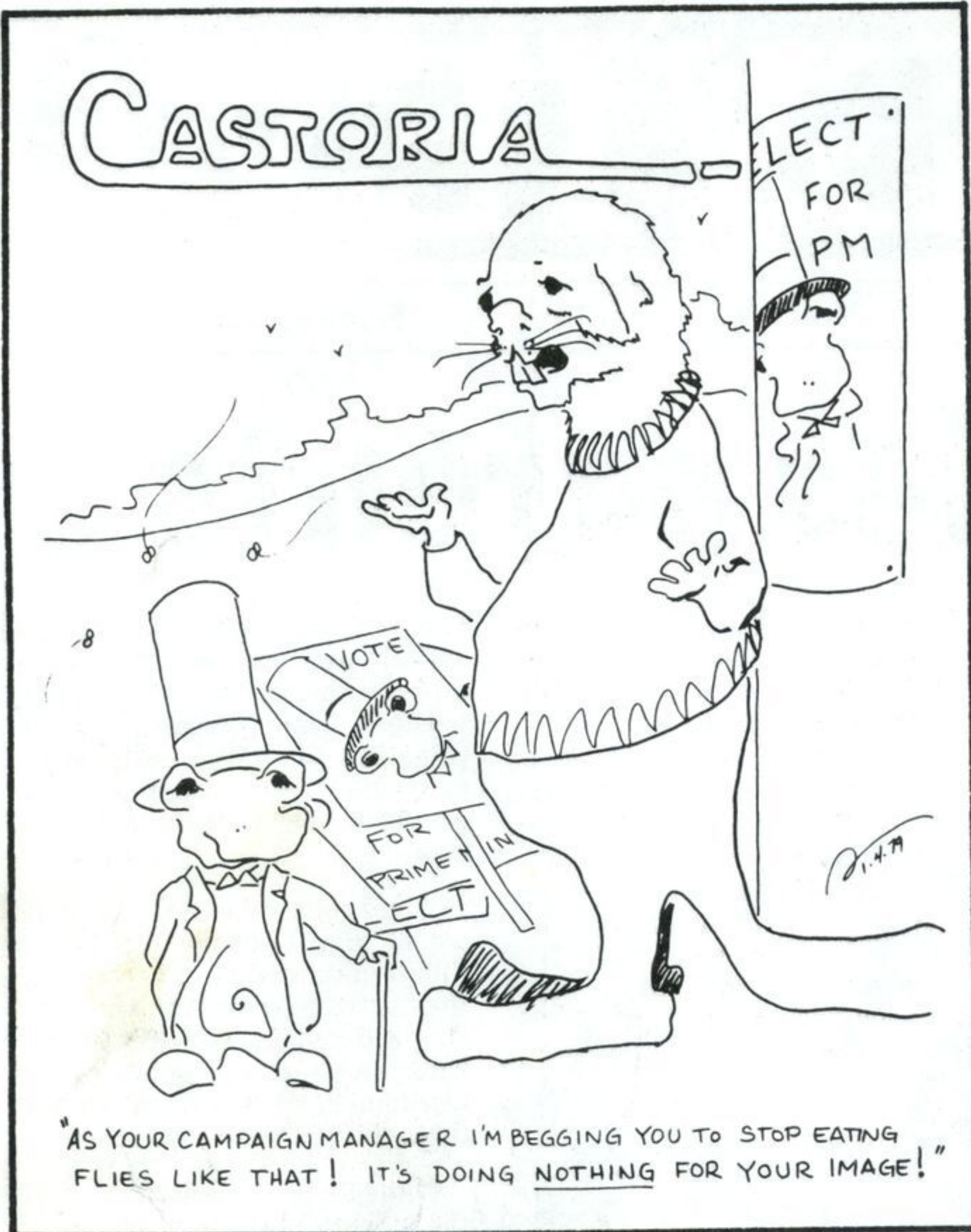


CASTOR COMMENT



Castor Creek in Spring

THE LITTLE CREEK that shuffles past our door
 Sleeps winter locked beneath a roof of snow;
 Spring pushes up the frost-and-silver floor,
 Warms well and feeds it: looses, lets it go...
 It laughs across the flats; climbs bank and tree,
 Snatches at bridges, tilts them up again —
 Jams mad its traffic, bulges to get free —
 Roars at the wind, and rages with the rain.
 It spreads across the low road north of town
 And keeps the Griffith children home from school;
 Grabs branch, gate, outhouse: all go bobbing down
 To lodge fast in three firs above Blackpool.

A mighty Amazon, our little creek! . . .
 (So summer indolent, so autumn meek.)

Ruth E. Scharfe, Ottawa

P.S. We lived right on the bank of the North Branch of the Castor. Every Spring was an adventure with high water, "gone" bridges and "water across the road" tidings. The river ran between the barn and our house; so milking time and chores called for boating across the wild waves complete with milkpails, milk, feed, sometimes Captain the collicie; pilot and half-scares, death, half swaggering (after safe landing) crew.

Correspondence

Editor, Castor Review;

We have recently formed a Manotick Station Community Association and we are celebrating 125 years of the area of Manotick Station. In conjunction with this we would like to know if you offer publicity services for non-profit community functions. If so, how much advance notice is required and if not would you please advise of the cost.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
 Dianna Payne,
 Publicity Committee

Editor's Note: The Castor Review considers one of its primary roles to publicize non-profit functions of the type mentioned by Mrs. Payne, free of charge, as long as the material reaches us by the deadline indicated on Page 2 of each issue. We reserve the right to edit submissions to meet space limitations. For more on Manotick Station, see Greely Grist, page 11.

CASTOR REVIEW

"One Canada"

Box 359, Russell, Ontario

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Correspondence

Editor, Castor Review;

Now that Reeve Patenaude has achieved his prime ambition of becoming a member of the "Good Roads Association" executive, perhaps he will have time to help the residents of this area achieve one of their longtime goals, namely, the completion of the boundary Rd. — 417 Link. To ensure this I suggest each of us let our respective Municipal and Provincial representatives know where we stand on this issue.

Respectfully,
 Sandra Van der Veen,
 Marvelville

Editor's note: The following letter from provincial government services minister Lorne Henderson to Prescott-Russell MLA Albert Belanger was passed along by Mr. Belanger.

Dear Albert:

Thank you for your letter of February 22nd, 1979, and the enclosed articles from the Castor Review concerning the proposed addition to the Registry Office in Russell.

The present Registry Office in Russell is well located and its location is well known to those who use it. The extension which we propose to add on and the improvements we propose to make in the existing building will, I am sure, enable the Registrar to provide satisfactory service to the community for many years to come.

It is not likely that we could build a brand new building for any less that it will cost us to do the renovations and the extension to the existing buildings and I doubt whether we could find a location which would be as satisfactory as the present one. I understand that the proposal has been reviewed by the Municipal Council and the Members of Council found the proposal satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,
 Lorne C. Henderson

Editor, Castor Review;

I was delighted to receive the copy of the Castor Review; I enjoyed reading it very much. Please give my best regards to "Beaver Bob" and "Castor Earl"! Lois joins me in sending our warmest regards to all of you.

Sincerely,
 Walter Baker, M.P.

Editor, Castor Review;

Bob and Margot McCallum were here to see me and brought one of your papers. I think it is a wonderful paper so I thought I would sign for a year if you can send it this far out.

Thanks,
 Evelyn Fawcett,
 Iroquois, Ont.

Editor's Note: We sure can Mrs. Fawcett's. Irregardless of Canada's postal service, we're sending copies to Geneva, Switzerland; Pasadena, California; and Vancouver, British Columbia; among other places.

Editor, Castor Review;

As you know, Mrs. Rebecca Dempsey has been in an Ontario hospital since January so she wanted to get her Castor Review renewed. I am her cousin and she wished me to do this for her. Hoping your paper will still keep coming as we all enjoy it very much.

Thanking you for her,
 Susan Sullivan,
 Russell

Assault time

Election time again. Which means the ears will be assaulted with a barrage of speeches containing panaceas, nostrums, simple formulas for complex problems; the eyes will be lulled and overcast with stereotypes of smiling politicians, kissing, ogling, frowning, grimacing as the nation thunders to its destiny.

Our ancestors faced only the noises of political hysteria; we have to absorb the pictures and in full colour. Nothing is spared. Not a whisper, not a popular cry, not a whimper.

It has been said that this is the most important election in our history. That is open to question. It now appears that Canada will stagger on, regardless of who is mucking up the controls.

The Prime Minister says the issue is national unity. It may not be quite that simple. The issue is certainly the integrity of the nation. That requires unity as a base. It requires the capacity to sit down and talk to Quebec, not about the terms on which Quebec will leave Canada, but about the terms on which Quebec will stay in Canada without destroying the fabric of Confederation. This means, basically, the same rights for a French speaking Canadian in Vancouver as for an English speaking Canadian in Trois Rivieres.

National integrity means a public service that operates on providing services, not on ripping off the public or bribing others to accept what we have to offer. It means management that will no longer be able to gouge and combine together in order to create a trade environment conducive to higher and higher profits and lower and lower values for the public. It means unions who will come to realize that there is a job to do for the country and that the sole purpose of union activity is not merely more and more power and higher salaries for the professional union organizers whose hands for the most part are remarkable clean and unsullied by contact with the tools of labour.

It means above all and first of all, a return of purpose to public life, an elimination of those whose conscience is satisfied by appearances on the picture tube and the thrill of re-election.

It means recognition of authority in high places, a government that is determined to govern and not to be pulled and pushed by policy makers within the public service.

It means, finally, recognition by the Canadian people that there is someone at the top who knows the problems and has more than a vague idea about what the solutions ought to be; and a willingness and intestinal capacity to put the solutions into effect no matter how unpalatable to a noisy few.

Name it

That's not a bad idea of Baird McNeill's, to rename Russell Township, Castor Township. The name's got a nice ring to it and has more local significance than the existing title.

The word "castor" is pregnant with meaning. Not only is it the name of the river which links the township's two main communities, Russell Village and Embrun, it's French for beaver, that industrious creature that doubles as Canada's national animal.

Just because Peter Russell, an administrator of the government of Upper Canada, a recognized slave dealer and land grabber, thought he was doing us a favor by giving his name to this neck of the woods, not once but three times, that doesn't mean we have to go along with it forever.

Let's face it, confusion is the only result of having the county, the township and a village within both all named Russell. The confusion could certainly be eased by renaming at least one of the trio.

Baird has asked for public input on the Castor Township suggestion. We're inviting it as well and would love to receive your views for publication in future issues.

While you're at it, what do you think of returning to Duncanville instead of Russell Village in honor of community co-founder William Duncan. The evidence seems to indicate the village was never officially re-named anyway, so such a change would probably be quite uncomplicated.

Power inequity

Sir Adam Beck had a dream. His dream was cheap power for the consumers of Ontario. It is a dream no longer shared by his successors at Ontario Hydro.

Growing uneasiness in the province over apparently contradictory policies and pyramiding costs at Ontario Hydro have resulted in a legislative inquiry which brought out that Hydro had embarked on costly and ambitious building programs without bothering to consult the legislature. At least one major project has been mothballed on orders from Queens Park.

Hydro's pursuit of nuclear energy projects has added very large amounts to the agency's indebtedness. And all of this has been passed on to the householder in one hydro increase after another.

What concerns us here is the inequity of a rate structure which leaves the ordinary householder and particularly the rural householder, facing very large hydro bills and in a real sense, subsidizing Hydro projects about which he hasn't been consulted and about which he has little or no information.

Leslie Frost's policy of rural electrification brought very real benefits and a large measure of prosperity to rural Ontario. This is now being siphoned away by Hydro rates which impinge heavily on the rural subscriber and are cushioned when it comes to big industrial users in Metro Toronto.

Why the householder in both urban and rural centres should be called on to help pay for lighting and heating high-rise towers in downtown Toronto, heating swimming pools in Mimico, air conditioners, humidifiers and electric blenders in Eglinton and Don Valley, baffles the imagination.

It is time for a hydro rate structure which puts the onus where the onus ought to be, on the heavy users and not on those for whom electrical energy is not a matter of frills and conveniences but a matter of essentials.