

Property value

According to a document to come before the North Simcoe Waste Management Association tonight (Tuesday), a house which is 501 metres away from a garbage dump serving six communities will not lose any of its value.

The document implies that a potential buyer would pay as much for that house as if it were 501 metres away from an empty pasture.

If accepted by the NSWMA tonight as official policy, this document will leave most property owners near the probable-next garbage dump with only the Expropriations Act to turn to for monetary compensation.

And, as the very same proposed NSWMA policy points out, that Act is a feebly-worded piece of legislation when it comes to adjacent land-owners, and it threatens to leave those adjacent property-owners "without adequate compensation."

Granted, the NSWMA's lawyers had the foresight to point out in the document that, with any form of compensation package, there are bound to be "major difficulties in developing a policy which is both fair and seen by the community to be fair."

The question which must follow: Is 500 metres a fair cut-off point for providing compensation? Will not homes located much farther away than that be adversely affected?

Also, the proposed compensation policy says that "working farms or vacant land" within half a kilometre of the garbage dump will also not suffer any devaluation.

The unlucky farming community surrounding the proposed dump will be left holding the bag, so to speak, if this policy goes through tonight untouched.

No point in paying for polluted water, says Site 41 resident

Editor's note: This is a copy of a letter sent To Honourable Mr. Peterson Premier of Ontario

Re: Landfill site for North Simcoe Site 41

What kind of stupid nonsense is this anyway? There isn't any point in paying anyone compensation for having their water polluted. You must know that anyone in North Simcoe is in danger of polluted water if you put the landfill in the centre of a water system. As someone else has said, "A landfill is like a huge bathtub and whoever heard of a bathtub that would not overflow if it had too much water in it?"

If anyone out there is paying any attention to other people's problems with landfills, they must surely know what a poor track record they have anyway.

Surely your government people must know that you cannot have any kind of tourist trade by destroying the Great Lakes? "No swimming, no fishing, no nature walks, not even good water to drink, etc." Just the commercial things they are trying to get away from for a few days, not to mention the people's actual lives you are about to destroy?

I attended a Barrie seminar, at my own expense, I might add. They had everything worked out, how all of Simcoe County could be served by having a complete pollution control plant, even to the ashes being rendered harmless and disposed of at their landfill site. This was, as you must know, to use the energy for the new hospital at Barrie. Now they are saying they will need five district landfill sites for the ashes, etc.

I have tried to understand why an above ground withholding station would not be

more practical if Tiny Township has to have a garbage disposal system. Then, when Simcoe County gets theirs in operation, it could be used for a receiving station; somewhat like the trashing in paper suggests. I could be used much longer than a landfill site, monitored easier, and would cost peanuts beside the cost of a landfill. I cannot see burying hazardous waste and trying to pump it out again.

Please do something to help us, rather than letting our environmental authorities destroy us and eventually everyone else. Tiny is such a small cog in the wheel of Ontario; but we are big on tourist business.

Respectfully yours,
Alice Sproule

Harmonizers on the way to sound footing

I am writing on behalf of the Huronia Harmonizers to especially thank you for the big boost you gave to our organization through the use of your window for a display over the past month.

The Harmonizers are making great strides to put the organization on a sound footing and to achieve new members. Your assistance has added much to the cause. Thank you.

Yours very truly,
Matthew H. Parry

Viewpoint

by Carey Nieuwhof

The Opposition and the Election

Rightly or wrongly, David Peterson has cast himself and the province into the midst of a late summer election. Peterson had the opportunity to hold the election virtually anytime he chose to do so. The opposition parties were not about to throw the premier and his party into a campaign when the premier's party had a 20-point jump on them in the polls.

It was likely not an easy decision for Peterson to make. If he wins this election, and wins it big, then he will probably be able to coast to one more easy election victory here in Ontario or replace John Turner as federal party leader after 1988. If Peterson loses this election, he is mincemeat. Even a 20-point lead in the polls isn't a guarantee of an election romp. Ask Frank Miller. He was 15 points up in 1985.

The opposition parties are still largely unprepared to fight this election. The NDP is still waiting for Bob Rae to excite someone. Bob tries hard, and he is an exceptionally bright man. But for some strange reason, the former golden boy of the federal party has not been able to do very much with Ontario wing

of his party. David Peterson's new found popularity and the ruination of the Tory dynasty in 1985 did not help matters much. Bob Rae just isn't politically contagious in Ontario, and it isn't likely that that is going to change much before September 10.

The provincial Tories, on the other hand are an entirely different matter. Seldom has a party changed so quickly in so little time. One never would have expected that the party Bill Davis kissed good-bye in February, 1985 would look like this today. Regardless, it wouldn't be wise to write off Larry Grossman's Conservatives just yet because if anybody is going to benefit from any mistakes Peterson makes during the campaign, it will be the provincial Tories. While the conservatives are running neck and neck with the NDP in polls, they still hold twice as many seats as the New Democrats do, and that gives them a wonderful advantage in terms of incumbency. Ed Broadbent's popularity hasn't helped Bob Rae one bit, and that is making Tories breathe easier.

Perhaps the best thing the Tories have going for them is experience. While a good number of former cabinet ministers have bowed out of the running this time, many veteran campaign strategists are still plotting

away at party headquarters. John Tory, Hugh Segal, Ruth Archibald and others are working hard for the party in this election. They've won many for Bill Davis in the past. While the campaign hierarchy may not be able to dethrone David Peterson alone. It certainly won't hurt matters.

Then there's the matter of Larry Grossman, the leader of those Ontarians who refer to themselves as Tories. Like Bob Rae, Larry Grossman hasn't exactly set the province ablaze since taking the leadership a year and a half ago. But then Bob Rae has already fought one election as leader. Larry still has to make his mark. So far, he has managed to avoid headlines on any regular basis, something he's not too happy with. Ironically, that could help him. People don't have any deeply ingrained preconceived notions about who Grossman is. Therefore, if he shines in this election campaign while Peterson starts to falter, Grossman can only stand to build on that momentum.

Larry Grossman may not have millions of dollars to spend on this election, and it can be said that he has been largely ignored as opposition leader until now. His party may look, at least on the surface, completely different than it did two years ago. But if anyone

is going to benefit from a Peterson slip-up, it will be Larry Grossman. He has twice the seats that Bob Rae has, an experienced campaign staff, and Grossman should also feel comforted by the fact that at least Ontarians know that Tories can govern the province, they did it over four decades, just a short time ago. The NDP can't say that.

Looking at the way the parties stand in the first week of the campaign, it may be easy to say that the two opposition parties are going to be left behind in the dust. Certainly, both parties could use another year or two to harness more cash and find high-profile candidates, but then any political party could always stand more cash and better candidates.

If David Peterson blows this election the way Frank Miller blew the 1985 election, then, believe it or not, Larry Grossman will be sitting in the premier's chair. Looking at the indicators now, Peterson will probably win the election. But if things start to unfold for the Liberals, only one party can and will benefit. If that happens, unbelievable as it may seem, the dynasty will be back. A Liberal cakewalk is by no means guaranteed. In politics, nothing is guaranteed.

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Letters

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