

**Terrace Bay  
Schreiber**

# News

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Editor ..... Ken Lusk  
Advertising ..... Betty St. Amand  
Office ..... Gayle Fournier

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## Canadian citizenship

In 1987, Canada will mark the 40th anniversary of Canadian citizenship. What should we be celebrating?

More than a law marking a stage in our growth to full nationhood. More even than our own rights and freedoms and responsibilities as citizens. We are celebrating Canada.

We are celebrating a diverse land with overwhelming space framed by three oceans, mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, rock and a road that always leads beyond the far horizon.

Far more than the beauty of nature, we are celebrating the people of this land. Some came thousands of years ago. For others, arrival is still a new adventure. It is people who gave to Canada a unity born from diversity, and a character which makes the country and its citizenship special for all who share it.

Sometimes we see our achievements by the mark we have made in the political or cultural world, in peace and in war. Or we recall the inventions that Canadians have made to enrich the life of humankind.

Perhaps even more important than these is the quiet history we have made for ourselves. Without internal wars and revolutions we have learned how diverse people can live together in peace and human tolerance, harvest their resources and build a society not quite like any other.

Canada is a land whose geography and history were made for diversity, but it has been the people who have made the respect for difference into a special art. We may be shaped in part by the fields, or seashores or skyscrapers or tundra outside our door, and we have come to learn why neighbours with windows on a different scene can think differently and still be our friends.

We are a bilingual nation: whatever our language we know that others speak a different tongue and are no less Canadian for it.

## Drinking a concern

**Open letter to the premier of Ontario - to the editor:**

We, the members of the Involved Parents Group of Gananoque, Lansdowne and District, wish to oppose some of the recommendations of the Ontario Advisory Committee on Liquor Regulation released March 3, 1987, at Queen's Park.

We too would aim for "individual responsibility and moderation in the consumption of beverage alcohol."

However, we believe that liberalization of liquor laws, specifically, extension of hours for licenced premises, patrons being allowed to bring their own beverage alcohol to restaurants, 24-hour room service and de-regulation of some Special Occasion Permits IS NOT RESPONSIBLE.

Our area in Eastern Ontario spends it's share of the estimated 1/2-billion dollars cost of alcohol abuse in the Health Care, Social Welfare, Law En-



## Letters to the editor

forcement and reduced productivity problems.

The legislation to reduce the alcohol age from 21 to 18 to 19 a few years ago effectively put legal consumption of alcohol into the high school age group. In that age group, peer pressure dictates that if friends do it, it's OK for me (age 19 is not the measure).

This same students' peer pressure is resulting in alcohol consumption at the public school age level.

Our community is only one of many which is suffering from the epidemic of underage alcoholing. In October, 1985, we lost three students in an alcohol-related car crash.

At the inquest of these deaths, the coroner's jury recommended that the alcoholing age be raised to 21 and that there be stricter controls on the sale of alcohol.

The Leeds and Grenville Board of Education (Nov. 25, 1985) passed three resolutions, 1) legal alcoholing

age be raised to age 21, 2) the sale of beer and wine should not be permitted in grocery stores, 3) Government review lifestyle advertising of beer and wine.

In this province now, millions of dollars are spent in prevention programmes for students and adults alike (VIP, SADD, alcohol and Drug education, etc.).

Many groups such as ours have formed to find the ways to protect our children and ourselves from further pain and cost brought about by alcohol.

We believe that liberalized liquor laws do not "reflect the attitudes and expectations of the public".

We feel so committed to opposing liberalization of liquor laws that we are also sending this letter to 240 weekly newspapers across Ontario.

We will also address the Gananoque Town Council with the hopes of seeing a resolution sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Terry Tucker  
president.

## Torchbearers selected soon

**Almost 7 million apply to run**

The contest to carry the Olympic Torch on its cross-Canada odyssey to open the XV Olympic Games next February could be the largest contest in Canadian history, OCO '88 and Petro-Canada announced.

A total of 6,624,582 applications

have been collected from Petro-Canada stations across Canada and Gulf service stations west of Quebec.

Applications are now being sorted in warehouses in Toronto and Calgary see torch page 15

## Arthur Black

**By Arthur Black**

As I type these words, Rick Hansen's round the world odyssey is almost over and I'm glad for a number of reasons.

I'm glad that a man who has wheeled his chair over blank miles of roads in blank countries will be able to wake up in his own bed and not face another day of loose gravel, bone-jarring potholes, sore arms and several hours of sucking in auto exhaust.

I'm glad that Rick Hansen's mom will know, for the first time in blank years, that her boy is home safe and not rocketing down some mountain road in a faraway land at the mercy of poor medical facilities, quirky governments and sneaky thieves prepared to steal anything from baseball caps to wheelchair parts.

I'm glad for all the doctors and scientists involved in spinal injury research who have received a multi-million dollars shot in the arm thanks to Rick Hansen's efforts.

I'm glad for all the wheelchair-bound people everywhere who can now point to Rick Hansen and say "See? We're not vegetables."

People in wheelchairs can do things that you folks with four sound limbs wouldn't dream of tackling. Show some respect!"

Finally, I'm glad for the rest of us that Rick Hansen's trip is coming to an end because maybe now we can spend a little time relaxing without worrying about what's coming down the Trans Canada next.

Don't get me wrong, I love a parade as much as the next person, but these cross-Canada crusades are getting just a touch out of hand.

When Terry Fox tried it, it was an impossible, glorious dream. Steve Fonyo proved it could be done with one good leg. Rick's proved it's achievable in a wheelchair... now could we just give the entire concept a rest?

There are veritable swarms of special interest would-be media darlings walking, jogging, hopping, cycling, pogo-sticking and otherwise propelling themselves along the shoulder of the Trans Canada highway. It's most un-Canadian.

If it was happening south of the border, it wouldn't be worth mentioning. I mean, a few years ago,

a Baptist lay preacher by the name of Hans Mulliken *crawled* 1,600 miles from Marshall, Texas to the White House in Washington. Back in 1980 a guy covered the 3,008 miles between Los Angeles and Bowen, Kentucky wearing a pair of stilts. In 1984 two women ran from Boston on the east coast to L.A. on the west, wearing out twelve pairs of shoes apiece in the process -- heck, way back in 1931 an American by the name of Plennie Wingo took a year and a half off work and walked from Santa Monica, California to Istanbul in Turkey.

*Backwards.*

But all of the above occurred, as I say, south of the border. We expect that kind of loony obsession with trivialities from our American cousins.

But here? In cautious, good, grey Canada? Never.

And yet it's happening. Right at this moment on the shoulder of some highway or byway, somewhere between the wheatfields of Manitoba and the rugged crags of the Rockies, a man in a kilt and sporran is plodding towards the sunset.

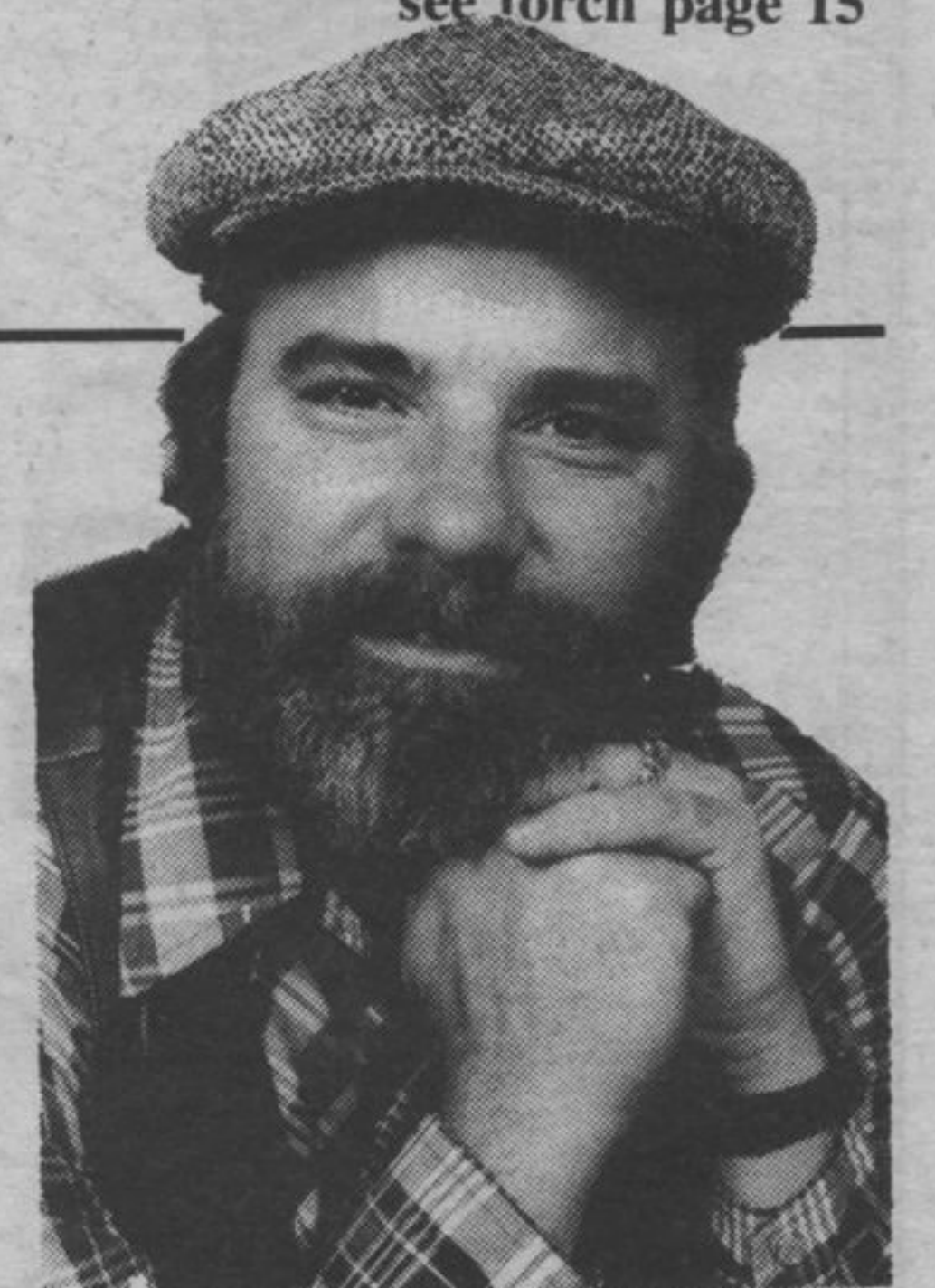
The man's name is Daniel Smith and as he walks he plays... the bagpipes. Smith has been zigzagging across North America, puffing and wheezing on his musical instrument of torture for the past two years. Why the bagpipes? Well, Smith is of Scottish descent and he wanted something to do while he strolled across the continent. "I wanted to play something more melodic," said Smith. "I often wish it wasn't something so loud."

A sentiment no doubt heartily shared by the citizenry of the many towns and hamlets he's piped himself through.

But Daniel Smith isn't alone on the road out there. Any day now he'll draw abreast of a man heading the other way. That'll be Bill Sharpe, a 65-year-old millwright from Pine Falls, Manitoba. Bill's got his wife Marion tooting along in the family Winnebago just behind him. They hope to reach Grand Falls, Newfoundland before the snow flies in the fall.

Purpose of Bill Sharpe's trip? To promote the Canadian forest industry.

Bill says Canadians don't ap-



preciate the importance of our trees.

Well... that's true. But with all due respect, Bill, what has walking across the country got to do with forest consciousness?

I mean, where does this end? Will soap manufacturers sponsor a long distance runner to jog across the country promoting awareness of Ring Around the Collar? Can we expect to see sinewy-legged marathoners in gym shorts traversing our Dominion to awaken a slumbering populace to the threat of athlete's foot?

I have to run now. I'm in training for my own cross-country trek. I'm trying to stir up national concern about the scandalous state of my personal finances.

All donations gratefully accepted. Tax receipts on request.