

# The Canadian Champion

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## Let axe fall further

A tough, unbending Halton Regional Council has resisted a barrage of requests from social service and health agencies and organizations to increase regional funding to their respective groups in order to "keep up the quality of service" which these groups have supplied in the past.

Indeed one might think it takes a Scrooge to reject a plea by Big Brothers to restore a \$2,500 grant back to the \$4,000 requested. It would take, one would expect, a person of very hard heart to reject a plea by Halton Women's Place to provide \$10,000 in a "one shot deal" to keep the home for battered and abused women going.

But hard hearts were needed, and hard-hearted a majority of Halton Regional Councillors proved to be last Wednesday in a severe test of their feelings and desire to serve humanity.

## A refreshing note

An amicable solution to problems surrounding the proposed Murray Wilson auto dealership has been reached, Council has been told.

Fears of residents along Cabot Trail were raised when they found out Mr. Wilson would be reactivating a request of last May to build the dealership along Main St., east of Highway 25.

Although there were several problems perceived by the residents, it now appears, that following a meeting March 12, Mr. Wilson has been able to guarantee

## Re-distribution needed

If ever there was a chance for the Progressive Conservatives to have taken Halton-Burlington from the Liberal fold, it was last Thursday.

Incumbent Julian Reed, in what he termed a personal victory, squeezed out a 518-vote plurality this time around, far less than the 3,698 votes he won by in 1977.

Those 518 votes contained 40 declined ballots and more than 40 which were unmarked. Clearly these are protest votes but the question troubling local Tories is, are they protesting the Baines-Penman squabble?

It should be noted the number of winning votes is only about 200 more than the number of memberships Mr. Penman had, but failed to submit in time, for the nomination; which to this date is still being angrily discussed.

As Mr. Penman said, "Tories eat their young" and in this past election the number of disgruntled anti-Baines party members can either take pleasure in knowing Mrs. Baines lost, or take the blame for letting a golden PC opportunity fly out the window.

Even now a clear and open rift exists between the Progressive Conservative riding members in Halton Hills and their comrades in Milton. It will be interesting if this rift is healed four long years

## Source separation here

Source separation, a program of setting aside recyclable waste in the home for reprocessing and sale to industrial buyers, has been given unanimous approval by Halton Region can operate at least at a break-even level.

Many details remain to be worked out and it will take months before the first step is taken.

It is, one can imagine, very difficult to resist the temptation to fund to the hilt any group which takes care of people and thus provides votes at election time.

But Halton councillors have, we believe, taken the honorable, but rocky road, and not the easy avenue which is paved with good intentions.

Halton must cut costs and must draw the line. Drawing the line at the needs of people takes courage.

It also portends that if they are willing not to give in to impassioned pleas by the people who elected them, councillors are going to be even tougher when it comes to money requests by Halton Regional staff.

The axe has fallen and we hope it keeps on falling right through the 1981 operating budget to the bottom line which will read less than a 15 per cent regional levy increase.

the paging system will not bother neighbors and the lighting system will be erected so as not to shine on the back of homes in the evening.

With such an amicable solution now in hand, it shows that ratepayers and those wishing to develop land can work out their differences if given the chance.

It also probably averts any problem for the new job-creating business when Mr. Wilson goes for a re-zoning of the lands he owns.

It is refreshing to see people can still work together when they want to work together.

from now when the next provincial election rolls around.

In the meantime it should be noted the riding of Halton-Burlington has become too large for the number of square miles and for the number of voters Mr. Reed is to represent at Queen's Park.

Re-distribution is the only answer and it will, we feel, be addressed before the coming election.

While some talk of taking Milton and Halton Hills and forming it into a new riding, with the Burlington portion of the riding making a new area, this seems somehow awkward.

Perhaps it would be best to make Halton Hills a separate riding and leave the rest of Halton-Burlington as a new and separate riding.

With more than 52,000 people to represent, Mr. Reed is going to have a hard time making the voice of Halton-Burlington heard in a Legislature which, through majority rule, has a free hand to do almost what it pleases.

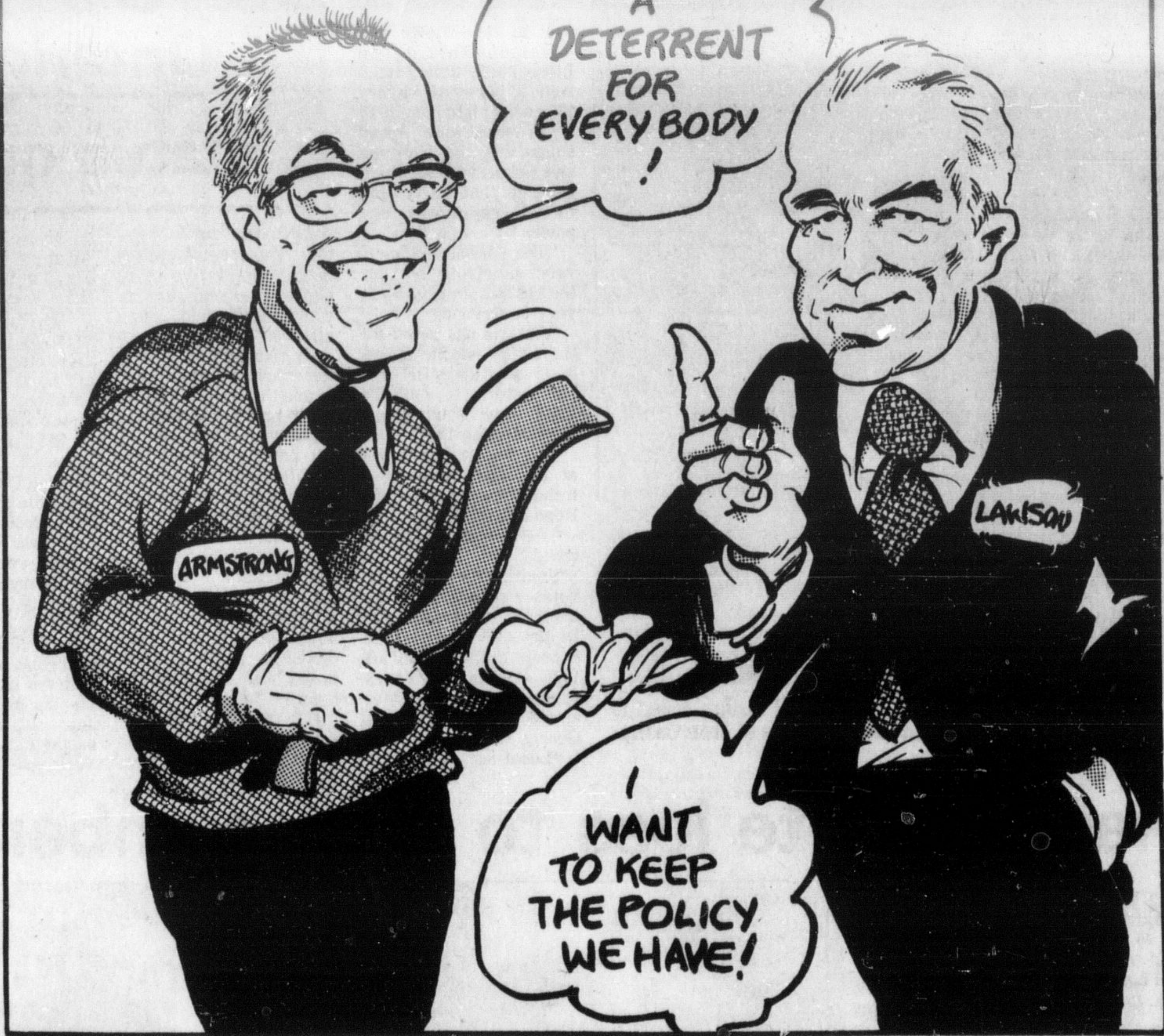
Mr. Davis would call this majority a "mandate" but majority governments, such as Mr. Davis' first in 1971, have a tendency to move away from the people.

We wish Mr. Reed well in the next four years, but we are nonetheless concerned for the future.

Source separation not only means that less will be going into dumps, therefore the landfill sites will have a longer life; but it means that money made from garbage will offset the cost of garbage disposal and that means lower taxation.

Source separation can happen and it should happen here.

### NEWS ITEM: HALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANS TO KEEP THE STRAP.



## Politics and the little guy Viewpoint

Although every precaution is taken for all parties to be treated equally, some events in Thursday's provincial election showed the difference between big politics and the little guy.

The little guy is NDP candidate Chris Cutler. Although, he had virtually no chance of winning the riding in this election, Cutler put a lot of personal effort into the election. He did it by himself and with a handful of loyal workers.

By contrast, the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives considered this a key riding and threw a lot of money and big people onto their teams. Not to say that either Fran Baines or winner Julian Reed didn't work hard.

But it was interesting to observe Cutler watching the results on a small portable black-and-white television while campaign manager Tom Moore posted the poll-by-poll results on the back of sheets belonging to the National Association for Broadcasters, Engineers and Technicians.

The media didn't exactly rush to Cutler for quotes and the 20-year-old Rockton native was left pretty much on his own to mingle with the 20 or so campaign workers.

Meanwhile, the headquarters for the Liberals and PCs were buzzing all night with large contingents of people.

The PC majority for the province combined with the Liberal victory in Halton-Burlington shunted Chris Cutler to the sidelines.

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The election result appears to maintain a shift of ideas from the left to right among the general world populace. Although, the actual vote to the PCs increased by just five per cent, the left-leaning NDP dropped its vote-total by one-quarter and has just 17 per cent of the 125 seats in the provincial legislature.

Although many argue a PC majority allows the party to do whatever it likes, evidence has proven over the past decade that,

more often than not, a party with a minority government acts more bravely and with more daring than one with a majority.

The reasoning supplied by several opposition members of the Liberal federal minority of 1972-74 is that governments dare the opposition to throw them out of power.

That was the case with the 1972-74 government with the NDP finally supporting a PC non-confidence vote. In the ensuing election, the NDP's strength was reduced considerably and it has sat as an ineffective third party since.

The only exception was the federal PC minority under Joe Clark last year. Clark's inability to explain what he was doing and provide some goodies to the public who had just voted him in sealed his doom.

I doubt seriously the PCs will do anything different in the majority government they wouldn't have done anyway.

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## South African youth enjoys exchange visit

By Jane Muller  
It is difficult for Gerti Botha to understand Canada's language problem, but Canadians would find problems unique to his country equally hard to imagine.

The 18-year-old Rotary Club exchange student from Port Elizabeth on the coast of South Africa speaks both English and Afrikaans as does the rest of the population.

"We have to be bilingual and everyone accepts it. We have two languages and it works perfectly," he said.

Afrikaans is an adaptation of Dutch which was introduced to South Africa in the 17th Century by Dutch settlers. The British invasion 100 years later planted the seed for the English language in South Africa.

"South Africans are just ordinary people with an extraordinary problem. We have a lot of problems but most South Africans are optimistic."

In a country where the population is largely black, the government is run by whites. Neighborhoods are segregated and blacks are generally in a lower economic class than whites.

"It used to be very much white elite but blacks are moving up economically at a very fast rate. It isn't happening as fast as the western world would like, though. To understand

the problem is difficult for someone who doesn't live there."

One of Gerti's first observations when he arrived at Toronto International Airport was, "I've never seen so many white people in all my life."

He had never seen snow before his arrival Jan. 19 and from the air it looked pretty. But the reality of the cold associated with it was not pretty at all, especially when one is used to a 12 degree (C) low for the winter.

In fact, he left his homeland at the end of his summer vacation. "It isn't our city anymore in the summer. This year the tourist turnout set a record," he recalls.

Before leaving his mother and younger brother and sister in Port Elizabeth for his one year exchange trip, he had to purchase a winter coat—which is no easy feat in a tropical paradise.

"I searched the whole city for a winter coat," he remembers.

Gerti is staying with the Barstow family in Milton and will become a part of three other local families for a few months each before his year is through.

Although Gerti has completed his high school education, he is taking a few courses a Milton District including calculus,

accounting, North American history and physical education, a subject in which students in South Africa participate but receive no school credit for.

Rugby is South Africa's national sport, attracting crowds of up to 80,000 to the larger games. He has joined the Burlington Centaurs rugby team as Milton is lacking a rugby team of its own.

He has taken part in our national sport only as a bystander and said it was a fast and exciting game unlike field hockey, which is the only form of the game played in South Africa.

His first attempt at skiing left him with an assortment of bumps and bruises, but, not to be discouraged, Gerti claims he'll try it again.

Gerti had wanted to visit North America ever since his father visited the east coast of the United States in 1974, two years before his death in a tragic car accident.

The Rotary exchange provided him with the opportunity to visit North America and a chance to stay out of the army for one more year.

"All my friends are in the army. Back home the guys don't mind."

South African males must spend two years in the army either after high school, before university, or after



At home in Milton. After two months in Milton, exchange student Gerti Botha of South Africa has adjusted to our climate but riding in our left hand drive cars still gives him a bit of a scare through the curves.

"Everyone does it," Gerti explains. Before returning home next year Gerti will tour the United States and Canada for one month with other exchange students during the summer. He adjusted to winter in Canada by wearing

## Turning the Pages of the Past

### One year ago

From the March 26, 1980 Issue  
A potentially dangerous situation on the picket line at Rockwell International in Milton led to the closure of the plant last Wednesday and Friday. The decision was made by Mr. Dolsen following a barrage of threats to management staff from striking workers and several serious picket line confrontations between the two sides.

There is nothing like making money on a good scandal. And with that in mind, Bruce Brown, manager of Corbett Sports in Milton is making a name for his shop with their latest T-shirt sporting the phrase, "I was at the Boyne Stag".

A 15-year-old Milton juvenile who escaped from an Oakville youth training home a week ago ended his brief flight of freedom Sunday evening when he was nabbed driving a stolen car following a high speed chase through town.

Milton Novice Sockets finished the year on a positive note by winning the highly competitive Plattsville Tournament last week.

Halton Regional Council has voted not to pay rebates totalling \$621,000 even though it has admitted it double billed ratepayers in the new water-sewer rates.

### 20 years ago

From the March 23, 1961 Issue  
A local resident who has been on super-annuation for some time (under \$75 monthly) received a notice that the Finance Department has discovered a serious error. They have been overpaying him by two cents a week, so all future cheques will be less eight cents a month until the seven and a half years of overpayment has been deducted. If all departments of our government were as careful as this, our country should soon be out of the red!

Although a fire was raging through the basement of Milton Department Store at 4.45 p.m. Monday, Milton firemen won high praise when they battled flames in a heavy snowstorm and succeeded in bringing it under control in about two hours. Damage was estimated around \$100,000. Owner Mrs. Pearl Davis said she would have the store back in business as soon as possible.

Henry Baverstock celebrated his 94th birthday Friday, March 10, in bed with a bout of flu. He's still in good health and enjoys working outdoors.

Well, it finally happened — they had a fire in the fire hall! Mrs. V. Cannon flipped on the siren switch in her fire hall apartment Monday afternoon and flames belched from the switch on the wall. She shut it off and the flames quit. Red-faced firemen blamed an overloaded line.

Ken Horton is the new chairman of Milton Boy Scouts group committee, taking over from Morley Rasberry.

The arena board is investigating the possibility of staging wrestling matches in the rink this summer.

Al Francis will be the new president of Milton Rotary Club starting July 1.

### 50 years ago

from the March 26, 1931 Issue  
In spite of mild spring weather during the past several days, there is still plenty of snow in the north end of Halton County, more-so on the side roads.

About three o'clock Monday morning, Calvin Patterson's bank barn on his farm in Nassagaweya township was completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin. The total loss is estimated at \$7,000, partly covered by insurance.

At Hamilton recently, the senior Checker Club of the Ambitious City defeated the members of the Milton Pastime Checker Club by a plus of 9 in 36 games played.

Merton Home and School Club has decided to contribute to the expense of providing gold and silver medals for the winners in the boys' solo competition in connection with the Halton public schools' musical festival to be held in Milton in May.

Lobster is on at Carroll's for 23c for a small tin.

### 75 years ago

From the March 29, 1906 Issue  
Henry Freeman Jr., late of Toledo, Ohio, has been in town for some time at the home of his sister Mrs. Jas. Bolton. He will leave today for Vancouver, British Columbia with the intention of making that city his home for the future.

Jack the Huger was at work again. He is suspected and his next escapade may land him in the cells. His last exploit was to jump out and embrace a well known young lady who lives on the Lakeshore Road.

Outside canvassers have already been working Milton with sample calendars for 1907. Don't give your orders until you see the Champion's samples.

John Picher of Chicago, was in town last week on a visit to his father, Arthur Picher who is not in good health.

A short time ago W.D. Walker, late of Port Nelson, bought the Absalom Bell farm in Nelson, near Milton. He took possession of it on Monday, bringing with him a handsome gold locket, with which his old neighbors by the lake had presented him.

Some pederastian miscreant, who wanted some clothing and perhaps a night's lodging broke into Judge Snider's summer cottage last week.