

EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



Tearing away the kraft paper

The Hide House is back and Acton is once again Canada's Leathertown. Let's hope the re-opening of our No. 1 retailer is a harbinger of better times for the "little town that could."

I have to admit, things can get a little scary in this community. A couple of Mondays back, as I was walking to work, I realized just how close we are to achieving the status of "ghost town." I stood outside our front door here at 7 Mill East and looked around at what should be the heart of our town — the shops around the downtown traffic lights. Scary.

Not too long ago, Flight Line was the jewel of our downtown. Beautiful store and storefront. Now those big windows are covered with brown paper. Same thing across the road where P&C Originals clothing store operated for a period of time. Couple of doors down and the old Driver and Vehicle Licences office is now moved out and papered-up. Geez, even the Meeting Place has paper over the windows of their restaurant (just renovating, though).

Things seemed especially bad, because Andy's Restaurant was closed for their summer holidays. I felt very alone standing there at Mill and Main that Monday morning, trucks rolling by on their way to somewhere else, copies of Georgetown "give-away" newspapers littering our sidewalk (as they do each and every Monday morning), and surrounded by locked doors. Doors which should have been open.

Somewhere there was a store turning over a ton of brown kraft paper, but nothing was moving in downtown Acton.

But things are a bit better now. Andy Katsilieris and his crew are back from holidays. The Bank of Montreal is looking better every day. And weekend traffic will be picking up because "it's worth the drive" once again.

Despite the odds and in spite of the bureaucrats who would leave Acton to die in a pool of development red tape, this old town just keeps kicking. And one day, you've just gotta believe, we're going to win.

Did you receive your pre-addressed postcard from MP Garth Turner in the mail? The card features a drawing of Turner's face, under which is the statement "Proud to Represent the People of Halton Peel in Canada's Parliament." On the back, Garth states, "Your views are important. Please use this postcard to share them with me."

I think this postcard is a great idea, and it would be terrific if we received them, say, quarterly, so that we might drop a line to our man in Ottawa regularly. A self-addressed postcard (no postage needed, of course) is relatively easy to fill out and drop in a mailbox. Much easier than starting with a blank sheet of paper, anyway.

Here's hoping Garth is overloaded with responses. After all, criticism of Mr. Turner (or any other leader) is hollow unless we can back it up with some decent alternatives.

And if you didn't get a card, you can always send a note to: Garth Turner, MP, Rm. 321, East Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6.

LETTERS

Same old starch

To the Editor,

It seems that leadership plays one of the most important roles in our decision of which party we choose to vote for, either federally or provincially. Yet we don't often have the chance to see and hear a debate between our party leaders that's not too starchy and formally prepared.

I understand that CBC had prepared such a debate between the leaders of the three old parties as well as the Reform Party and the

Bloc Quebecois. It seems it was to be aired on CBC Prime Time on Sept. 6. Then someone pulled the plug because the Liberal Party didn't want to be included.

I'm not convinced that the best person in a debate is necessarily the best person to lead the country. On the other hand, one has to wonder why anyone wishing to be leader of the country would shy away from explaining and defending his/her policies with other contenders for the leadership.

Let's hope that we're not only going to see leaders challenged in the sterile atmosphere of prepared questions that will be just about as exciting as the leadership forums for the PCs this summer. I hope they wake us up on election day.

Mike Pembry



LETTERS

About the 'Corners'

To the Editor,
The Esquesing Historical Society is writing to the readers of your paper through the editor to ask for help in finding a few people who know a yarn or two about that famous hamlet of Crewson's Corners.

The Society has held meetings about many Esquesing settlements, the latest being Dublin, Speyside, Churchill and Union Church. The time has come to record the great moments of Crewson's Corners!

To do this we would like to

gather together any who would like to contribute their memories or knowledge at a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 10. The meeting will be held in Acton.

We certainly are not expecting a speech (but we would not discourage one) — just a chance to sit and compare notes with others so that everyone interested can share our common heritage.

If any of your readers know someone or would like to offer themselves as a member of our panel for the evening, would they call Mark Rowe at 877-9510? Anyone who is interested might like to mark down the date.

Our meetings are open to the public and are followed by refreshments. Thank you.

John Mark Rowe
Society Archivist

Take government back

To the Editor,

The time has come for Canadians to take back their government from the Liberal and Conservative Porkers.

Does anyone believe that Kim Campbell is not just Mulroney with a skirt? If she is so much her own person, why did she wholeheartedly support his disastrous social and economic policies. Yet now she cannot even bring herself to utter his name.

As for Garth Turner, let him tell us how many government bills he voted against in the last four years. Tell us how many Tory bloated budgets he stood up against. Tell us how many of the hundreds of patronage appointments made in the last year he protested.

Every single Tory budget since 1984 has talked about "Deficit Reduction," yet they continue to spend 20-30 per cent more money

than they bring in. Try running your home that way.

There are a couple of old adages which come to mind when I think of the Tories: "Talk's cheap," and "Actions speak louder than words."

As for the Liberals, this country cannot risk its future in the hands of a man even their own party would wish to go away.

It is incumbent on every Canadian to spend time in the next eight weeks to find out what policies are being offered by all political parties and make a vote based upon logic and sound reasoning.

Holding our noses and voting as we have in the past (as the old parties wanted us to do in the Referendum) isn't going to cut it.

As this country races to the edge of the social and economic abyss, this election may be our last opportunity to change course.

Eric Larsen

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