Fighting for that lifestyle

A story in today's paper may paint a picture of the future of Huronia.

Residents of the part of Tay Township immediately west of Victoria Harbour are fighting a proposed housing development.

The residents say they moved where they did because they wanted to get away from crowded development.

And now they are fighting to keep it that way.

With development projects springing up all over the place, we can understand and sympathize with their plight.

Many of these people are parents who want to raise their children in a more "country" atmosphere.

Unfortunately, it looks like they may have chosen the wrong place to live. While they may not have known it at the time, Huronia is becoming a developer's dream.

Many people have moved here from the city looking for an escape from the heavily-concentrated urban life. Now, they are discovering the urban spread is closing in on them once again.

We can see many more battles like this coming down the road.



Too many have died for sovereignty

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's free trade deal. It is very massive and complex and in my opinion threatens the future of Canada – no longer would we be masters of our own country.

The only benefactors would be big business and everyone else would be big losers for the following reasons:

Canada would have to export to the U.S. a certain portion of our energy and natural resources and the U.S. would have full control over supplies and prices.

U.S. companies would be able to outbid any Canadian company or any Canadian government contract. This would eliminate any or all the benefits that Canadian companies now enjoy.

All our social programs such as Unemployment Insurance, family allowance, Canada Pension Plan, medicare, old age security and all subsidies would be at risk because the U.S. would pressure us to eliminate them. The American citizen does not enjoy many of these.

All decisions for control and ownership of Canadian industry and resources would be made in big U.S. corporate boardrooms, leaving us with no sovereignty.

All American businesses participating in this deal would be able to bring to Canada American technicians – from plumbers to

abortionists - and replace any Canadian worker they wanted.

American banks and big corporations would have complete freedom to buy any Canadian company or services without any restrictions being imposed on them by Canadian governments, provincial or federal.

And finally, what about our water, agriculture and environment?

I urge all Canadians to please take the time and read this agreement for yourselves. Don't just read the dressed-up propoganda put out by the Progressive Conservatives. Read the whole deal.

We must stand up to Uncle Sam and tell him he can be a good friend and neighbor,

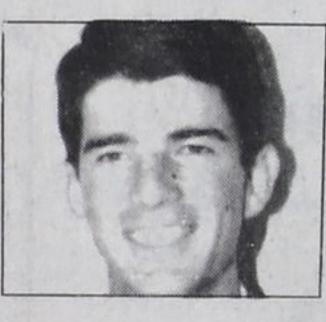
but he can't move in and take over our country.

It is little wonder that the U.S. senate, the Robert Campeaus and big business want this deal – it is the biggest giveaway in history. Too many brave Canadian men and women fought and died for Canada for us to give it away now.

How can anyone justify supporting a PC government that over the last four years was plagued with scandal, lies and deception?

This is the most important election in Canadian history. Canada's future is at stake.

Ralph Ladouceur Midland



As I See It

by David Krayden

The dark side of TV journalism

For anyone watching television from the early hours of the morning until the afternoon, there are a variety of soft news programs on the air. Before last week, I hadn't even heard of some of them.

The proliferation of personality journalism masquerading as investigative reporting is astounding.

I can't really think of what else to call it. The format has been in use for at least two decades although Phil Donahue made it a staple of afternoon viewing. There is a panel of guests and a live audience. The host waltzes around the studio with a portable microphone in hand and tries to incite some heated debate between the guests and the audience.

From all of that, we the viewers are are supposed to have our "consciousness raised."

But ultimately we are left with a sense of cotton candy dressed up to look like filet mignon, or stale platitudes and banalities delivered with enough conviction and emotion to successfully appear profound.

Recently, a star producer of hypejournalism got his own morning interview
show. Geraldo Rivera, perhaps best known
for his live, on-scene opening of an Al
Capone safe, has taken the television genre
to bizarre lengths. On one particular show
last week, the guests were members of college fraternities and the subject was "hazing." Rivera led one student through a televised confession of his college misdeeds while
the audience hissed and groaned at the appropriate spots.

When the student finally got to the emotional climax of his delivery, Rivera seemed to sense that he had better start raising our consciousness and thus increased the volume of his voice and the number of questions he was addressing to his sweaty guest.

"You mean you used a paddle?" he asked.
"You used a paddle like this one here,"
Rivera continued, holding up a wooden object that looked like it belonged to a miniature canoe.

The student was verging on tears now and the show had succeeded in milking some drama out of dust.

But if you want to see real action, catch The Morton Downey Jr. Show sometime. Downey, no matter what you might think of him, has revealed personality journalism for what it really is: a chance to get people hating each other. Instead of inspiring discussion these shows are merely pitting anting

against each other and vainly hoping for some degree of synthesis. They are hate sessions, where the loudest and most resentful are acclaimed as victors in a strange battle of emotions. Downey is only allowing the audience to act the way it wants to.

We have entered the age that Paddy Chayevsky predicted in his screenplay for Network. Howard Beale, the mad prophet of the airwaves, rules the afternoon. People are getting up from their chairs, rushing to the windows and saying, "I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

But that's as far as it goes.

The exercise is self-enclosed, self-indulgent and ultimately self-defeating.

It's the dark underside of television journalism.

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Member

Asst Seni Staf Robert Photo

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Managing Editor: Tim Kraan
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Senior Writer: Murray Moore
Staff Writers: Chris Harries. Paul Hoy.
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