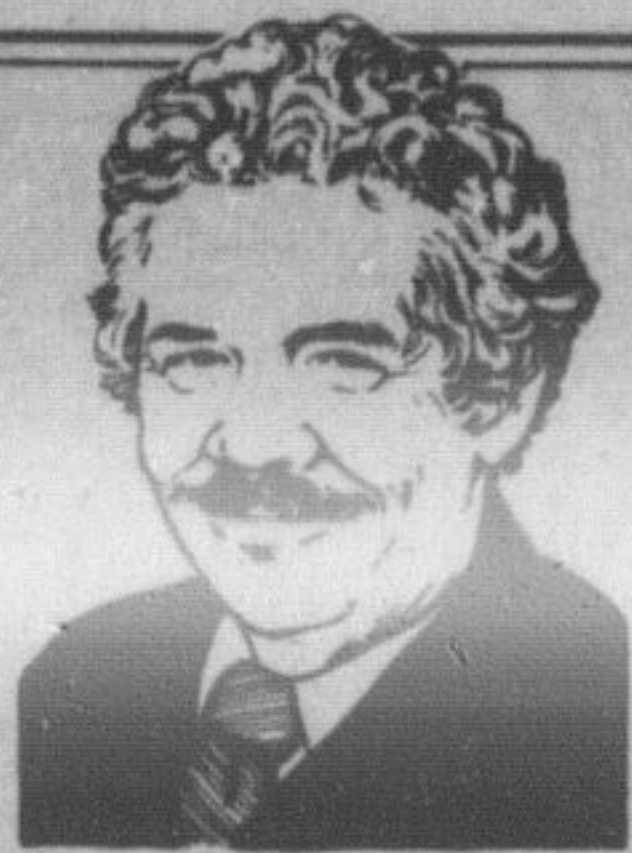


Between
the
Willows



The vexing vine

By DON BYERS
Champion Resident Columnist

I was foolish and over confident, when on June 29, 1977, I published the column: "The vine entwined."

It was an exciting account of my vicious attack on the voracious Boston Ivy that was virtually devouring our house.

At that time I proudly reported victory over the climbing monster.

Famous last words. I may have won the battle. I did not win the war.

As the years passed, the vine, largely ignored, crept over the front of the house, eventually obliterating the windows of my den and the back bedroom. It then turned the corner to engulf the north side of the building.

We hadn't really capitulated to the remorseless ivy. It was more a case of taking the damn thing for granted.

I did launch one brief assault, having tired of turning on the lights in my den, or order to see my desk at high noon.

Armed with an axe and Swedish saw, I went out about a month ago to do battle.

First, I ripped the crawling, clinging offender from the windows and wall, dislodging one of the shutters. It narrowly missed my head as it crashed to the ground at my feet.

The stubborn ivy resisted every tug. And when it did finally break free, it came down over me like a huge net, leaving thousands of tiny pad-prints over the surface from which it had been wrenched.

Now I got busy with axe and saw at the vine's base, to cut the damned thing loose. This done, with great effort I dragged the whole mess down into the field, far away from the house. (What in hell you would do with it town, I have no idea.)

Back in the house, I got a roll of paper towels and the spray container and thoroughly cleaned the windows, then stood back to admire the bright sunshine as it filled the room.

For reasons I cannot explain, I spared the remaining ivy that still blanketed the windows of the back bedroom.

Time trundled on. We again became complacent—until one fateful evening, a couple of weeks ago.

I had lighted the barbecue to broil a late supper and was sitting in the livingroom, watching the news on the tube.

"Don! Don!" cried Rhea from the back bedroom. "There's a snake!"

Knowing she is petrified at the very sight of wigglers, I got off my backside in a big hurry.

When I reached my wife, she pointed at one of the windows. At first, all I saw was the villainous vine. But upon closer scrutiny, there, stretched in the branches, nose almost resting upon the screen, was a 14-inch garter snake.

I reached out, nipped it by the tail, and flipped it to the grass below. Oh yes. Vines are so much fun.

If you would like cuttings, to start your own Boston Ivy, let me know soon.

Its days are numbered.

Our Readers Write

I'm not bored, just frustrated

Dear Editor:

I am responding to your editorial of August 11, 1982 and while I am not going to admit to boredom, I certainly will concede "extreme frustration", for which there are many causes. The election results of March 19, 1981 were the first, when Ontario returned to the "status quo", through the clever ploy of the Tories, who told the electorate what they wanted to hear and avoided the truth about the economic situation of the Province like the plague. I'm frustrated as well because many of the issues to which you refer in your letter have been paramount in my speeches in the Legislature and in my weekly report. (Incidentally, why don't you print my weekly report which is mailed to your paper each week?)

Last fall on the Suncor issue, I toured Ontario as the energy critic, visiting virtually every media centre and meeting all the media in Northern and Eastern Ontario, because the message we had repeated time and time again was not getting beyond Southern Ontario. Perhaps you might recall the press releases sent to your paper with those important issues being raised. You are absolutely right when you suggest the awesome spectre of contemplating yet another term for a political party in power now for nearly 40 years.

Perhaps now is the time to pause for reflection and decide how to create the kind of ground swell of public opinion that will allow a paper like the Canadian Champion to use a different headline in the next campaign. You will recall the last one that said "Reed for Halton-Burlington, Davis for Ontario". While I appreciate very much the personal endorsement it didn't do

much to rid this Province of a tired old government that has failed to keep pace with changing economic times—a government who uses polls, paid for by the public purse, in order to assess whether or not to purchase oil companies or take a stand on beer in the ball park.

There is no question about it, this is the kind of cynicism that governs this Province at the present time. It's very frustrating—seven years of hammering an arrogant government—seven years of presenting fresh new ideas and seven years of standing for reform and a sound economic recovery, gets DAMN frustrating.

When I see a Provincial government that in 1981, denied there was an economic problem, and then in 1982 blamed it all on the Federal government, (when I know the role a Provincial government can play in the recovery of the Province), you bet it gives one a feeling of some hopelessness. There were a lot of people in Ontario who were afraid to place their trust in Stuart Smith, somehow his image didn't seem right. He told the truth. Perhaps he wasn't political enough, or more importantly, perhaps he, as I, cannot accept the kind of cynicism that is applied by the provincial Tories to keep themselves in power. I believe too much in people!

For your interest, copies of Hansard are available from my Milton office, which contain my position on the Premiers jet and other matters. The chronic home care issue, announced by the Minister of Health a few weeks ago, was something I have worked for for nearly four years.

For four years I have served on the select committee on Ontario

Hydro affairs and would be pleased to send you the transcripts that involve my particular contribution to that investigation. If you want to talk about frustration, the mismanagement of Ontario Hydro and our attempts to expose it would be enough in itself. My work on that committee exposed Hydros overbuilding and financial waste and I was personally instrumental in forcing Ontario Hydro to make full public disclosure of all of its nuclear information.

I have indeed worked hard for the last seven years, and as you say have approached this job with zest and I hope some degree of creativity. It is also quite correct that I'm doing some farming this summer, while the House is not in session. I would not be able to carry on the operations of the farm without the help of my wife Deanna, sons Chris and Rob and daughter Melanie. While the House is sitting, many of my days are 16 hours long.

Finally, you mention that the electorate may have forgotten about all of this in 1985. My worst fear is that issues like the Suncor Fiasco, the incredible cost of the land holdings in the Provinces and the broadening of the sales tax base to pay for those stupidities may be forgotten by a give-away budget a year or so before

the next Provincial election. The Tories have done it before and there's no doubt, they'll do it again, if they consider it to be a winning formula.

So hang on to your hat as I pause to catch my breath and lay down a strategy for the next 2½ years. One must stand back and reflect or face the consequences of becoming stale. I said right from the beginning that I would operate from day to day. If I ever got to the point where I thought I was spinning my wheels and not serving the electorate of this riding, I would be the first to declare it. I know I have something to give to Halton-Burlington and as well to the Province in my capacity as M.P.P. and natural resources critic.

Sincerely,
Julian Reed, M.P.P.
Halton-Burlington.

P.S. If you would please print more of my weekly reports the people who read your paper would realize that there are provincial issues that the Ontario Liberal party are vitally concerned with.

P.S. I no longer look cherubic since losing 35 pounds.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT a Public Meeting of The Liquor Licence Board of Ontario will be held at THE MASONIC HALL, BANQUET ROOM, 910 MAIN STREET EAST, HAMILTON, ONTARIO on THURSDAY, AUGUST 26th, 1982 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time the Board will hear an application in accordance with The Liquor Licence Act, and Regulations thereunder.

The following establishments have applied for a licence of the class indicated, and the application will be entertained at the aforementioned location and time:

Halton Centennial Manor
Home for the Aged
185 Ontario Street South
Milton, Ontario
Dining Lounge Licence
Licence: Chief Administrator, Halton Centennial Manor

Charles Hotel
270 Main Street East
Milton, Ontario
Patio (Lounge) Licence
Licence: Paan Hotels Limited

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person who is resident in the municipality and who wishes to make representation relative to the application, shall make their submission to the Board in writing prior to the date of the hearing, or in person at the time and place of the hearing. (Copies of written submissions will be forwarded to the applicant).

Liquor Licence Board of Ontario
55 Lakeshore Boulevard East
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MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS
THE LIQUOR LICENCE ACT

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B&E investigation

Halton Regional Police detectives are continuing their investigation of a break in at Wheelabrator Corp. of Canada on 401 Wheelabrator Way in Milton that resulted in over \$20,000 damage.

Police said thieves went on a rampage after breaking into the business premises last Wednesday evening.

Offices were ransacked, filing cabinets pulled apart and doors kicked down. Desks were overturned and dictaphones smashed.

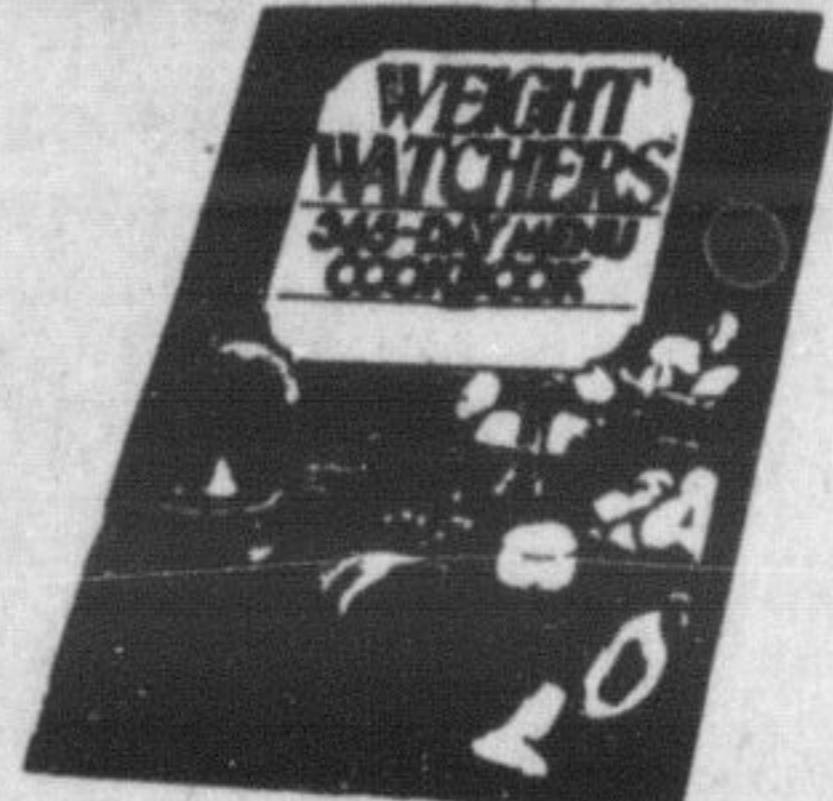
Police said the thieves scaled a locked fence to compound in the north west area of the plant. They then kicked a panel out of a door leading into the office area.

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