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Diplomacy prevails

Last week Halton North MPP Walt Elliot brought a handful of his fellow Queen's Park representatives to this area so they could see firsthand the issues which confront Milton and Halton Hills.

It was a good idea. Nothing much was resolved, but it at least gave the provincial parliamentarians a chance to meet their municipal counterparts and put faces to names.

Mr. Elliot and his troupe saw a couple of area quarry operations, met with two citizens groups opposing some quarry plans and held informal meetings with the mayors and a few councillors in both towns.

As a rule, municipal politicians tend to blame Queen's Park for almost every wrong they can imagine and some that truly stretch the imagination. When all else fails, and even well before that, municipal elected officials often point the finger at big brother, the province. They do it at local council and at the regional level.

However, most of those cries are muffled, or at least couched in far more diplomatic language, when the Queen's Park representatives actually appear in person. Then it's all gentle diplomacy and tact and pushes toward shared agendas for common problems. There are fewer attempts to artlessly foist the blame on the province for everything from higher taxes to interest rates.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz is not a big-time province basher. He gives Queen's Park a poke once in a while at forums where nobody from Toronto is there to offer a rebuttal, but rarely. So his warm welcoming spiel to the provincial members of parliament did not seem contrived Friday.

We wonder how someone like councillor Colin Best, for example, would have treated the occasion. Mr. Best constantly knocks the provincial government at Milton council. He might have had a harder time warming to the visitors. And if they knew how often he is critical in his comments, they might have had a hard time warming to him.

Out of order

Councillor Mary Long has made much improvement in her performance since winning her Ward 2 seat in the last municipal election, but her knowledge of, or appreciation for, proper procedure at meetings still leaves a great deal to be desired.

Mrs. Long ignored correct procedures on several occasions when she acted as chairperson of the general committee meeting held May 28. It was embarrassing.

Without getting too technical about it, Mrs. Long did as she pleased twice when in fact she needed the consent of fellow councillors to do those things, and once did something completely out of order and more seriously wrong.

The two minor offences related to having people come up from the crowd out of turn or after they had already presented their cases, which is not allowed unless her fellow councillors consent. She went ahead and did it anyway. Councillors stayed quiet because they were only minor sins of precudure.

But, she also told councillor Les Laughren, prior to a vote, that a plan he supported "will be defeated." This is, quite simply, pre-empting democracy. Councillor Laughren laughed it off with a sarcastic comeback.

But this type of botched protocol is deplorable in a councilor approximately halfway through a three-year mandate. Mrs. Long should know better by now.

Looking back



A Cuboree sack race had these cubs hopping like rabbits back in June 1969. The race was just one of the events held at the one-day campout at Camp Manitou on Twiss Road.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the June 7, 1989 issue

□ Usually getting free money doesn't provoke a fight among municipal councillors, but it did last night. Ward 3 councillor Bill Johnson exploded in rage when he learned a provincial grant to help pay for public transit won't ease the plight of disabled people living in rural areas. The Ministry of Transport has given \$103,700 toward covering public transit costs. A portion of that, \$6,750, is for disabled transit, but only in urban areas.

□ A major sewage works project received its first injection of provincial money last week. The \$866,950 is part of a grant estimated at \$3.94 million. The total cost of the mid-Halton Water Pollution Control Plant in Oakville is \$26.3 million. Milton is starved for sewage capacity, which is putting a freeze on residential development. With this plant's construction, Milton with more sewage capacity is more of a reality.

□ Workers have begun the \$1.3 million expansion to Glen Eden Ski Area's snowmaking facilities and slopes which will move the resort into the forefront of snowmaking technology for the 1990s. The project, which was

developed by Delta Engineering, involves a new ski run under the Twister hill chairlift.

20 Years Ago

From the June 10, 1970 issue

□ Milton has two population totals this year. Take your choice — 6,611 or 7,547. The 7,547 figure includes the residents of Ontario School for the Deaf and Halton Centennial Manor, but you won't see that total posted on Department of Highway signs on area roads.

□ Milton was one of 22 communities hit by a postal worker's strike Monday. The strike began Sunday evening at 8 p.m. and ended Monday night at the same time. About 2,500 workers went out Sunday, around twice as many as at any one time previously in the pattern of rotating strikes.

□ The first of its kind, a four-school track meet held at Ontario School for the Deaf in Milton Saturday was rated a big success by its organizers. The international event threw together 200 athletes from the OSD Milton and OSD Belleville in Canada, while the American schools were The Michigan School for the Deaf in Rome, and the New York State School for the Deaf in Flint. The Canadians were poor hosts, accumulating 606 points, whereas the Americans only received 419 points.

Pud

by Steve Nease



50 Years Ago

From the June 6, 1940 issue

□ While attempting to repair a two-man potato planter on his father's farm near Erin, 14-year-old Alfred Johnston's right hand was terribly mangled when it was caught in the machine. Part of his little finger was torn off.

□ A fine of \$50 and costs was levied by Magistrate W.F. Woodcliffe, when Tyers' Milk Products of Georgetown entered a plea of guilty to selling milk without a license. H.A. Clarke, of the Milk Control Board was complainant.

□ Milton has received a cheque for \$239.33 from the Provincial Treasury as its share of the beer and wine licenses in the town, as well as its share of the revenue derived here. The amount is slightly higher than that of last year.