

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

The right thing

Should an elected politician resign his or her office after being convicted of a drinking and driving offence?

The question came up when Guelph/Eramosa Councillor Dave Hindley was convicted recently of the offence and spent time in the slammer. After his release he told the media he had no intention of resigning. Council colleagues agreed. They felt the offence didn't interfere with his ability to serve on council.

However, after reflection and some new advice, Mr. Hindley changed his mind and wrote a letter tendering his resignation. On his letter he said the controversy raging around whether he should resign was "interfering with council's ability to carry on its mandated job."

It's our view that Mr. Hindley did the right thing in tendering his resignation but not for the reasons he outlined in his letter, neither for the inferences that defeated mayoralty candidate Teresa Gibson Smye, was trying to get at the mayor through her insistence on his resigning.

A few years ago a politician's peccadillos outside council, social or otherwise, might have been overlooked. In fact, we know of two cases in what is now Halton Hills where similar offences occurred. Resignation was never-mentioned let alone demanded. Perhaps no one wanted to throw the first stone...

However, in the last few years, drinking and driving offences have taken on new significance. Organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) have raised the profile of the offence, as well they should. The carnage caused by drunk driving is well known. Tenfold increases in traffic have compounded the damage. RIDE and educational programs have been instituted to curb drinking and driving.

The courts no longer have much tolerance for offenders, including high profile people. The small fines and automatic court appearances are gone, replaced by a judiciary anxious to keep drinking drivers off the roads.

Recently, a Rockwood couple was killed by an alleged drunk driver near Orangeville, emphasizing how important it is to rid the roads of them.

Power nonsense

Only one of the five candidates for the leadership of the Ontario Progressive Conservatives and future Premier of the province, has suggested that the government's determination to privatize Ontario Hydro should be reviewed. That's Elizabeth Witmer, whose bid to become Ontario's first feminine Premier, is not considered a threat to front-runner Ernie Eves.

However, she shows she has been listening to concerns voiced right across the province at the decision to go ahead with privatization despite the dreadful experiences in Alberta and California. Not only were there shortages, but rates soared to unbelievable heights in both the province and the state.

Now, it seems the power shortages in California may be linked to a cartel of private electrical suppliers creating a shortage to drive prices up. It sort of knocks the stuffing out of the assumption by Big Business that only privately owned companies are good and publicly owned corporations inefficient and costly. The lessons from Enron in the US show just how crooked some business can be.

There are so many confusing aspects to the Ontario situation that most people are properly alarmed. For instance, Hydro One is estimated to be worth \$10 billion but the Tories expects to get only \$5 billion from its sale. Selling it for only half its worth?

Premier Harris admits prices will likely rise after privatization but says they will be cheaper than they would be under the present system. There's absolutely no evidence to prove it because we'll still be stuck with Ontario Hydro's \$21 billion

Continued on Page 5



IN UNISON: Regional chairman Joyce Savoline, Mayor Kathy Gastle, Councillors Joan Robson, Ron Chatten and Bob Inglis cut the ribbon to officially open the Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown on Sunday afternoon with the aid of children. It was a bad hair day but blizzard-like conditions cleared up for the official ceremonies. Hundreds attended the opening and toured the facility. A program of figure, hockey, lacrosse, and public skating followed.

Gala opening for new Mold-Masters SportsPlex

Two politicians shared the lime-light at the official opening of the spanking new Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown Sunday afternoon.

First to speak at the official ribbon cutting was Tory MPP Ted Chudleigh who, after urging from officials at the mike, disclosed \$1.4 million would be available from the Trillium fund to finance the twin ice surface complex.

Liberal MP Julian Reed, like Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle, a product of Norval, said he hoped that when a museum was opened at the SportsPlex that it would include a photo of the Norval Bees hockey club who went undefeated over six seasons under the coaching of Rev. Len Self.

The gala affair which included lively selections from the Georgetown High School Jazz Band, and appearances by a huge rabbit, featured a gold ribbon cutting which enclosed members of Halton Hills Council. Huge scissors were wielded by Mold-Masters Mrs. J. Gellert assisted by Mayor Kathy Gastle.

The SportsPlex is named after Mold-Master, the lead donor in the

campaign to finance the project. John and Waltraud Gellert founded the company, located in Georgetown, in 1963. It has become a world leader in the plastics industry.

The new complex is actually an extension of the arena opened in 1975, named after the late Gordon Alcott, founder of the Georgetown Little NHL in 1936. Georgetown's

growth since then opened the way for an additional ice surface, which was foreseen by the original building committee. Work was started on the new complex in November of 2000 and in October of last year the first skaters were on the second ice surface.

Georgetown now has three ice surfaces including the old Memorial Arena on John St.



Random act of kindness

To the editor;

On Wednesday, February 20, 2002 while cashing out at our new IGA, I was a loonie short to pay my bill. The gentleman who was in line behind me handed me a loonie.

I would like to thank him very much for this random act of kind-

ness. It is people like this gentleman who make our town of Acton a great place to live.

I hope to return the favour when someone else is a little short.

Please just sign me,

A Proud Actonite
(of over 40 years)



THE NEW TANNER

59 Willow Street North

Acton, Ontario L7J 1Z8

email: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

(519) 853-0051 Fax: 853-0052

Publisher

Ted Tyler

Editorial

Hartley Coles

Frances Niblock Mike O'Leary Ellen Piehl

Maggie Petrushevsky Angela Tyler

Advertising and Circulation

Marie Shadbolt Elaine Petkoff

Composing

Karen Coleman Ken Baker

Distributed to every home in Acton and area as well as adjoining communities.

ADVERTISING POLICY

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.