you could even come to lunch some day. The very possibility makes the mouth water; well, my mouth at any rate. Tell you what though — if there's more than one vacancy I'll be happy to put your name forward right after mine. Got to take care of Number One.

— Eric Balkind

St. Joseph Report With Anne-Marie McGeragle & Melissa Pawlak



The Grade 7 and 8 students at St. Joseph's school are enjoying a trip in Ottawa. They left last Monday and returned on Friday. On Monday, it was definitely tiring for them because the group needed to wake up by 5:30 am and it was an all-day bus ride. That night, there was a dance to help them relax.

The Acton Junior Track Meet will be held tomorrow (Wednes-

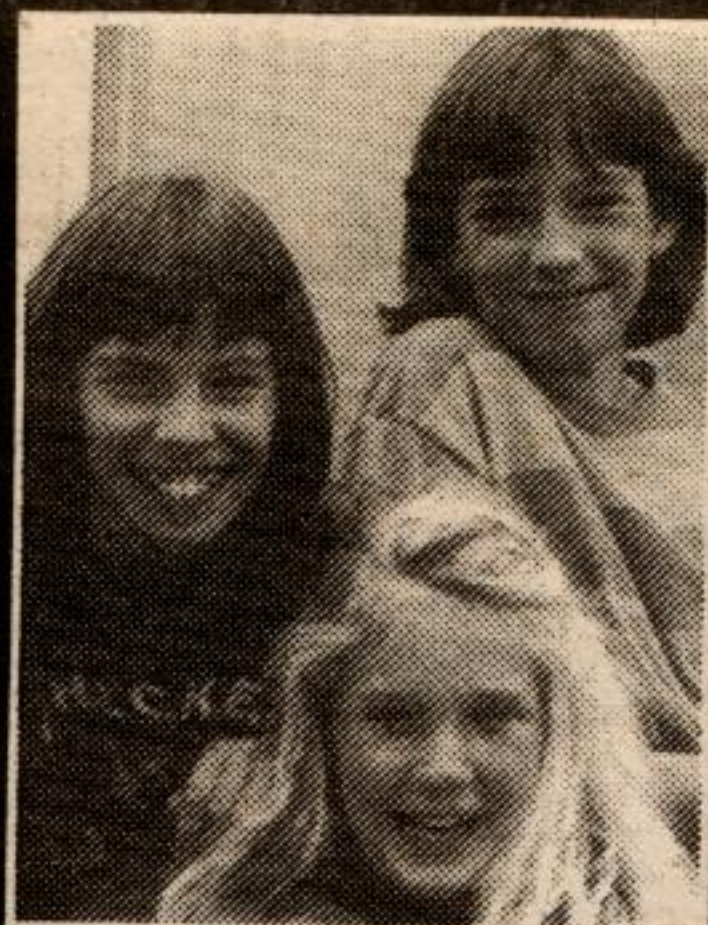
day) at Acton High. Most of the 8 to 11-year-olds who didn't participate in Burlington will be there. St. Joseph's school would like to thank Kelly McGeragle and Samantha Pike from Bishop Reding, and Jennifer McNabb and Ann Lucas from Acton High for being this year's co-op students. We really appreciated your help.

On Thursday at 7 pm, the Grade 8's will graduate. At 8:15 there will be an awards ceremony in the school library, followed by a dance in the gym. Congratulations Grade 8's!

On Friday morning, St. Joseph's will have a play day. The Grade 7's will be team captains and the 8's will be running the stations. Some of the activities will be a bean bag toss, water race, a baseball throw and of course, a refreshment break.



Robert Little Report With Maya Barbir, Darya Barbir & Jennifer Elliott



Thursday was "Backwards Day" at Robert Little School. Everyone wore their shorts, pants, socks, T-shirts and shoes backwards! Some people even wore their sunglasses on the back of their heads! What imaginations these kids have!

This year's Computer Crew members are doing a great job.

This crew comes in to the computer lab at a designated time and they clean up the lab by filing disks and cleaning out the disk holder. Amanda Paton is this year's captain of the Computer Crew and she will be succeeded by Amanda Becker as crew captain next year.

Last Tuesday was Track and Field Day at Robert Little. All students from Grades 3 to 5 were out in the sun for a fun-filled half-day which involved jumping, running and throwing.

The track and field events included the high jump, long jump, ball throw, bean bag toss, the 80, 200 and 400 metre runs, shuttle run, standing long jump and frisbee toss.

At the end of the day all students who had participated in the track and field events were treated to a popsicle. What a great day!

Rockwood Centennial Report With Chris Williams



Last Monday, Grade 4 to 8 students had Mat Maxwell, a French singer come in to Rockwood Centennial for a concert. "Loive La Grenuit" was the students' favourite song.

Last Tuesday, the Grade 7 and 8 students travelled to the University of Guelph to compete in the annual track and field meet. As a school, our scores were not exceedingly high but there were some

good individual results. Kaitron Stockman broke a high jump record and finished first. Josh Slaven and Tanii Hidada also had first place finishes in the high jump in their divisions. Yours truly won in the 50-metre hurdles.

On Thursday, Mr. Lacey and class 7-1 held a barbecue for the school. It was enjoyable to eat outside with a hamburger or hot dog and an ice-cold pop.

Yesterday (Monday), the Grade 8 students left for Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg. In their travels, they will be visiting the Corning Glass Centre and Museum, National Museum of American History, the Jefferson, Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials, as well as the Capital Building and Arlington Cemetery.

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