

Established 1861

# The Canadian Champion

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## Champion Editorial Page

### Tip toeing

Tip toeing around the economic chasms on all sides, Finance Minister Jean Chretien came up with a six month reduction in Ontario sales tax of three per cent Monday night in his federal budget.

Opponents immediately assailed the six-month limit as an indication the government was more interested in winning an anticipated election than dealing with the economy.

In the face of it, however, Chretien insisted he was refusing to make irresponsible promises to the people of Canada.

The real problem, however, may well be that the "experts" can no longer accurately predict how any given measure will affect the economy. Obviously the two-month reduction in income tax that was given in January and February of this year didn't produce the expected surge in buying which should have created more jobs.

It seems now that we may very well be in an era of "experimental" economics. Clearly the old economic stimuli have not been providing the predictable reactions and now we are experimenting to see what combination of actions it takes to generate that new confidence that is required to make us spend.

It is probably true that the expectations of Canadians have changed. The big percentage wage and price hikes have not been as evident as they once were. We may indeed be coming to realize there is a limit to how much the economy can bear. The Trudeau government itself admits the boom times of the 60's and early 70's generated too much optimism and government spending.

We're optimistic that the sales

tax cut will have an effect on consumer spending, but whether it will restore the essential ingredient of confidence which might sustain the benefit, is hard to predict.

Conservative financial critic Sinclair Stevens suggested the billion dollar tax cut should have been doubled and he offered to point out where cuts could have been made to produce the possibility. Maybe. Maybe it should have been three billion, but then one third of the one billion provided is coming from that dangerous area of deficit financing.

It is hard to believe that the six-month tax cut is other than an election reaction and it will continue to be hard to convince a lot of people. It's hard to leap for joy at the cut when we know it will expire in six months. Certainly planned purchases will be made in the next six months and some will be advanced to take advantage of the tax concession. But people will also retain some of the caution they have felt it necessary to develop. They will not easily be stamped into the kind of "thing" oriented spending orgies that might in earlier years have stimulated the economy.

The Finance Minister, in his budget, obviously touched on other areas that found favor even with the opposition parties, but the sweetener in the budget for the average taxpayer-consumer was obviously the cut in sales tax. It will be on that measure that debate will largely centre and that the individual will assess the prescription.

In six months we'll know how successfully Jean Chretien tip toed through the economic chasms of April, 1978.

### New records

Halton Progressive Conservatives obviously set a new record in the region for enthusiasm and for the largest nominating convention when they selected Otto Jelinek as their candidate last week.

And despite the huge attendance, the record number of members and the fact that there were three candidates in the field, Mr. Jelinek took the nomination on the first ballot which is something of a further record.

The enthusiasm, sustained through the predicted election campaign, could produce one of the most hotly contested seats in the province.

The election hasn't been announced yet, but clearly the campaign is on.

### More voting

Everything seems to be coming up "election" this week. Conversations with municipal officials indicate plans are already being worked out for this year's municipal elections which, because of a change in legislation, will be held in November this year. The newly elected council will take office in December. That's one date that isn't dependent on the choice of just one person, as are federal and provincial voting dates.

### On the News Beat

## Otto wins on his record

By Bob Burt



The Tories were out in full power Thursday night and they made it clear the name of the game is to elect a winner. Enter Otto Jelinek.

Jelinek won the right to represent Halton Tories on the hustings in the up and coming federal election when he defeated Tris Lett and Dr. Art Ross in one of the country's largest nomination meetings.

Tories hung from the rafters in the main auditorium at Blakelock High School and filled two gyms, a cafeteria and a classroom. Those who didn't get into the main room watched the proceedings on closed circuit T.V.

The largest applause came when Jelinek shook an angry fist and vowed he'd make capital punishment an election issue in Halton.

They applauded again when Jelinek said he knew how to fight sitting Liberals. He had done it before, and he would do it again.

Good stuff. When Jelinek talks about fighting Liberals, he leaves you with the idea of a wild animal closing in on its prey.

Throughout the campaign Jelinek and his supporters hammered away until the image of "Otto the Liberal fighter and Otto

the winner" was clearly engraved in the minds of the delegates.

The fact is, Jelinek has twice defeated Liberals. He has come through two election battles without experiencing the bitterness of defeat.

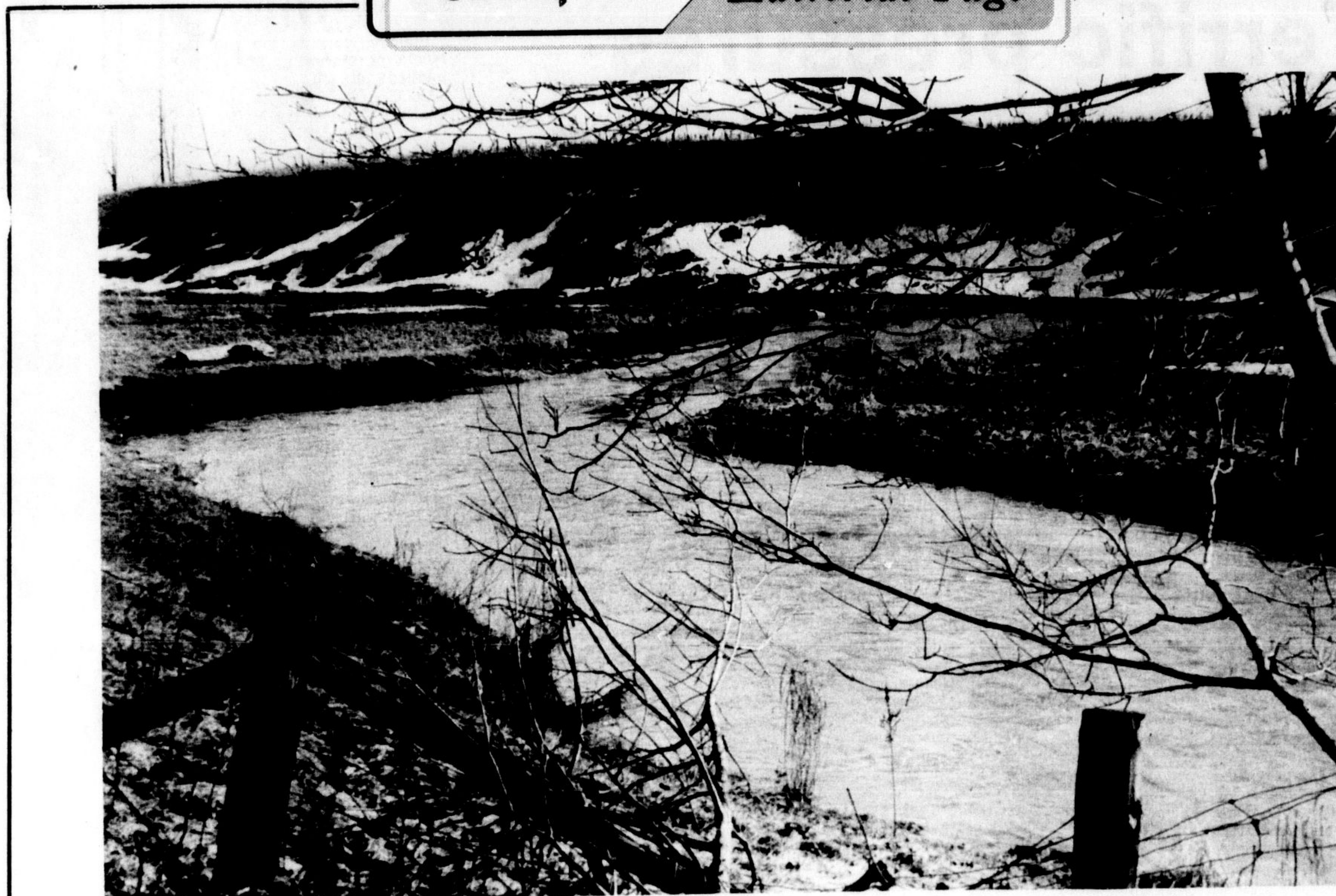
Asked why they'd support Otto, the first answer was always because he has a proven track record, he's the man who can defeat what Tris Lett referred to as "that waffling party puppet Frank Philbrook."

His personal philosophy and what he can and will do for the riding once he is elected seemed to be a secondary consideration in the minds of the delegates. First things first. The first thing in this case is winning.

That's not to detract from Jelinek's character, his philosophy or his track record. Most pundits readily concede that Jelinek is a scrapper and that when the time comes, Doc Philbrook will do well to escape from the fracas without having his trousers beaten off him.

The remarkable thing is the way the choice is made and the points that are taken into consideration.

Often in discussions with delegates they talk freely about how they were impressed



SWOLLEN BY SPRING RAINS and melting snows, the Sixteen winds its way off to Oakville and Lake Ontario as it carves a lazy path

through farm fields south of urban Milton. In summer it will be reduced to just a trickle, but in springtime it's a torrent of muddy brown water.

### Sugar and Spice

## Heavenly musings from on high

By Bill Smiley



Last fall, when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights and then began to snow for about a similar spell, I received a couple of pretty stern letters from readers.

One was from an elderly gentleman. Both excoriated me, in their different ways, for being blasphemous. Cause of their concern was a pair of columns in which I suggested to the Almighty that we'd had enough precipitation, and He could stop dumping it on us any time.

The E. G. wrote a cross letter to his editor and sent me a copy. The preacher wrote me a long, personal letter, telling me I shouldn't be so "chummy" with God. He offered to pray for me, and sent along a modern version of the Bible, containing such words as "booby-traps," which rather alarmed me, accustomed as I am to the austere and dignified King James Version.

Well, I wrote some pretty bitter columns about the Canadian winter. But after six straight weeks of glorious, clear, sunny weather, I'm beginning to wonder who is right, me or my critics.

Maybe the Lord does read my column, probably on one of His frequent lunch breaks. I didn't pray to Him for some decent weather. I told him rather snappily, that we were fed up with what He was dishing up. He didn't strike me down with a thunderbolt, although I noticed my arthritis became pretty keen there for a few weeks.

Maybe the Lord mused, something like this: "By Jove, maybe Bill Smiley is right. Maube I did forget to turn off the taps there for a few months. It wouldn't be the first time. I remember a few years back that business with Noah and his family. I clean forgot about them until it was nearly too late.

"I get so darn sick of people praying for

better health, better crops, more money, happiness, and their own worthless hides when they're in a jam that I sometimes turn off My hearing aid. I'm supposed to see the little sparrow fall, so maybe I should pay attention when a smalltown columnist goes out of his way to remind me that there is a lot more than sparrows falling, and a lot too much of it.

"I'll let him sweat it out for another couple of weeks, just show him that you don't challenge My will with impunity. Then I'll turn on the sun for a solid six weeks, making the scoffers realize that the day of miracles is not past. Six weeks of sunshine in a Canadian winter! That beats walking on water any day.

"Just for the Heaven of it, I'll dump some snow and wind and ice and rain on those fat cats who go south every winter, and let those Canadians who stayed home, not exactly my chosen people, but at least my frozen people, write nasty letters south, telling their relatives of the blue skies, radiant sun, and crystal air back home.

"Smiley's going to have to pay for it, of course. He might as well find out, once and for all, that you don't get chummy or cocky with Me. That's a special sphere reserved for preachers and politicians.

"Let's see. No use increasing his arthritic pain or his backache. That only drives him to blasphemy, and We don't want to encourage that. I could wreck his golf shot. But that wouldn't work either. It's already so lousy he'd never even notice it.

"No, it has to be something more subtle. Maybe I could put a bug in his wife's ear, and have her drag him out of bed at seven every morning and share the agonies of that half-hour of exercise she does with that dame on the TV. That would ruffle him more than somewhat.

"But it's not enough. It wouldn't be clear to him that I am an almighty, omnipotent, fierce and vengeful God. He'd probably think it was merely his wife being obnoxious. And he'd claim he couldn't do the exercises with his bad back and his bad

neck and his bad shoulder and his bad knee.

"I could always rot the rest of his teeth, which are pretty well ready for the bonyard, anyway. At least he'd suffer the humiliation of going around drooling and gumming his food for a while. But with these blasted modern dentists, he'd soon be going around with a fistful of big, white, attractive molars, and thinking he could start smiling at women again.

"Nope, it's got to be something that would really get to him. I could easily have him fired from his job for vagrancy, bad shuffleboard, mopery, gawk and not preparing lesson plans. He's guilty of all and each of them. But it wouldn't do. He's so lazy I think he'd go straight on unemployment insurance.

"Got it! It will hit where it hurts. I'll turn his grandsons against him. I'll make them see that he's spoiling them rotten, warping their characters, that he swears, drinks, smokes, gambles, and is altogether a most reprobate and unfit grandfather.

"But... would it take? They don't really care if he drinks, smokes, etc. They need him for running across the room and jumping on. They need him for kisses when they hurt themselves. They couldn't care less if he were Old Nick himself, as far as morals go.

"Ah, well. I guess I'll just have to let him go to hell in his own inimitable way. That's punishment enough for anyone."

## Turning the Pages of the Past

From the files of The Canadian Champion

### One year ago

From the April 13, 1977 issue  
If Milton councillors have their way, it will be a long time before the 1,200 acres just east of urban Milton, freed from the Parkway Belt west are developed, if they ever are.

At a Planning and Development Committee meeting last Tuesday, councillors endorsed a letter to Darcy McKeough, provincial treasurer, reaffirming Milton's desire to have Amendment Seven approved. Amendment Seven would rezone 1,400 acres of land north of Highway 401, to industrial.

Negotiations between striking members of Local 366, Cement, Limestone and Gypsum Workers Union and two Milton quarries were tossed up in the air following the death of the union's president Jerry Nielsen. Mr. Nielsen was killed in a car accident Thursday night.

The Ontario Government's Agriculture Code of Practice came in for some sharp digs at a meeting last Wednesday in Hornby for rural residents of Halton. Three representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture fielded flack but convinced few residents that the Code, published as a guide, would not soon be implemented by law.

Changes in the route the town bus follows has left senior citizens at Harmony Court Apartments and others living in Ontario St. N. apartments in "a horrible position" according to Mrs. M. Brown of 263 Ontario St. who wrote Milton Council last week pleading for a route change.

### 20 years ago

From the April 10, 1958 issue  
Peter K. McWilliams of Milton has been appointed Crown Attorney of Halton. At 31, he is the youngest Crown Attorney in Canada. He has been a member of the local law firm of Dick, Dick and McWilliams since 1954. Lloyd Dingle of Burlington is retiring from the post after nine years.

Milton Kinettes collected \$1,351 in the March of Dimes campaign.

A series of nine grass fires were handled by Milton Firefighters this week.

Culminating 49 years of service with Canadian Pacific Railway, E. S. "Ed" Byerman of Milton is retiring. He has spent the last eight years as station agent here, and from 1910 to 1930 was telegraph

operator at Moffat station.  
G. F. Thompson, director of Halton Children's Aid Society, was presented a life membership in the association at the annual meeting Monday, in recognition of 30 years of service.

The Top Notch Feed Mill at Moffat, which was totally destroyed in a \$150,000 flash fire Saturday, will be rebuilt, company officials said. Diesel equipment is believed to have started the fire.

Al LeBuffe of Fallingbrooke subdivision complained to council this week he has rats on his lawn, and informed council he has set out poison to get rid of them.

Construction of the new provincial school for the deaf at the Highway 25 site in Milton is scheduled for completion within the next two years, the government has announced. Cost is estimated at \$3 to \$3.5 million.

A three-room addition to the five-room Holy Rosary School will be underway this summer, Father J. P. Lardie announced.

### 75 years ago

Taken from the April 9, 1903 issue  
Postmaster Stewart has had the verandah removed from the front of the post office in order to let in more light. The office was altogether too dark. Besides being lighted it is being painted and otherwise improved.

James Deforest died at his residence in Milton on Sunday, in his 75th year. He took cold about six weeks ago at the funeral of his son-in-law, the late John A. Featherstone of Trafalgar, and the cold developed into pneumonia. Mr. Deforest farmed for many years in Nelson, and became a resident of Milton about 15 years ago.

Complaints have been made to the local branch of the Lord's Day Alliance that in some of the barber shops of the town, work has been going on on Sunday. The Alliance has discussed the matter fully and wishes it to be understood that if the practice is not stopped, steps will be taken to enforce the statute.

John Crowe and family, who have been residents of Milton for a great number of years, are moving to Toronto. On Tuesday evening a number of Mrs. Crowe's old friends and neighbors visited her and presented her with a beautiful chair and a china five o'clock tea set. Mr. Crowe had his turn yesterday evening, when a number of his friends presented him with an ebony cane, on the heavy silver handle of which was engraved "Presented by Milton friends to John Crowe."