

Neither do I 'go to church'

Granby, Quebec, has a controversial new by-law that restricts noise on Sunday. Fines of between \$150 and \$1000 are aimed at "the minority of people who don't respect their neighbours", those who work on noisy building and repair projects on the first day of the week.

A counter-petition has been launched by Sebastien Ouellet. "We live in a new economic reality", he says. "If I can get work I can't afford to turn down a job. Hardly anybody goes to church anymore on Sundays". Neither does Claire Hoy, my columnist neighbour. "I stopped going to church years ago", he said on this page two weeks ago.

Nor do I 'go to church' either. I do attend the Eucharist and various devotions in buildings where churches meet.

A church is a community of people, not a place. Through profession of faith and baptism I am part of the Universal Church. I do not simply attend it. Similarly, I neither attend nor patronise Canada. I am part of it. I participate in its life, accepting tolerantly those aspects of it that, if the choice were mine alone, I might like to change. So it is with the Church.

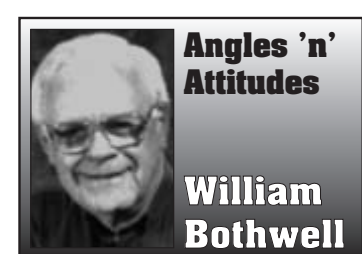
Some call the last Sunday of this month 'Back to Church Sunday'. There are those who have been absent for much of the summer and there are those who should be reminded to return. My former student, Fr Douglas Anderson (ODSS 1987), pastor of St James Church, Texarkana, Texas, calls it EPIC (Every Person in Church) Sunday. Shepherds, too, need to have round-ups.

No Christian need hesitate to assess the Church critically any more than any Jew should ignore the faults of the State of Israel. As a rabbinic friend says, it is the People of Israel, not primarily the state, that matter. The Second Vatican Council echoed that by defining the Church as the People of God, what the Book of Common Prayer calls "the blessed company of all faithful people". The words "I have other sheep that are not part of this flock" challenge all narrow dogmatists.

Too many people confuse their own definition of the Church with what C.S. Lewis called Basic Christianity. And some aspects of "the institution" are open to question. Rightly or wrongly, many

see it as an overbearing teacher, even as a policeman, rather than as *alma mater*, a nourishing mother. Nor do its ministers and members always remind people of those whom Chaucer called "Christ and his apostles twelve".

Claire Hoy, who is seldom very happy about anything, targeted the "United Church of Canada" which is no longer all that united and has never been the influential national force that some of its founders hoped would "fire warning shots across the bows of any government". The Canadian Council of



Angles 'n' Attitudes

William Bothwell

(Roman) Catholic Bishops takes better aim. But governments have long since reminded church leaders that politicians do not urge revision of the Creeds, so nether should bishops, (rabbis or mullahs) expect a decisive voice in affairs of state.

The Church's influence should come from its rank and file members who have the expertise and responsibility in various areas that the clergy, by and large, lack. Ordination, like a teaching certificate or a union card, does not convey either omniscience or great wisdom. It does not catapult one into either the mandarin class or the Brahmin caste. Dr Derwyn Owen, Provost of Trinity College, Toronto, once answered a seminarian's question, "What causes anti-clericalism?" by saying, "I think it may be clericalism". Bernard Shaw said that the Church should practise the humility it preaches. Undue dogmatism is as off-putting to mature, educated and intelligent people as is academic, political or managerial arrogance. Pastors are teachers but "when you're a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught". The best captain is not the whole team.

This space is inclined to think that the great Roman Church, although still in schism from Eastern Orthodox Catholicism, should recognise that a New Reformation is in progress. As in 16th Century Western Europe, and while we await an 'aggiornamento' in the Eastern churches, some

turbulence is indicated. It is to be hoped that the highly centralised (and some would contend 'unreformed') Roman Curia will not return to the pre-Second Vatican Council exclusiveness and triumphalism that ultra-conservatives might wish. The Church, is *semper reformanda*, always in need of reform.

Meanwhile, there are Roman, Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed and Independent church communities plus many schismatic sects. Whether the majority Roman rite can be an effective and reconciling Mother Church for the People of God remains to be seen. Its most thoughtful would-be reformer, Fr Hans Kung, is officially *persona non grata*.

It would be a mistake to overemphasise the conservatism of the Vatican. A world-wide, multicultural Church needs strong central direction as well as broad ecumenical outlook. The late Cardinal Emmett Carter said that the problem of working with the Anglican Communion was that it has so many voices but no visible head. A Jesuit who prefers anonymity remarked, "There is also the problem of having only one voice that does not always speak for all the faithful".

While doctrine develops, truth is not decided by majority votes. That is the Anglican weakness. The problem increases when the synods of the national churches - or even different bishops within them - reach divergent conclusions and act independently of the "Communion".

Claire Hoy noted the impending "extinction" of the United Church due, he said, to its political and theological radicalism. It calls itself Canada's largest Protestant denomination but whereas Protestantism values a firm Biblically-based faith above large numbers it is basically a non-confessional, congregational alliance. Rome has the united 'persona' and the world-wide constituency.

Dufferin County will likely have a mosque and a synagogue before the churches learn to cooperate. The fact is that their pastors and leading supporters do not meet or even wish to know one another. Still, more people worship at churches every week than attend all sporting, cultural and other public events combined. They are a potentially significant presence among us.

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Ignatieff is making a terrible tactical blunder

For reasons known only to Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff and his close advisors, the country is about to be plunged into its fourth election in five years. Ignatieff, of course, declared last week that the "time is up" for Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government. "The Liberal party cannot support this government any longer. We will hold Stephen Harper to account. We will oppose his government in Parliament."

This is the same Michael Ignatieff who, in June, pooh-poohed calls from the NDP to topple the government, saying then that Canadians are in no mood for an election. Now, according to him, we can hardly wait. Arithmetic being what it is, Ignatieff can't topple the Tories by himself. He needs help from the NDP AND the Bloc Quebecois. That's because the Tories have 143 seats - just a dozen shy of a majority - while the Liberals have 77, the Bloc, 48, and the NDP, 36.

The Bloc - which promotes Quebec separatism and runs only in that province - are likely in as strong a position to hold their own as anybody is. And since it's unlikely they'd want to support Harper - or any federalist party, for that matter - Ignatieff may be able to count on their support. NDP Leader Jack Layton has been talking tough since the last election, attacking the Liberals for propping up the Tories, but with his poll numbers down, and his personal popularity not exactly soaring, it's not a given that he'll want to head into a campaign at the moment.

But let's suppose he does. Then the question becomes what has changed in less than two months in Ignatieff's view that warrants another election? According to the Liberals, Harper has been "irresponsible" in handling the ongoing global fiscal crisis. Liberals unveiled a series of election-type television commercials this week trying to make the case that Ignatieff would trump Harper in dealing with our problems. Typically, alas, Ignatieff restricts himself to telling us that Harper isn't doing the job right, while studiously avoiding any specifics about just what - if anything - he would do differently.

Unfortunately for Ignatieff, the truth is that if anything has changed since June - when he said we didn't need an election - the economy has improved dramatically. Whether this can be credited to Harper is another question - although if Liberals are going to blame him for a world-wide economy downturn, they have to credit him when it improves. But the lat-

est employment statistics, while not overwhelming, show that for the first time in a long time the number of jobs actually increased in Canada.

According to most economic forecasts, in fact, the economic outlook for the rest of this year looks even more promising.

Ignatieff is highly critical of Harper's current deficit - as are fiscal conservatives such as your correspondent - but apparently they forget, or want you to forget, that not long ago they were promoting an unholy coalition pact with the NDP, Bloc and themselves to essentially overturn the results of the last election because, they screamed, Harper wasn't prepared to spend enough of your money on recovery projects.

So which is it? Is he a bad prime minister because he is more fiscally responsible than Ignatieff would be? Or is he a bad prime minister because he's not fiscally responsible enough? Either way, it's a tough question for Ignatieff to get around, given his own previous stances on the subject. Remember, the last election was less than a year ago - Oct. 14 for those of you keeping score - and every political poll shows that Canadians are not anxious to have another one any time soon.

The Tory claim that an election now would hurt the ongoing recovery, while self-serving for them, actually makes a lot of sense as well.

Here's a prediction. Despite the fact that polls have generally shown that the Tories and Liberals are fairly even in public esteem - which is to say, not particularly high - Ignatieff is making a terrible tactical blunder in hoping to force an election nobody wants or needs, particularly in the absence of any overriding issue which could justify it.

What Ignatieff's unadulterated lust for power above all else may do, however, is create a political backlash against him to the point that voters say to themselves that "enough is enough" and opt for a majority so that we can have some stability in Ottawa. And with Harper just 12 shy of a majority - compared to Ignatieff's need to double his seat total - surely the odds of hitting majority status favour Harper.

Who knows, perhaps Ignatieff really is more anxious than we know to get out of Ottawa and head back south to his cushy teaching job at Harvard, where he can pontificate without having to convince anybody that he's a genius.

Sun Power Solutions

Childhood games are more meaningful than one would think. I well remember the fun I used to have with a magnifying glass focusing sunlight on a piece of paper and watching it eventually burst into flame. Looking back this was an indication of the power of the sun and a good example of a potential alternative energy source as we look ahead toward additional power to run the world in the future.

The most recent National Geographic has a major article on sun power and the technology being used in various places to convert it to every day purposes, "Plugging into the Sun" (Sept 2009). A subhead summarizes the potential, "Sunlight bathes us in far more energy than we could ever need - if we could just catch enough".

The article emphasizes two major directions being examined. Much has been written about photo-voltaics, the direct use of solar panels to provide heat and electricity locally. The second idea is redirection of the sun's rays using mirrors to concentrate energy, creating steam for operation of turbines hence generation of electricity.

A friend living on Manitoulin Island added a solarium adjacent to the kitchen on the south side of their house. Solar panels added heat below ground warming up the stone floor.

On a bright sunny winter day windows in the kitchen were opened providing heat through most of the house, and the solarium was kept from freezing year round facilitating an early start to vegetable seedlings for planting into the garden. I have written before about Rizhad a Chinese city of 3 million people which is largely self contained for electri-

cally heated water using photo-voltaics (State of the World, 2007). Use of solar panels on roof tops has a great potential for hot water heating anywhere in the world, minimizing the use of electricity in offices and other urban and rural buildings. One picture in the National Geographic shows workers installing 14 acres of warehouse roof with lightweight photovoltaics providing a power source for 1300 homes.

A major project in southern Spain has established mirrors to "catch some of the 120 quadrillion watts of sunlight that constantly fall on Earth". Mirrors are programmed to rotate reflecting the sun's rays during the day so as to focus on oil-filled pipes which heat water creating steam to turn turbines and provide electricity. An American project has 182,000 curved mirrors on 250 acres of the Mojave Desert programmed to follow the sun and focus light beams on a solar tower providing electricity for the national grid, enough to supply the needs of 14,000 homes. There have been thoughts of utilizing the Sahara desert, an area larger than the U.S., for solar panels with electricity transported below the Mediterranean to Europe.

The major problem with any source of alternative energy is continuous supply. Solar energy obviously operates during daylight hours. Supply is a technical concern but storage of electricity for supply during hours of darkness is a more serious problem. The National Geographic article describes some efforts for storing heat in molten salt. Storage in batteries is cumbersome hence limiting for long range vehicle travel.

Considerable research is going into hydrogen for the next generation of vehicles which emit no car-



From the Global Classroom

Doug Skeates

bon dioxide. When they are finally successful in producing cars running on liquid hydrogen much excess electricity will be utilized separating water into hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen can be liquidized, stored and distributed to supply our energy needs.

Solar energy is apparently one of the most promising directions for us to take as the supply of fossil fuels diminishes. Wind power, energy from tides, heat from geothermal sources are others while global effort is going into natural energy production such as ethanol, biomass, cellululosic biodiesel and oil from Jatropha seeds.

As previously noted the future promises to supply unlimited quantities of non-polluting energy such as power from the sun. Technology must concentrate on the task of storing such energy and the even greater development of distribution systems having adequate capacity for use in homes, offices, industries and many millions of vehicles.

The world of the 22nd century will undoubtedly be much different to that to which we are accustomed today.

Your Weekly Chuckle . . .

By KEITH HUNTER

HE: "Ouch! I've just been stung by a bee!"

SHE: "You'd better put something on it."

HE: "I can't. It flew away."

Dipping Into the Past

Public meeting favoured Proton township joining the County of Dufferin



transferred by men and wheelbarrows.

A quartet of Shelburne young men undertook to do some gambling in the rear of a building on Owen Sound Street a week ago Sunday. Whether the stakes were large or small we don't know, but anyway proceedings were taken against them. The case did not get as far as the time scheduled for appearance in court before Police Magistrate George Rutherford, for the young men pleaded guilty and threw themselves on the clemency of the court. The Magistrate imposed a fine \$4.00 and costs on each member of the quartet.

Sunday gambling doesn't pay.

Wednesday afternoon of last week the west wing of the parliament building in Toronto was discovered to be on fire. It was not until after 4:00 p.m. the fire was got under control. The loss is estimated at between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

75 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, September 13, 1934

Legislation designed to relieve municipalities of highway taxation levies and free counties from paying 20% of capital and maintenance costs on highways was announced last week by Premier Mitchell Hepburn.

Spending scandals seldom an election issue

For decades, Ontario governments have allowed many they engage to live a high life on the public payroll, and at least until now they've been able to get away with it.

All parties in government, now including Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberals, have failed to prevent many of those who are already overpaid in public posts from billing taxpayers for golf club memberships, filet mignon steaks and babysitters throughout the 46 years this writer has covered the legislature, but this never has been a major issue in a dozen elections.

This in no way excuses the Liberals, and voters should consider it among reasons for turfing them out in the 2011 election, but it shows how easy it has been to fail to protect taxpayers and escape the consequences.

Governments allowing many they appoint to agencies - the current main concern - and elected politicians and civil servants to live lavishly off taxpayers is as much a tradition as ringing the bells to start legislature sessions.

William Davis, premier from 1971 to 1985, appointed the autocratic TV interviewer Adrienne Clarkson, later an autocratic governor general, as the province's agent-general in Paris, where she threw receptions Louis XIV would have considered lavish.

Davis hired almost every Conservative lawyer and public relations man in Toronto as a consultant and gave contracts to friends without offering them to tender, as McGuinty's Liberals have now been found doing. When one of his ministers, Doug Wiseman, protested, the premier solved the problem by firing the interfering busybody.

Such abuse went unnoticed in the four elections Davis won by maintaining that only his Conservatives, with their sharp eye for business and saving money, could keep the economy strong.

After he left, Liberal premier David Peterson, a habitué of the arts scene, appointed David Silcox, a mover and shaker in it, as deputy minister of culture, but he became known as "Diamond Dave" and spent \$65,000 in 18 months on travel and entertainment on top of a handsome salary.

When Peterson appointed the former well-connected federal mandarin Bernard Ostry as chair of

TVOntario, he ran up \$74,000-a-year travel and business expenses and explained haughtily when asked why he also needed a government car and driver who picked up his wife's laundry, "I am not in the welfare business."

These and other Peterson generosity to those he liked were not mentioned in the 1990 election, which Peterson lost mainly because he called it a year early and spent too much time trying to placate Quebec in Confederation, in which Ontarians had lost interest.

The winner, New Democrat premier Bob Rae, felt keeping public servants in such luxury would not appeal to his supporters, who thought they were living high when they bought a hamburger at McDonald's.

But he was not penny-pinching with friends and paid Ontario Hydro chairman Maurice Strong, a former business entrepreneur with whom he became a strange bedfellow, nearly \$100,000 expenses a year on top of his \$425,000 salary, and a deputy minister crony \$102,000 expenses in two years.

These were not mentioned in the 2000 election the NDP lost, because opponents had bigger targets, its \$10-billion-plus annual budget deficits.

The last Conservative premier, Ernie Eves, fired a minister because he spent too freely dining and dining, but lost an election mainly because his predecessor, Mike Harris, had weakened services.

In the 2007 election, McGuinty's Liberals already were seen lax in supervising spending, particularly because programs for needy children were short of funds while their supervisors trundled around in costly SUVs, but the Conservatives' proposal to fund faith-based schools dominated.

Voters often have lost interest in such excessive spending when elections come around, feeling all parties permit it anyway, and issues of wider impact come up to supersede it.

But the Liberals have been scared more than any government before by being caught in three major scandals involving those in public posts billing taxpayers for such extras as Weight-watcher's memberships and chewing gum, and governments will find it harder to get away with it in future.

125 YEARS AGO
Thursday, September 11, 1884

A public meeting was held last Friday evening in Dundalk to discuss the question of having Proton township annexed to the County of Dufferin. Many good reasons were advanced for the proposed step. The meeting decided in favour and a committee was appointed to wait upon County Council at its next session to have the scheme consummated.

The CPR's new timetable, which took effect Monday, calls for the mail train from Toronto to leave at 7:20 a.m. and reach Orangeville at 9:50, Shelburne at 10:45 and Owen Sound at 1:00 p.m. The express leaves Toronto at 4:40 p.m. reaching Orangeville at 7:05, Shelburne at 8:03 and Owen Sound at 10:20 p.m. The mixed train leaves Charleston at 11:45 a.m., reaching Owen Sound at 7:15 p.m. Southbound trains leave Owen Sound at 5:20 a.m., 6:30 and 3:10 p.m. The express reaches Toronto at 10:45 a.m., while the mixed train reaches Charleston at

1:30 p.m., and the evening express arrives in Toronto at 8:35 p.m.

About 125 members of the British Association passed up the CPR last Saturday. They are making a trip to the Rockies.

100 YEARS AGO
Thursday, September 9, 1909

A very handsome memorial window was placed in St. Mark's Church, Orangeville, on Monday, by James Hewitt, in honour and memory of his late wife, who died about two months ago. The window is extremely heavy, cost in the neighbourhood of \$200 and is being placed in the rear end of the edifice.

The Superior Portland Cement Co. is building an additional slurry tank. When it is ready for use the management expects to lay off its marl train on Sunday. Heretofore it has been necessary to keep the train running every day of the week. A belt conveyor has also been installed for the purpose of carrying clay to the wash mills. The clay was formerly

Under this legislation the entire cost of provincial highway construction will be borne by the government.

A Toronto daily the other day carried excellent photographs of Neil McCormick and Charles Dyer of Hillsburgh, successful old-time fiddlers at the CNE. Now 77, Mr. McCormick won the medal and first prize in the 75 and over class and Mr. Dyer won first in the class 65 to 75 years.

Principal J. H. Short and his teaching staff at Shelburne High School have a large contract on their hands at present. The enrolment at the beginning of this week was 151 students, 57 of which are in Form I. This is an unprecedented attendance and has made the addition of another teacher imperative. We understand the Form will be divided into two parts when the extra teacher is secured. Principal Short asked us Tuesday to announce that it will help greatly if all prospective students who have not yet registered do so at once.

50 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, September 9, 1909

Attendance at Grand Valley District High School reached a record high when 124 pupils registered on Tuesday of last week.

At a special meeting of Orangeville Council a motion was adopted by a vote of 4-3 to rescind the parking meter bylaw that was recently passed. As a result, action on installing the meters has been held up pending further discussion between council and the retail merchants.

25 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, September 12, 1984

Last week's federal election resulted in a Conservative landslide even greater than the Diefenbaker sweep in 1958. The Liberals have their lowest number of MPs in history, with 40 of the 282 seats. In Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe, incumbent Perrin Beatty won all 207 polls, garnering 30,813 votes, to 7,652 for Liberal John Green and 6,650 for Sandy Young of the NDP.