

Editorial comment

Mother's Day special day for the blind

Dear Editor:

"A Mother's love is special for we have only one Mother."

As Mother's Day is celebrated on May 10th, I have the privilege of asking you to share with me a way of honouring and remembering our Mothers.

As a youngster and on into my own mother and grandmotherhood I wore the customary red carnation signifying my mother was still alive. Now that she is gone I still like to remember her in a practical way ... by restoring someone to sight who is blind.

Do you realize what a chain reaction is set off when sight is restored?

There is a truism which says: Give man a fish and he can eat for a day, but teach him how to fish and he can feed his family.

In a similar fashion a \$25 gift can restore eyesight to a cataract blind person, enabling that person to work and thus be able to feed and support a family. There are many people in the developing countries who are curably blind. Can we in Canada comprehend 40 million blind people, almost twice our population, half of which are curable if funds were available. It's hard to imagine that many blind people but we can do something about it.

For a \$25 (tax deductible) donation to the

Canadian charity Operation Eyesight Universal, will pay for sight restoring cataract surgery, drugs, hospitalization, special glasses and follow-up care for the patient.

A patient identification card signed by the

HAMR says thanks

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Huronia Association for the Mentally Retarded, I would like to thank all the volunteers who have assisted us in the past year.

Rosemary Cameron, Marcelle Bishop, Brian Desjardins, Don Cook, Claude Buck, Peter King, Jan Grosvenor and Maggie Hutchison have all given freely of their time and energy to our programs. Many extras were made possible for the clients because of their involvement.

Yours truly
(Mrs.) Susan Constant
Co-ordinator of Volunteers

Interest appreciated

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank you for your interest in our Carnival "Nursery Rhymes on Ice and Fantasy in Space" held at the Centennial Arena, April 4 and 5. It was a most successful show featuring many local skaters.

Many people worked long hours and we do thank them.

Your paper does a noble job of presenting all local news and sport features. We do appreciate your support in our club.

Congratulations to Gold Medallist, Brian Orser, a great ambassador for our sport and our country.

We look forward to next season and your continued support!

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Sincerely,
Nancy Strachan
Secretary

attending surgeon will be sent to you, or if you choose to your mother, giving the name, sex, age and town or village of the one restored to sight.

Why don't you plan on honouring your mother or her memory in this way?

Send to Operation Eyesight Universal, Box 123, Stn. 'M', Calgary, Alberta. T2P 2H6.

In care and concern
Gertrude Roberts
48 Canyon Dr. N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2L 0R3

Director grateful

Dear Editor:

I would like to express thanks to all Georgian Manor Volunteers of 1986-87. I am very grateful for every hour of your time you share with us. Your work promotes and upholds the success of each and every program.

Appreciately yours
Linda Bellisle
Program Director
Georgian Manor

Coverage Commended

Dear Editor:

As a candidate for the Progressive Conservative nomination on April 23, 1987, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Midland Times for your fair and unbiased coverage of our campaign. We rely on the newspapers to test our convictions and to reach those people who are unable to attend our public meetings.

Each candidate has pledged to commit his or her energy and talents to the individual selected by the association members in Gravenhurst this Thursday. All of us have worked diligently throughout the campaign, and I thank Alan, Bruce and Edith for their candour and friendship.

Sincerely,
George Beatty

Responsible budgeting

Last night two of our local governments laid the foundation for what is to come in the next year by passing their 1987 budgets.

Although many taxpayers in Midland and Penetanguishene will spend the next few days anguishing over those extra tax dollars and crying that five or seven per cent increases could have been avoided by smart planning, the truth of the matter is, a tax hike of only five or seven per cent is good money management.

Even before members of the local governments sat down at the budget bargaining tables to decide on what sewer, road or water projects would be covered by financial planning for the next 12 months, they were faced with hikes that could not be altered to lessen the burden to the taxpayers.

In February, Simcoe County Council officials gave their seal of approval to a budget that saw a jump of eight per cent over the previous year. One month later members of the Simcoe County Board of Education announced a budget of another seven per cent.

If local councils are able to keep their budgets at these low levels, taxpayers must realize that a lot of hard work, thought and preparation was put into the local budgets that are the basis for covering many of the necessities of life, roads to drive to work on, water to drink and bath in, weekly garbage collection and snow removal.

Viewpoint

by Carey Nieuwhof

The Bermuda campaign

What have we here? It is the end of April. The leaves are out (for the most part). The grass needs cutting. The fish are biting. The golf score is improving. The won loss column in baseball are entering double digits. The most observant individual will note that it is spring, no, nearly summer 1987. This is the third time we have entered such a season under the Mulroney government. Every May the first signs of summer hit us rather methodically. We know what lies ahead as far as splendid weather, great weekends and well-deserved vacations are concerned.

As you have heard several times before in this column, this bleary eyed political observer is of the opinion that summer is the best backdrop for politics. Summer, you see, is so unpolitical.

People lose their minds in the summer. While no one would think of missing Knowlton Nash in November, to skip him in June in the name of a great barbecue is nothing. Consider as well the proverbial office colleague, seen only in white collars, predictable ties and suits that reek of stuffiness throughout the months of drab to

which we Canadians are subject each winter. Give this person a boat and an 82 degree weekend and out come the bermuda shorts, plaid shirt, plastic sunglasses accompanied by a completely altered view of reality. Summer, it is said, creates monsters. Indeed.

Our politicians are no different. Watch, for instance, our current Prime Minister, one Brian Mulroney. If our deficit were reduced one dollar for every dark blue suit Brian wore from November to March, Canada would be able to buy America. (Let the nationalists ponder that concept). While the snow falls, Mulroney, his two hundred and whatever-it-is-now cronies, and all other MPs perform like perfect politicians. They seldom break rules, follow familiar routines, say predictable things and act perfectly bureaucratic. Summer changes that.

Brian Mulroney's image consultants (few of whom will admit to that job publicly these days) have realized something very important. They have rightfully noted that when the sun comes out to stay, politicians can change their tune. They can, given the right promptings, become human. Beginning around

Victoria Day, the blue suits, thousands of which lurk in the dark halls of Parliament, are substituted for grey or brown suits. Come early June, the beige and light blue drab emerges.

By late June, the ties disappear and the white Oxfords are replaced by stripes, checks and plaids. By the time July arrives, one can seldom find the Prime Minister in anything but golf shirts and casual wear. Ed Broadbent follows a similar schedule while John Turner, if properly prompted, will sometimes doff his cardborad suits for something slightly more bearable. The strategy is not at all without merit.

The psychology is simple: if one can rid a politician of the Ottawa image, then one rids the voter of a substantial amount of mistrust and cynicism. When beaches become a backdrop, politicians can become, well, downright human.

Keep your eyes wide open for such tactics this summer. You can be assured the strategists will have each federal leader taking full advantage of this facade.

Ed Broadbent and John Turner, both of

whom are riding winter highs in the polls, do not want to see their gains melt away with the last Northern Ontario snowbanks. They are both fully aware that after the antics of the last two and a half years in the House of Commons, not to mention the final Trudeau years, Canadians are sick of Ottawa. And they will be on every beach, at every barbecue, on every main street and anywhere else normal Canadians go to lose their sense of winter-normality. This summer will see an unofficial election campaign in the works. You, rest assured, will be called upon by all three party leaders to cast an unofficial ballot.

So have your fun this summer. Dig deep in the closet and see if the shorts still fit. But be warned, three leaders and their party followers will be doing the same thing. If they get you now when your guard is down and the surf's up, they'll have scored their victory. Remember, in September, reality will find its way back into your household. Knowlton will be back, and so will Ed, John and Brian. They will be riding high on their summer acquisitions, the Canadian public being a large part of that.

Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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