

# CASTOR COMMENT

## A visit with the Chief

We dropped around to see the Old Chief the other night on the occasion of his 83rd birthday. It was quite an occasion. Some 400 people gathered in the National Archives auditorium to hear the national archivist Dr. W. I. Smith introduce the President and Colonel Robert L. Houston who explained (a) that the Chief was leaving his important papers and memorabilia to the university, where

they would be available to scholars at the Diefenbaker Memorial Centre now under construction (b) that more than a million dollars had been assembled from private and public sources to get the project under way.

Then there was a film about the Chief, put together by John A. Munro, curator of the Diefenbaker Centre, from footage compiled

for "The Tenth Decade" and "One Canadian" produced for the C.B.C. by Cameron Graham. Finally, there was the Chief himself, introduced cautiously, like a cat walking on hot bricks, by Secretary of State John Roberts who pointed out that anything he said of a eulogistic nature might be used against him in the forthcoming election.

The Chief, recovering from dental surgery gave what is generally referred to as a vintage performance, complete with anecdotes about Sir John A. and including the famous story about how he sold a newspaper to Laurier in Saskatoon. We had a few, brief words with the Chief that night and spoke to him at greater length in the privacy of his study the following day.

"The only thing I'm afraid of," he intoned, relaxing comfortably on his couch, "is that at my age, the impression might get around that I'm slowing down."

Since he was in the middle of planning a trip to China and was about to go out to open the Canadian Snooker Championship, we felt there was little likelihood of that.

"You know," he said, "I could have been a great snooker player. I gave it all up when I became immersed in politics."

We took the liberty of mentioning that he had "snooked" a multitude of political enemies in his time.

"Yes and euchred a few, too," he admitted. At this stage of the game, looking back from the eminence of the years, the Chief has mellowed. He has outlived his enemies, outfought his adversaries and overcome all his tribulations but one. He admits that from time to time he is haunted by the spectre of loneliness.

But the letters and phone calls kept coming and even the knocks on the door, as old and new friends fill the interstices of his days. After the phenomenal success of his three-volume memoirs, the biggest thing in Canadian publishing history, he is now talking about a fourth volume. He mentioned a prediction made about him by a Canadian Jewish group, that he would live as long as Moses and goes on to say that this amounted to some 900 years: So, he is busily planning the future, which will almost certainly include at least one more election. Even the Liberals are resigned to the possibility. One prominent Liberal was heard to say at the Diefenbaker party, "If he gave up politics, it would kill him." That might just be the only thing that would.

### Black Magic

down the sky  
in the wetblack night  
a shape rides by  
in jetblack flight  
and only a shadowskull  
of moon  
echoes the WHOOSH  
of her crossbone broom  
she nooses her brood  
of thirteen bats  
loosens her net  
of nine black cats  
throws in a toadstool  
a tad or two  
shakes five spiders  
out of her shoe  
turns three times  
drops the lot  
into a sootblack  
witchingpot  
spooky brew spooky queen  
wicked old crone of  
HALLOW-E'EN  
Ruth E. Scharf



Stark stump

(Photo by Rowsell)

## Correspondence

The wife of a known and respected dog trainer and breeder around our area tells me that Canada ranks the highest in cruelty to animals.

I'm a little tired of what I've seen around here, and feel like saying something about it. Thanks for the opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Kerry-Lynne Wilson,  
Kenmore

P.S. Attached are my DO'S AND DON'TS — all very simple! I know, I practise them with my dog.

If dog owners were a little more likeable, dogs would be! Are you? DO have your dog spayed — please! (That was a message from all the little unwanted animals.)

DON'T let Rover walk the streets

DO keep him on a leash when out on the town.

DON'T TIE HIM UP IN THE YARD. He won't protect you there.

DO provide him with a kennel attached to proper shelter.

DON'T put him there unless you have to leave him behind — he's your best friend, remember?

DO find out how you can teach you dog to be obedient — and do so with kindness.

DON'T expect him to be sociable if he's never done any socializing. DO clean up after you dog when you take him visiting — you may get another invitation.

DON'T hit him. He'll never forgive you.

AND SAY HELLO ONCE IN A WHILE — HE'S ANIMAL, NOT VEGETABLE, YOU KNOW!

## CASTOR REVIEW

"One Canada"

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### NO CONTEST

Across this great land of ours it is municipal election time. In Osgoode and Russell Townships, voters will have the opportunity of going to the polls and registering their feelings about the individuals who have been making decisions affecting their services and their pocketbooks.

In view of the rapid and far-reaching changes taking place in the Castor area, it is important that voters carefully consider the implications of the current elections. In a word, this means, get out and vote.

It is not good for citizens to sit back and leave the running of public affairs to a select few. It is healthy for the council and municipality in general to have competition for the posts on council.

Both Reeve Bouwers and Reeve Patenaude have provided leadership and good government for their respective municipalities. The four-township plan to pave Boundary Road to 417 was largely a result of Reeve Bouwers' generalship.

Under Reeve Patenaude's leadership roads have been improved and paved, a sewage system installed in Russell Village and a similar program slated for Embrun.

Russell Township Council deserves credit for keeping taxes at a reasonable level. The reeve's stipend is \$4,200. It is to its credit also, that Russell councillors have not joined the mad rush to jack up their salaries, including that of the Reeve.

While it would be better for the democratic process if Reeve Bouwers and Reeve Patenaude faced competition, it must be admitted the two townships have registered progress during their terms of office.

### THE GREAT EMBARRASMENT

The annual Halloween embarrassment is just around the corner — the usual assortment of pitiable youths will be on the main street again, destroying public property and ruining this night for the children.

It's an embarrassment because the village as a whole is law-abiding but has become known for its apparent support of lawlessness this one night a year.

It's an unfortunate situation, a frustrating situation for the vast majority of residents who care about their village's reputation, who wish that the public spotlight could be focused on them under more honorable circumstances. Yes, it's hard for most of the village's 1,000 people to sit by and be degraded by a knot of youngsters whose best-knit contribution to the community seems to be their destructiveness. Why is it so?

In a small, tightly-knit community, there is a natural reluctance on the part of one neighbor to interfere in the personal affairs of another, to openly criticize the behavior of another's children, to call the police when those children break the law.

The police tell us that other villages in the same position have run out of patience and that unruly youths have been hauled off to jail to have their futures blighted by the burden of a criminal record as a result.

They tell us that these other villages have restored Halloween to the merry tradition it once was by sponsoring teen dances and masquerade parties for the younger children the night of Oct. 31. Churches, service clubs, recreation and community associations have co-operated. Left without their street audience, the law-breakers have fallen in line.

In Russell, the wanton Halloween destruction this year may have already begun. Last week, a rock was hurled through the kitchen window of a resident who has dared criticize the sad behavior of the Halloween law-breakers. It was done under the cowardly cover of twilight darkness.

How far does the patience of Russell residents extend? How long will they be embarrassed?

### MAGGIE'S BACK

Occasionally, Margaret Trudeau may be seen in a downtown Ottawa bank where she generally receives the kind of treatment and notice accorded any other customer. Last week, Margaret was back in town, fresh from publicity triumphs on the Riviera, where she was completing a film; and on CTV's Sunday night W5 show, which ran through the usual gamut of sexy clips, not omitting the notorious Trudeau bottom.

Monday morning at the foreign exchange wicket in the bank, it was a different Margaret Trudeau. Accompanied by one of her children (Sascha or Justin; we may be forgiven for not knowing which) she was the perfect image of an inconspicuous housewife going about her banking chores. Taller than expected, in a rather long tan coat and high-heeled boots, it took a second look to register that this was indeed, the darling of the media, Margaret the unpredictable, the flamboyant, the Little-Girl-Lost beloved of sob sisters and editorialists.

She had an air of quiet and self-contained dignity, with a tiny quirk at the corners of her mouth, as though to suggest a devil of humour lurking there.

She parked the child on the counter and (as any mother would) straightened with her hair with her fingers. She seemed quite content with her momentary reversal to the motherhood role. Margaret back from the cinematic wars, on the Sparks Street Mall, a far cry from sunny France and Jean Paul Fritz and People Magazine and all the other exotic amenities which give life its far-out meaning in the set in which such things are regarded as important, not to say essential.

## Anniversary Issue

This issue marks the first-year anniversary of publication of the Castor Review. The volunteer staff feel the past year has been a productive one and are especially gratified by the response shown by Castor area residents. The subscription list has been growing at a good rate with the names of local readers and others scattered across North America.

While we know we can't be all things to all people, comments about the paper have been largely favorable and criticism, constructive. We would like to point out that a newspaper is only as good as the contributions contained in it and invite readers to submit any information they feel should be published. We thank you for your continuing support.