

# Development Key Issue in Election

In the forthcoming Municipal Election there are of course the usual dreary platforms that candidates base their campaign on, but one major issue emerges predominately. This issue encompasses many of the so-called minor issues being discussed in the future Municipal Election. "Development" is the word which is causing all this abnormal behaviour of the candidates. The Development crises in Halifax branches out in all possible directions encompassing issues like housing, public services and different aspects of city planning.

In the past, City Council has exhibited indecision regarding the redevelopment of the city waterfront. City Council seemed to avoid making any positive commitment regarding this controversial issue and has let its power and effectiveness to deal with these situations be over-ruled by local entrepreneurs who are not prepared to play games with the Council over the development of the most valuable land in the city. Councils ineffectiveness to deal with

this policy of development of downtown Halifax has led to many criticisms of the planning policy of Halifax. The policy itself is very vague, with minimal guidelines for developers to follow. Developers still do not know where they stand in relation to the City's desires and needs. Some developers do not care what the City says or does, but just build where they want under Council's nose which is a little bloodied from fending off concerned citizen groups.

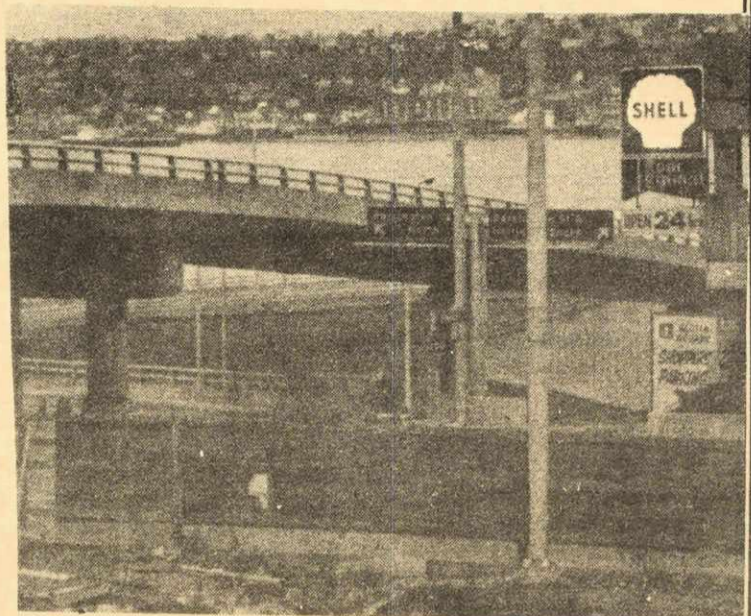
The preservation of the views from 'Historic' Halifax Citadel is probably the most popular cause around, carried, on the platforms of many of the would be representatives. Considering the efficiency of Council's dealing with high rise development downtown, one can predict with a good deal of accuracy that the view from the Citadel (in a few years time) will be less than appealing, consisting of grey concrete walls of the future office towers. (Towers: popular name of tall office buildings.)

The downtown shopping area of Barrington street and

Scotia Square is already in financial difficulties due to the ineffective "rapid" transit system and competition from the outside shopping centres (Bayers Road, Halifax Shopping Centre) which are easier to gain access to. The downtown area needs people for it to be in any way effective as a downtown centre the low key, drab main street of Halifax will probably soon be. The City is destined to have a potpourri of high rise towers, (that word again), high priced housing, Wuinpool road projects, hassles about preserving Halifax slums, etc. With all these renovations to take place in the city another issue springs to life, that is of course one of transportation, roads in particular. The influx of all the traffic will congest the downtown area.

The roads in this City, to put it bluntly, remind me of the moon's surface, with all its mysterious craters and cracks plus various other odds and ends which persistently develop to the bafflement of the most brilliant construction engineers.

The atrocious conditions of the roads are only surpassed by the completely out of date



charles gosling/ dal photo

and useless traffic circles (rotaries as they are called in Halifax). This unforgettable achievement of Halifax's forefathers was already long out of date when it was installed 20 years ago. Rumours from that era indicated that the town planner (who was blamed for the disaster) was tarred and feathered then banished from the fair city that had the misfortune to hire him. This is only a rumour but definitely shows merit on behalf of the concerned citizen's group that claims responsibility for the

deed. For those of you who have not yet experienced the pleasure of this intricate maze of exits and entrances, I will now endeavour to describe its merits for you. (1) Its a road. Now that the merits of the rotary have accurately discussed, I would explain why there is so much hassle regarding this infamous rotary. It is situated at the apex of the North-West arm and serves traffic from Herring

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### President - Details Progress

by Sue Monaghan

Dan O'Connor became President of the Student Union on March 1st of this year. Soon after that the thoughts of the majority of the student body was centered on scholastic affairs, and later on summer interests. Now, with the beginning of a new term it behooves us to take a new look at the President and the Student Government to determine what he has accomplished in its six months of existence. Following is a synopsis of promises and goals of the O'Connor and Richardson campaign, and O'Connor's statements regarding them: -

- A car pool was to be formed. This was to consist of a map of the metro area and the province, plus places for notices from people who have or want passenger space in private cars.

O'Connor: "This has been ordered. A board containing a map and slots headed "need rides" and "have rides" will

be found in the main lobby of the SUB.

- "Serious work" was to be done to provide special Dalhousie buses running to and from Spryfield, Dartmouth and other areas where many students live.

O'Connor: "The Student Union of 1970-71 ran special franchise buses from September to October, but were stopped by the Public Utilities Board as they weren't considered sufficiently useful and did not conform to standards. This year's student government is still trying to analyze what went wrong. At the moment student busing would be over-expensive or would again be cancelled by the Public Utilities Board.

- A grocery co-op was to be attempted, to provide cheaper food prices for students.

O'Connor: "The experience of other Universities has not been encouraging. However we have prepared a feasibility report and will soon be re-

cruting students for a test run. Interested students should watch for notices in the near future."

- Work on a day care centre started by the previous administration was to be completed.

O'Connor: "The centre has been completed and will be continued by its Committee with Martin Ware as the Chairman. The Committee is now looking into the possibility of another centre.

- Action was to be taken to "ease the situation" in student housing.

O'Connor "We now have a full-time employee and a housing office in the SUB. This office is responsible for the handbook entitled "Tenants, Landlords, and the Law". In addition the Student Union is active in pressuring the Senate to renew the purchase of houses, and using them for student residences.

- Provision was to be made for a representative from Fenwick on the Students'

council.

O'Connor: "Money was spent last year to assist Fenwick students in forming a residence association. This brought little result. There are Fenwick people already on the student's council, but there has been little initiative on the part of Fenwick students to organize themselves. We are still willing to offer our help, but due to lack of interest shown, this is

now a lower priority goal.

- A third bookstore was to be opened for the convenience of health students and students living below Robie Street.

O'Connor: " A third bookstore in the Tupper building will be in operation for the first part of the year."

- Provisions were to be made

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