

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Only fair way

It's hard to believe but Ontario, which long wore the brightest feather in the confederation cap, must now go cap in hand so to speak to get its fair share of federal money. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has hinted could be available to restore the fiscal balance between Ottawa and the provinces.

Like the other provinces, including oil-rich Alberta, Ontario gets money from the federal government to help pay for social assistance, health care and post-secondary education. However, this province gets less from the feds than every other province except Alberta which has prompted Premier Dalton McGuinty to initiate a cross-country campaign to ensure Ontario gets its fair share of imbalance funds.

These funds have nothing to do with equalization payments which takes money from the haves for the have-not provinces. It allows those provinces who receive equalization payments to offer services to their residents of the same quality and quantity as Ontario, at about the same level of taxation. In fact, Ontario spends about \$2,000 less per person than even wealthy Alberta and the have-not provinces of Newfoundland and Quebec on its citizens.

There are only two ways to correct the fiscal imbalance – higher taxes or a fair share of the funds Mr. Harper and his government are prepared to hand out to correct the disparity.

Mr. McGuinty is not complaining about the equalization payments. He believes Ontario has a duty to help the have-not provinces, which he says are already as well off as Ontario in their ability to provide needed services.

McGuinty, however, thinks the only fair way to split further federal money is to base it on a per person basis. That would in no way penalize the other provinces and it would enable Ontario to gain money it "desperately needs" for post-secondary education as well as to rebuild crumbling roads and sewers.

The premiers of the poorer provinces, however, want any extra federal money to go into their pots in the form of equalization payments and leave Ontario out to dry. They would be in a better fiscal position to provide services for their residents and Ontario, the richest province in Canada behind Alberta.

Obviously, McGuinty's crusade for fair treatment of this province is based on cold, hard facts. The only fair way for Ottawa to deal with the present fiscal imbalance between the federal government and Ontario is to base funds on a per person basis so everyone in the country benefits.

Briefly...

Campers and cottagers weren't the only ones appalled at the weather of the first holiday weekend of the spring. Gardeners, too, who rely on the Victorial Day weekend to plant flowers and other plants were repelled by the cold, windy, wet weather extremes which passed as Spring last weekend. It was especially galling since there was so much earlier spring like weather which could have been perfect for outdoor recreation. Those with long memories point out that that was the fifth consecutive miserable Victoria Day weekend we've experienced.

Back before regional governments, when municipal pride was paramount, the weekend of the 24th heralded the opening of the baseball season. Acton and towns of similar size such as Milton, Georgetown, Oakville, Waterdown and Campbellville fielded teams in the old Halton County Baseball League. That first game was invariably on the holiday weekend Saturday. Sports fans could hardly wait to see how the local nine would match up with the opposition.

There was some pretty good amateur baseball played then. The only pro ball around was in Toronto where the Maple Leafs played in the International league with the likes of Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and Newark to name a few teams. Some of the best ball players to ever play in the majors graduated from those teams, including the king of swat, Babe Ruth.



VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED: Volunteers from the Acton Agricultural Society, Acton Rotary Club, 1st Acton Scouts, Trinity United Church and Lakeside Chapter IODE received awards ranging from 5 to 50 years at a Ontario Volunteer Awards ceremony in Hamilton May 16. Included were Margaret Dedman, Renata Georgeoff, Kathleen Harding, Katherine Lynch, June McHugh, John Miller, Lois Osborne, Heather Parr, Thelma Pettipher, Brian Robertson, Marion Urquhart, Tracey Urquhart from Acton and Maisie Lasby, Wallacy Lasby and Peter van Dam from Rockwood. - Photo by George Henderson

Not on pick-up list?

Take it to the dump yourself

I absolutely love large garbage pick-up day. I will admit it. I am not ashamed. I am a scooper. I am one of many people who drive by other people's trash and deem it my treasure. I've done it before and I will do it again. Maybe it's recycling in a way. Maybe it's me being a dumpster diver. Either way, I will bring home another person's trash.

What I don't understand is how people will leave garbage out that is not on the collection list. I get frustrated with people who leave non-garbage out for collection. It has been weeks since our last large garbage day pick up and there are still things out for collection that will never be collected. This frustrates me.

At the end of our street is an old refrigerator. It won't be collected now. Yet, the people still leave it out cluttering the streets. Barbeques are another favourite. Days after the pick up, there they stand. It is soooooo frustrating. Don't they realize if it's days



By
Angela Tyler

after the pick up and everyone else's trash has been picked up, and theirs still stands, it probably won't be picked up. Why leave it at the end of the driveway to clutter the neighbourhood? I don't understand them.

Trash is a wondrous thing. I have watched the trash men put the bags and recycling in their trucks. I have been to the area dumps. It may be smelly but oddly enough it tells a tale of our life. Have you ever watched what people throw out or how many bags or bins of recycling they put out at the curb? It tells a lot about the people who live in the houses. Do they recycle? Do they put out too much trash compared to the others in the neighbourhood? What do they put out for large

garbage day pick-up?

It's surprising what some people put out at the end of the road. What is even more surprising is what people will scoop up. Each large day there are literally dozens of pick up trucks that go by in our cul-de-sac. They drive in, slow down and analyze the items put for trash. Some stop. Some go on. I wonder how they decide. I wonder what will happen to the items they pick up. I wonder what goes through the minds of people who leave things out and never get picked up by scoopers or garbage men. How long do they think it will take someone to pick up something if they leave it out? Is a week long enough? Is a month long enough? Are they afraid if they don't leave it out it won't be picked up on the next big day? What do their neighbours think? Don't they realize they are probably frustrated with the garbage being so stagnant out beside their home?

Continued on page 8



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