

Boushy is a class act

Dan McCaffery - January 2025

The year 1964 is so far in the past that it almost seems to belong to a different age. During those 12 months Ford Motor Company introduced the Mustang, which sold for \$2,368. The Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, where millions of people heard their music for the first time. In England, the Great Train Robbers were sent to prison while in the United States the Civil Rights Act was passed into law. Hard as it is to believe today, until that time millions of people were banned from restaurants, hotels and other public places because of their skin colour.

Also that year, a brilliant orator named Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize.

When 1964 began John Kennedy had been in his grave less than two months and Lester Pearson was prime minister of Canada.

In sports, Willie Mays became baseball's highest paid player, making \$105,000 a year. Today, the top ball player recently signed a 10-year contract for \$700 million. And a kid named Cassius Clay beat Sonny Liston to become World Heavyweight Boxing Champion.

In Canada, politicians began debating whether to adopt a new Canadian flag to replace the old Red Ensign. And in Hollywood a guy named Gene Roddenberry came up with the idea for a science fiction TV show called Star Trek, which would be aired for the first time a couple of years later.

In the National Hockey League, the Toronto Maple Leafs would win their third straight Stanley Cup that spring.

In Sarnia, Mayor Henry Ross, a First World War veteran, and his councillors held meetings on the top floor of the old Hudson Bay building while they awaited the completion of a new city hall. During municipal elections that fall a newcomer named Dave Boushy was elected to city council. People like Willie Mays, Cassius Clay (who later became Muhammad Ali), Henry Ross and two of the youngsters known as the Beatles are long gone.

But Dave Boushy is still there, still serving the people of Sarnia.

I once thought Boushy had overstayed his welcome, that he should retire. But I've changed my mind. He's a first class gentleman. Unlike some much younger politicians, it's simply inconceivable that he would behave in public like a petulant child.

It's strange to say, but in an age in which pushy vulgarians are entering politics in ever increasing numbers, a person from a bygone era where civility was the norm has become a breath of fresh air. We need more people like Boushy, not less.