

Time now to forget

Remember, remember,
The fifth of November,
The gunpowder treason and plot.
There's truly no reason
Why the gunpowder treason
Ever should be forgot.

What was that all about? It was about a planned act of terrorism that should now be forgotten. Guy Fawkes Day is still 'celebrated' in England by fireworks and the burning of an effigy of the villain. Dangerously zealous partisans are still with us and have tightened the borders of North America. Their fanaticism should not be allowed to create epidemic suspicion and fear.

Here's the background story. In 1527 King Henry VIII and the then Pope began their fateful feud. It was over the annulment of a marriage, not a divorce. Annulments were and are possible under proper conditions. Henry had, irregularly but with special permission, in 1509 married his deceased brother's espoused wife, Princess Catherine of Aragon. As the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, she was considered to be a 'catch' for the Tudor dynasty.

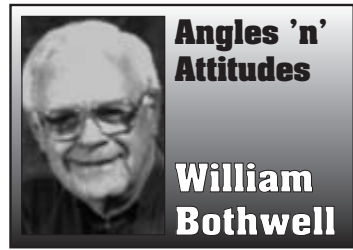
During the next 18 years, although there had been illegitimate male issue, Henry still needed a lawful son in order to avoid repetition of the wars of succession that had plagued England's recent past. It was not thought that a woman could rule the country. Henry's theological training, planned to prepare him to be his brother's (Catholic) Archbishop of Canterbury, convinced him that the lack of a Prince of Wales was a judgment upon him for his irregular marriage. He sought an annulment. For purely political reasons the Pope denied it.

What followed has been much argued and divisive. The king's supporters argued from the independence that early emperors and bishops had asserted against the bishops of Rome. The papal claim to universal jurisdiction and the right to interfere in secular affairs did not predate the 12th Century. It was never recognised universally, as the Orthodox churches of the East attest to this day.

Moreover, by the 'Vincentian canon' of the 5th Century scholar St Vincent of Lerins, the Catholic faith (as opposed to heresy) had been defined as "that which has always and everywhere been believed by all". The Latin words were "sem-

per, ubique et ab omnibus". The authority of the Roman popes had never been so acknowledged.

Now, fast forward to Pope Pius V who in 1570 excommunicated 'the bastard' Queen Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn, and released her subjects from their duty of civil obedience. She had tried to reconcile Catholics and Calvinists in their contrary designs for the Church of England. She refused, "to make windows into men's souls". About the controversial definition (since 1215) of the doctrine of the transubstantiation of



Angles 'n' Attitudes

William Bothwell

the Eucharistic bread (and wine) she said conservatively,

*His were the lips that spake it,
His were the hands that brake it
And what His word doth make it,
That I believe and take it.*

Pope Pius's action, now agreed to have been unwise, aggravated the centuries-old resentment of Rome's religio-political interference in England's internal affairs and led to further violent action and reaction.

Elizabeth was succeeded by James I whose Catholic mother, Mary, Queen of Scots, she had executed. He was prepared to allow wider religious freedom as long as his own Divine Right and the Apostolic Right of Bishops were not challenged. The papal 'fatwa' was still in place and radical Protestants rejected episcopal authority.

Political and religion loyalties continued to clash. A new session of Parliament was scheduled to open at Westminster in November, 1605. Five Roman Catholic conspirators led by Robert Catesby smuggled enough gunpowder into the cellars of the Palace of Westminster to blow up the King and Parliament during the Speech from the Throne.

Their Jesuit confessor, knowing the plan, decided not to break the seal of the

confessional by divulging it. Some sympathisers were, however, warned not to attend the opening. In that way word got to the authori-

ties. The cellars were searched and on 5 November one of the terrorists, Guy Fawkes, was caught there. The plans for 5 / 11 did not result as tragically as did those of 9 / 11 four centuries later.

As with modern conspirators, the penalties were severe. Catesby, Fawkes and three other plotters were tortured and hanged in medieval fashion. The Jesuit priests involved died bravely as "martyrs" but not so honourably as did their French brothers in Huronia a generation later.

The Vatican has long since abjured violent crusades and conspiracies. Cardinal Walter Kasper, its chief ecumenical officer, has recently celebrated the growing understanding among separated Christians in a book, *Harvesting the Fruits: Basic Aspects of Ecumenical Dialogue*. He does, however, admit that there are still roadblocks caused by differences about those qualified to be ordained and the authentic interpretation of Scripture.

The recent concordat tendered to Anglicans was in response to a request from some members of that Communion.

Meanwhile, ultra-conservative Roman Catholics hope to reverse the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962 - 65). Their determination is evident not only in the dissident Society of St Pius X but also in other pressure groups that advocate a return to "the Old Church". But the motto "Semper eadem" ("Always the same") is not that of "Behold, I am making all things new".

Not the least of the problems is the still unreformed Roman Curia and what theologian Gregory Baum recently called Pope Benedict XVI's "wavering" between old-style Vatican aggressiveness and ecumenical dialogue.

But between his innate conservatism and unresolved tensions within the Church he is trying to keep "the Barque of Peter" on a straight course. His may be the world leadership role that demands most vision, integrity and diplomacy other than those of Messrs Obama of the U.S.A. and Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations.

Three things are overdue. One is reform within the Roman Curia. The second is the disestablishment of the Church of England and abolition of the necessity for the monarch to adhere to it. Thirdly, let Guy Fawkes now be forgotten.

Limiting our Tolerance

Unfortunately we as a society have become quite blasé about pollution. News broadcasts about polluting situations are disquieting but we have become used to them. Where is the protest movement when we are informed by the medical authorities that we experience 1500 premature deaths annually due to poor air quality in Toronto? We know the government has said it is closing down coal fired electrical plants, and we can expect a reduction in emissions in our atmosphere - sometime.

A Globe and Mail article Oct. 12th (A Big Mess - Andy Hoffman) focuses on deadly mine spoils in Newfoundland. A mining company sold its polluted property to Barrick Gold, but recently local people "...were warned to get tested for lead poisoning, vaulting the issue onto our national stage." That was a news item last week, already forgotten. At least this issue pertains to troubles from industrial malpractice in Canada so we find it featured in our media here. Will there be an outcry?

I had a community forestry project a few years ago in Guyana. The people living in the small community of Wikki about 100 miles south of the coast along the Berbice River were highly dependent on the river for drinking water and fish protein. The area also opened up for a company mining ore for the aluminum industry. Barge loads of ore cruised by the village each day. Wave action destroyed the banks of the river while churning up the mud bottom. The village lost both its source of potable water and a major supply of fish for food. Needless to say a Canadian company had a significant input into the process.

We also learned of a Canadian mining company in eastern Guyana which experienced a serious spill when a settling pond burst its banks releasing a large amount of cyanide into a local river. Presumably the pollution would eventually become diluted and hopefully the drinking water would become less toxic for human consumption. Of course all aquatic life on which the local population depended was destroyed. While we read about such occurrences in local newspapers we doubted the subject would hit the Canadian media or if it did it would only be of momentary interest. Out of sight; out of mind.

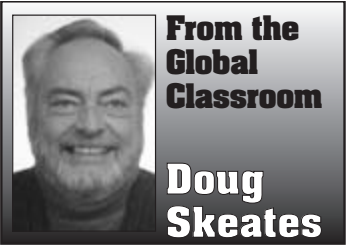
Some years ago I visited the lakefront property of a uranium mining company in Port Hope and was shown "Danger Radiation" signs. Apparently nuclear waste material had been dumped into the lake into what became a harbour for touring boats from Lake Ontario. Many of these portable homes housed children who swam in the shallow water often kicking up radiation polluted soil from the bottom.

A friend on Manitoulin Island traveled roads and towns along the north shore of Lake Huron. Wherever he went he carried his Geiger counter and not surprisingly identified many waste dumps from uranium mining. He was especially concerned with old dump sites unknown to local people in places where children were playing unaware of their exposure to radiation material. There was even one occasion when he recorded high readings in coastal waters near his home town of Kagawong as currents along the coast changed course. There are high occurrences of cancer deaths among miners retired from uranium mining in Elliot Lake many

years earlier. There have been many accounts over the years of adverse effects of mine wastes on local human populations, especially where rivers have carried pollution of old dumps through villages downstream endangering water supplies. Many industrial leaders have felt that our air and water were appropriate places to dispose of wastes. But the real story is the general attitude of Canadians shrugging their shoulders just accepting the fact.

From a global perspective Canadians appear even less concerned with the performance of our companies abroad. Health hazards and deaths incurred because of the uncaring attitude of industry in other parts of the world is something we cannot afford to ignore.

Canada should be taking a leadership role, presenting examples of sound environmental practices. Mismanagement either at home or abroad should not be tolerated not only from a humanitarian point of view but also as this does nothing to enhance our image in other lands.



From the Global Classroom

Doug Skeates

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Your Weekly Chuckle . . .

By KEITH HUNTER

"Doctor, I keep seeing spots before my eyes."

"But why have you come to me? Have you seen an ophthalmologist?"

"No, just spots."

Dipping Into the Past

Stolen ballot boxes delayed official count in temperance vote

outrage was sworn and given to Chief Constable Sam Speers and night-watchman James Halbert to execute. About 10 p.m. the officers saw Cook in the store whittling a stick with a jackknife. When he resisted arrest, Halbert struck at the knife with his baton and seizing Cook shoved him over on a table. The desperado slashed at the constable with the knife, cutting the wrist strap and terribly injuring Halbert, whose right wrist was half severed, the radial artery and ligaments completely so, while his thumb hung useless. Cook then seized the officer's baton, dashed through the door, defied the

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Why not just relax and enjoy it?

With Prince Charles and his wife Camilla currently visiting Canada, the usual suspects, i.e. the champions of Republicanism, are working overtime attempting to convince us all that we'd be better off without having any formal ties whatsoever to our country's basic history.

A group calling itself Citizens for a Canadian Republic, for example, recently dispatched an urgent news release claiming that the Royal visit "raises serious questions."

The most serious, apparently, is that the planned protests by a small group of rogue Quebec separatists during the Prince's visits to Gatineau and Montreal is "proof of the monarchy's threat to national unity."

Oh, please. "Proof." Imagine radical separatist being upset at anything that reminds them of our British history.

Who would have thought? And who, other than complete dolts, would consider this as a "proof" (of a) serious ...threat to national unity?"

These are the same protesters who are horrified at the sight of an English word on a sign, and who were outraged at the thought of recognizing the anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, arguably one of the most significant battles in North American history, and the very foundation of our country.

It also was the battle which, contrary to the mores of the day, allowed for the then existing French culture not only to survive but to flourish.

The other "serious questions" about the Royal visit, we're told, is that it "costs about a million dollars a day to host the Queen," a figure, in the context of multi-billion dollar budgets, is barely noticeable and, in my view, well worth the cost.

Then there is the crowd favourite, the fact that public opinion polls are reputed to show that the majority of Canadians "are firmly against the continuation of the British monarchy, including 70 percent of those under the age of 40."

It is true that the most recent poll, conducted for Canwest News Service and Global National last month, found that 53 percent said Canada should end its constitutional ties to the monarchy after the Queen dies and 49 percent said we should abandon our constitutional monarchy structure altogether and become a republic, like our friends to the south, with an elected head of state.

In addition, 60 percent said the Queen and the

Royal Family should have no formal role in Canadian society, and that they "simply celebrities and nothing more."

Ask yourself this: should we really decide on the very nature of our constitutional democracy based solely on the current likes and dislikes of 1,005 people who happened to talk to the pollster - likely less than 10 percent of the people the pollster called, since more and more people have no interest in talking to pollsters these days?

And what of those opinions? How many are offered by people who have absolutely no idea why our constitution is as it is? Not that it is necessarily their fault. Face it, this is a country where only three provinces - that's THREE - make Canadian history a mandatory high school topic, a shameful statistic which shows no respect or recognition of how we came to be the great country that we are.

But this typical CBC hubris might have better served the country had Mercer asked Canadians what they know about their own country.

Americans are taught their own history. Canadians aren't. But then, such an effort wouldn't appeal to the latent anti-American sentiments of the chattering classes and instead of generating cheap humor it may have underscored the serious ignorance of our own history.

And for those who think that maintaining our current constitutional ties raises "serious issues" we have only to look at the efforts of prime minister Brian Mulroney in trying to rewrite the constitution, and how those efforts brought to country to the brink of breaking up.

I suspect that even those people in the poll who want to nix the monarchy and who understand our history, and who gave more than two seconds of thought to the question, would, when it comes down to it, rather let sleeping dogs lie than renew the whole spectre of Meech Lake revisited.

Canada is a proud and independent country. Our recognition of our history through the monarchy is not a threat to our independence in any way.

There is no good reason to risk re-opening a constitutional crisis based simply on the republican dreams of a few zealots and the collective ignorance of public opinion polls.

Why not just relax and enjoy it? The worst that can be said is that those ties do no harm.

The best is that it shows we are proud from whence we came.

A few clues on cuts that may be coming

Premier Dalton McGuinty says he has not even begun to choose which programs he will cut to start whittling down the biggest deficit in the province's history, but he has dropped a few clues.

The premier has to reduce his government's spending dramatically, because it is headed for a \$24.7 billion deficit in the current year, brought on mainly by a slump in the economy from which recovery will take years.

McGuinty has made it clear that he expects to restrain spending in health, by far his most expensive responsibility, and has made several studies aimed at reducing its costs.

The government likes to describe these as working papers rather than approved policies, but the premier has warned hospitals will have to live with smaller annual increases in funding.

Because demand for hospital services is increasing constantly, particularly from the growing number of older residents, this could challenge funding decreases.

One of the studies focused on drug costs and new Health Minister Bev Matthews has said she is not considering reducing drug benefits for seniors and social assistance recipients, but the two groups naturally are worried this will result in fewer drugs being available.

The Liberals also have started nibbling away at programs that serve limited sectors of the population, suggesting a trend toward cutting where protesters are likely to be fewer.

Programs reduced so far include one to persuade people to stop smoking. Health Promotion Minister Margaret Best has tried to justify this by saying government in times of recession has to make the best use of public money.

But this cut could be counter-productive, because money the province saves will be small compared to the cost of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

The province similarly has stopped accepting new applicants for a program training out-of-work residents to start their own businesses.

Training, Colleges and Universities Minister John Milloy has explained that resources are finite and must be used where they are most needed, but the program

has helped some and there is concern it will not be revived.

The province for four years has had a program that provides funds to small municipalities particularly for health and social services and some of these have had hints it will be ended, but ministers stonewall any questions on this.

In the latest example, the government has refused to contribute toward the costs of repairing homes and businesses severely damaged last summer by a tornado in Vaughan and flooding in Hamilton. It argued its criteria do not permit it to help, but earlier interpreted them more generously, so this seems another indication of where belt-tightening will come.

The province has no option but to reduce dramatically its hiring of consultants after revelations it spent \$1 million a day last year hiring many, including friends, some of whom were paid \$3,000 a day and still billed taxpayers for every coffee and doughnut.

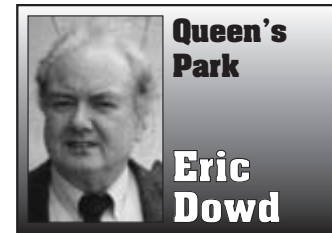
The government is already under huge pressure to fire many of them and only a few restaurants will shed tears over their absence.

McGuinty also seems to be preparing to save big time by reducing the cost of the public service. Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said months ago that the province has a target of reducing the size of its public service by 5 per cent over the next three years through attrition and "other measures."

He did not specify what the other measures would be, but McGuinty more recently would not rule out saving by forcing public servants to take days off without pay, as New Democratic Party premier Bob Rae did in the early 1990s, when they became known as Rae Days.

Most of the public feels that public servants have been treated generously, keeping jobs and receiving pay increases others were denied in the recession.

Some municipal councils also have asked McGuinty to impose pay freezes on their own and provincial public servants, and if he did he would have many people cheering him on.



Queen's Park

Eric Dowd

the court to make McKenzie put up \$400 to guarantee costs if he proceeds with the action. If this is not done the action will be dismissed.

Hiram Baker, a former resident of Orangeville, and at one time the stocking pedlar throughout Dufferin, was sentenced by Judge Winchester in Toronto on Saturday last to two years less a day in the Central Prison. The charge against Baker was forgery and false pretenses. He has figured in the Police Court before Magistrate Denison on several occasions in the past year.

75 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, November 8, 1934

The fifth annual banquet and get-together of Dufferin County's ex-servicemen will be held in the club rooms of Shelburne Curling Rink Monday night next. The veterans will meet at the armories on Owen Sound Street and parade to the rink, headed by Shelburne Citizens' Band, which will also play a few numbers in the rink during the first part of the

banquet.

50 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, November 4, 1959

Some 200 members of Dufferin County Teachers' Institute met in the auditorium of Shelburne Public School last Friday for their annual convention, and heard several highly informative and instructive addresses.

John Root, MLA, says tenders are being called for grading, granular base and culverts for 7.35 miles of the Shelburne-Mount Forest development road, west of Signet.

25 YEARS AGO
Wednesday, November 7, 1984

Orangeville area residents reeled in shock this week as 27 police officers continued their investigation into the murder Sunday night of Monique Babineau, 9, and her brother Daniel, 11, whose bodies were found by Police Constable Murray Storey behind St. Peter School about an hour after they were reported missing.

