

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Border vigilance

Long heralded as the "longest undefended border in the world," the line defining where Canada ends and the United States (US) begins has lost some of its lustre since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US.

Some US officials blamed lax Canadian border security for the presence of terrorists in the States, a charge which was completely unfounded. Investigation found the terrorists had entered the US through lax American security. Some had lived in the States for years preparing for the day when they would be called upon to embark on suicide missions.

Nevertheless, the US tightened up its own security at its borders both with Canada and Mexico and called on Canada to do the same. Although they probably felt the US was reacting to rumours and hysteria, Canadian authorities quickly complied, laying them open to criticism they were subordinating Canada's interests to those of the US.

However, the horror at the attacks on New York and Washington were felt in Canada almost as keenly as in the US. It was just as though terrorists had struck at Canada rather than targets in the US. The bond between the two countries is that deep.

But border disputes between the US and Canada go back a long way. Prior to Confederation, US armies had invaded several times attempting to annex British North America to the Stars and Stripes.

One of the most anxious times for Canadians occurred during the Civil War in the United States when a group of Confederate soldiers, hiding out in Canada, posed as Canadians on a fishing trip and robbed several banks in the town of St. Albans, Vermont. They fled back to Canada with \$2000,000 in loot, followed by a posse of "angry Americans."

The governor general ordered out the militia and they captured 14 of the Confederates. They were tried in court but released on a technicality. The rub was the money they had stolen was returned to the rebels. It caused enormous outrage in the US. An American general ordered military commanders to cross the border into Canada and pursue the rebels wherever they were. The risk of war was real.

Cooler heads prevailed; President Abraham Lincoln recognized the "incendiary potential" of the command. He revoked it but ordered that residents of the two Canadas would now have to show passports to get into the US. Also abolished was the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, which allowed duty-free movement of goods across the border.

The incident helped to strengthen the resolve of men like John A. MacDonald, Georges Etienne Cartier and George Brown to forge Canada into being. Less than three years later, in 1867, the union of the provinces completed, the Dominion of Canada was born.

One incident at that border helped fashion a Canadian nation pointing out the importance of having strong security on both sides of the border.

Briefly...

Now that Justice Dennis O'Connor has released his report on the Walkerton water disaster there should be no doubt on where the responsibility lies. The government's attempt to dodge their role has been well documented and there was no way the Koebel brothers could escape a large share of the blame. Certainly municipal officials will also have to shoulder a share, too.

The warm air which descended on this area on Tuesday has again pulled the plug on enjoyment in the snow and outdoor rinks have been disasters. Guess we'll have to wait and see what the groundhog predicts on Feb. 2.



Do we have any pills for sinus problems??

Many nostrums for sinus misery

By: Angela Tyler

Have you ever noticed when you are under the weather there seems to be an endless supply of home remedies offered to you by friends, co-workers and family?

Just after my post Christmas getaway, I started suffering with sinus misery. It's nothing new for me, sometimes almost feeling like my inheritance from my dad's side of the family. I had just finished battling the cold/flu/sinus thing at the end of November. I thought I had done my time for this winter. Needless to say I was wrong.

Armed with a box of 3-ply kleenex and a box of over-the-counter sinus pills I found myself engaged in an ongoing and almost daily argument with Ryan on my illness. It's a cold he would tell me. I was insistent it was not. No, it's only my sinuses I would tell him in between coughing and blowing my nose in my barely-there voice. He would argue it was the same thing. As I was the suffering one here, I was determined it was not.

At the weekly editorial meeting, Hartley had asked how I was feeling. Again, determined not to be ill, I replied I was fine, it was merely my sinuses, although I would not admit I was sounding worse by the day. It was then that I was given my first home remedy.

From behind her office divider, Marie offered her husband's cure-all for me. "You know what John does? (in regards to sinus prob-



Angela Tyler

lems)". Dare I ask I thought to myself.

Before I knew it, she was telling me how he dabbles in peroxide. She explained to me how you tilt your head to the side, almost horizontal and pour in three drops of peroxide into the ear. She insists that it clears any sign of infection in the sinuses. A few of us at the meeting could feel our jaw drop. She said before you put your head back upright "You have to wait until it stops crackling and popping." I asked her if you had to still wait if the peroxide had eaten your ear off first. "Well, it's diluted peroxide," she said. She insisted that she has tried it as well and it had worked for her. I wasn't convinced enough to try it.

My father informed me I need to take vitamin C to keep colds and sinus problems at bay. I told him I drink 4 litres of orange juice a week and eat grapefruit as well. It's not enough, he told me.

That weekend I had an e-mail from a friend. Earlier, I had replied

to one he had sent and told him I was a little under the weather and what would probably help is a good night's sleep. I thought he would understand. With this sinus thing, lying down to sleep and breathing just don't mix. He thought I was stressed out from work again and informed me I should try Kava Kava. Everyone has a suggestion to cure all my ailments.

By that point I had made a trip to our local Pharma Plus. To the back of the store I went and picked out a lovely red box that claimed to ease all my symptoms. Figuring I was an expert on my sinus woes, I popped two pills and took a slug of coffee at the meeting. Memo to self: next time read the box first. Under dosage it said, take one pill maximum every 4 hours. It was a slow news week in discussion at the meeting and with the extra pill I was caught with my eyes closed at one point.

On Monday, Marie greeted me with another John cure-all. "You know what lowers your blood pressure?" she asked. I felt myself being reeled in again, this time Hartley was being caught up as well. "Four sticks of celery every day," she said. I told her if I ate four sticks of celery every day it would make my blood pressure skyrocket as I muttered obscenities while chomping angrily on the celery wishing it was something more tasty like pizza.

In the end, I came to the conclusion the best thing for me was to get some rest, take medication as directed and stop listening to Marie's home remedies.



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