



EASY RIDER!

Bradley Morris, 4, was all smiles recently while riding the coil animal rides at Prospect Park. (Doug Harrison photo)

Here's my reply, Noel

Last week, we all received a copy of our boy Noel's self-graded report card. In case you didn't take the time to go over it, you'll be relieved to know that all is well in Ontario.

"The Plan is working," Noel tells us. He keeps referring to "your New Democratic government." I don't know how you feel, but I hereby declare that they're not mine. I disclaim an ownership of that lot.

Now 'ol Noel thoughtfully enclosed a postcard with the latest issue of his newsletter. He says he wants to hear from us. There is no space, however, to write in your opinion. The postcard only lets you check off the areas where you agree that the NDP Plan is working.

So what do you do if you're like me and don't even think they have a clue, let alone a working plan? Our benevolent Noel will even pay the postage, well actually we'll all pay for it, if you send back these supportive compliments. Since I am concerned about deficits and such I thought I would put my observations on paper and save the Province the price of a stamp.

Front page, of course, is a self-congratulatory letter from Noel, about Noel, to us. He wants us to know that Bill 62 will protect the Niagara Escarpment from dump sites. He also thanks those who sent letters and faxes supporting the legislation.

In fairness, 'ol Noel does deserve credit for getting this law through. Passage of a Private Member's Bill is rare under our system.

Bill 62 will make it extremely difficult for the proposed Acton quarry dump to go ahead. R.S.I. could still appeal to the cabinet of our next government, but not many see that as being a realistic option with public opinion being so solid against it. So 'ol Noel did do a good job, although I'm not sure I would categorize it as "an historic day for all of us."

Speaking of garbage, 'ol Noel doesn't even mention the brouhaha over the other sites selected as dumpsites in the greater Toronto area (G.T.A.). I for one would like to know why his government seems poised to excavate arable farmland in order to build a garbage dump on a major aquifer. It would be interesting to know why "your" government won't explore the Kirkland Lake option.

Why can't we take some of the money being wasted on studies of a dump which will never be built and use it to look at energy-from-waste options? To say that we have been saved from a dump and then plan to sell the people of Vaughan, Caledon and Pickering down the river doesn't convince me that "your government" is environmentally responsible. Please include your views on this in your next newsletter.

On Page 2 our Noel goes into The Twilight Zone. He says "your" (there's that word again) "NDP government has a plan to create jobs." How? By alienating the manufacturing sector so much that companies are moving or folding every day? By supporting the boondoggle better known as the Workers Compensation Board? With Employment Equity laws

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



that are viewed as anti-business by the Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce and Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses?

Governments can't create any meaningful numbers of jobs and 'ol Noel knows it. Or, maybe, he's the only one in the province who doesn't.

Sure, they can build a few highways, bridges and buildings but unless the private sector kicks in these jobs are short term gain for long term pain. They're spending borrowed money, don't forget. Someone, our great-grandchildren perhaps, will have to pay for this.

He says they have a plan to preserve the services we rely on. I think the seniors who have lost out-of-province protection might have a suggestion where he can put his plan.

Didn't the NDP also cut seniors' drug benefits recently while, at the same time, maintaining coverage for visiting students and refugee claimants?

Aren't municipalities cutting services because their funding has been cut or frozen?

Didn't I hear a murmur of discontent from school boards a few days ago?

Have you driven the 401 to Brockville lately? The grass is uncut, litter uncollected and the surface on the driving lane is badly in need of resurfacing.

What services Noel? Haven't we closed hospital beds? Aren't there long line-ups for critical medical procedures? Don't most of the doctors in this province oppose your health care plans?

You gave Halton Women's Place \$1.1 million for a 20-bed facility. That's \$55,000 a bed. What did you build it out of, loonies? I've been in the H.W.P., they do a great job and enjoy tremendous community support, but \$55,000 a bed?

The part which really causes me to gag is when 'ol Noel says "your NDP government has a plan to control spending and reduce the deficit."

Noel, Noel, Noel. Tell us Buddy, what colour is the sky in your world? The NDP has undoubtedly been the worst fiscal disaster this province has ever seen. Our credit rating has been downgraded four times since these guys *fluked* into power in 1990.

Sure they have a perfect record. One down grade every year. *Perfectly lousy record* is more like it!

This year's deficit is running at \$8.5 billion, which is \$2.3 billion over forecast. That's almost 30 per cent over projections, but Noel says they've reduced the deficit by 30 per cent. Of course they have. Last year they spent over \$11 billion they didn't have. This is all after, folks, two of the most massive tax grabs since confederation. Then he has the gall, the *unmitigated gall*, to say that if they hadn't imposed the Social Contract, they would or could have spent \$17 billion last year.

And for this, we're supposed to be grateful. They have a "plan." Yeah, right. Honestly, do you think there's anyone in "your government" who could plan and run a two-car funeral? I don't.

Space, and my dwindling supply of blood pressure pills, prohibit me from commenting further. Suffice it to say that 'ol Noel doesn't mention the mess with cabinet ministers having to resign. He doesn't tell us what he's planning to do about crime and violence in our streets and schools. He does say they've made it harder to buy ammunition. Hey, I've noticed a big reduction in shootings, haven't you? He doesn't mention the latest tax on working people, namely, photo Rae-dar. The things he doesn't mention could fill a book — or perhaps just the confines of this modest column for the next year. Just until the election.

On his post-card he has a space to check "Yes, I'd like to keep in touch with you on a regular basis."

OK Noel, stay tuned, keep in touch. By all means, let us know where your next job is, *after* the election.

GRAPE VINE

Make a Terry Fox Run fashion statement in '94

It's just over a week before the Terry Fox Run at Acton High, and be sure to check out the new souvenir items that will be on sale at the event, Sunday, Sept. 18.

New edition Terry Fox T-shirts, buttons, hats and books will be available at the 14th annual run, which raises money for innovative cancer research.

Also, a food booth will be serving coffee, donuts, pop, sausage on a bun, Wally-Whoppers (hamburgers) and chips. All supplies are donated by local businesses, so that all food booth proceeds go directly to the run.

Literacy tutoring

Do you know anyone who has trouble with reading, writing or basic math? If you do, are you also aware that there is an organization which serves the Acton area, offering personal tutoring to adults?

The North Halton Literacy Guild is a non-profit registered charity which offers free and confidential tutoring to adults who are no longer in the school system. Students can actually be tutored right here in town, during the day or the evening.

Adults who are interested in joining the program should start by calling the Literacy Guild at 873-2200 to set up a meeting. At this meeting, the student and a coordinator will discuss the needs and goals of the student, who will then be matched with an appropriate

ate tutor.

The service is highly confidential and all students are made to feel comfortable in a non-threatening environment.

Gun program ends

The three-month "gun amnesty" program completed on Aug. 31 saw some 459 firearms surrendered to Halton police.

"The program has been extremely successful," commented Sergeant Joseph Martin. "We will never know what crimes, injuries or deaths may have been prevented with the destruction of these firearms."

There were 217 rifles handed in to police during the summer program, along with 60 registered handguns, 38 unregistered handguns, 92 shotguns and 33,499 rounds of ammunition.

Explosives and ammunition will be disposed of by Halton Regional Police's explosives disposal unit. The remaining weapons will be melted down by police at a local steel company.

Words of wisdom

Molly Monahan, new Ward 3 (Georgetown) candidate for Regional Council, called us last week and assured us she would be taking a more thoughtful approach to Acton issues than her opponent in the fall election, Carol Ann Whitehead-Perrott.

Whitehead-Perrott upset many Actonites recently when she said Acton was a low-income town with a derelict problem and a lake that was mostly goose sh—.

"It's one thing to address the issues and another thing to insult the residents of Acton," explained Monahan.

"People have to think before they speak."

We couldn't agree more, Molly!

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