

COMMENT

Uniting right not easy

In the dodgy world of politics, packaging more often than not transcends policy. And the slicker, the better. Those backroom wizards behind all politicians know if they can't put together a winnable package, they're dead. Today, the workers toiling behind the Canadian Alliance are frenetically at work trying to come up with what will be a winnable package.

It's a little like putting together Mr. Potato Head - a little of this; a little of that.

And what will it be? Will it be the western homophobic Bible-thumping anti-abortionist with a second language and a mean kick? Or will it be the backroom boy credited with designing the *Nonsense Revolution*, now glad-handing his way across the country with much of the same verve and intensity those newcomers to poverty now panhandle on the streets of Toronto.

Or will it be Preston Manning, the man who has reinvented everything in life including himself?

You have to hand it to those on the right: at least they offer their comrades a little entertainment for their money.

Joe Clark's the guy I feel sorry for: how must it feel to be the contagious disease of the moment?

Card-carrying Tories now falling over each other to sign up for anything other than a party headed by Clark, are on a mission: a perfect package. It sure isn't going to be Clark. These days, even the most ardent Tory just hangs his or her head about the fact his campaign is in disarray; frantic long-time Conservatives are running from the Clark campaign in droves. But they have, as they say, moved on. They are in search mode. And now they have three choices - (Stockwell) Day, (Tom) Long and Manning.

They like the energy of Stockwell Day, they like even more the fact he's actually been employed as a politician. But time and time again, even the hardest of Tories find the personal views of Day difficult to take. When Day first announced his candidacy, he looked like the best kind of package - young, energetic, bilingual, reasonably articulate.

But then he did what any backroom fella will tell you never to do - look foolish. Manning may never be the most



DIANE HART

exciting guy around, let's face it, but at least he hasn't kick boxed on stage in a martial arts stage presentation, tried to worm his way by telephone into the hearts of Canadians (never have I been so grateful for an unlisted number as when I heard about Stockwell Day's telemarketing 905 scheme by telephone) or joked about smoking dope. And we haven't even mentioned his

social conservatism.

I hate to be the one to say it, but this Canadian Dan Quayle just isn't going anywhere. They may love him out west, but on the federal stage he'd be eaten up.

But Tom Long is another matter altogether. The man is a master of packaging and if he has to squeeze himself into some tiny box that voters will buy, well he'll just do it...pronto! Already, long-standing Tories are looking more closely at a guy who again may not be the most exciting, (what is it about these wanna-be right wing politicians) but at least he's not likely to parade around kick boxing or giggle on national radio about Chretien's motto: HRDC (He Really Doesn't Care)...is that funny or what?????

As for the always-underrated Preston Manning, these are early days. Don't write him off yet. He is a man full of surprise - really. He may be completely out of step with everyone even in his own party, but he reminds me of a wily old fox....just out there in the bushes watching it all and waiting for his move.

If there is one thing he's always got right (and Joe Clark, the poor guy, has most always got wrong) it's timing. Anyone who writes him out of the picture in this dance for the top job of the Canadian Alliance is a fool: he's smart and cagey and knows when to pounce.

He will not be relegated to the sidelines too soon. Already I think he sees the writing on the wall, making pals with Tom Long and envisioning the perfect package: Long bringing all the lost Tory souls of Ontario into the Canadian Alliance with Manning as his right hand man.

The Ontario backroom boy wedded to the western chameleon. See, I told you...the perfect package. Mr. Potato Head couldn't be easier.

is the way to go.

That the proposed Sithe plant about the Joshua Creek residential community is unfortunate. However, residents moved in fully cognizant that the area bounded by Winston Churchill, Royal Windsor, Southdown, and the lake was zoned industrial. Providing Sithe meets provincial environmental stipulations, the plant will conform to prevailing land use. Can anything more be expected from a commercial operation?

It begs the question whether the Town of Oakville should have approved housing in such close proximity to land which, historically, has been zoned for industrial use.

Sithe appears to be bending over backwards to reduce the intrusiveness of its facility with enhanced siting, landscaping, and technical modifications. If the plant, and others powered by natural gas, can bring about the eventual shutdown of coal/nuclear facilities, then it deserves our support if for no other reason than the greater good.

I'm reminded of the approach taken with children who suffer mishaps. By suggesting the situation could have been much worse, their upset is alleviated. I shudder to think what could have been built on the land acquired by Sithe had they not come along.

Peter Pellier

Letters to the Editor

simply makes sense.

Given that electricity is first amongst equals regarding essential commodities, and that both nuclear and fossil fuel power plants are environmental nightmares (including and, in particular, neighbouring Lakeview Generating Station), natural gas, as a proven technology,

Setting bilingualism record straight

Re: Psssssssst... Oakville Beaver, Fri., April 21st, 2000

There is no need to keep quiet about the name change. We thank you for your editorial write-up.

If I may, I would like to set the record straight. The new name is Canadians Against Bilingualism Injustice. The new logo is the weighted scale set against the stylized red maple leaf.

The newsletter, which has been around for 23 years, has a new masthead and has been renamed Bilingualism Watch.

Would you please be good enough to correct our website address. It is (HYPERLINK "http://www.bilingualism.org"). The error was ours and is being corrected in our April newsletter. The website was up and running as of April 24th, 2000. On our site you will learn a lot about Canada and our stand on national "unity."

Ronald P. Leitch  
President, CABI

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR: R.F.I.-1-2000  
FOR THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE'S REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLY/  
DELIVERY/INSTALLATION OF ORACLE SERVERS

The Town of Oakville's Information Technology Department is soliciting "Request for Information" from firms who can potentially fulfill the Town of Oakville's needs for Oracle Servers.

A general information package and response envelopes may be obtained from the Town of Oakville's Purchasing Department, 1225 Trafalgar Road, Oakville; telephone (905) 845-6601, Ext. 3086.

"Request for Information" responses will be reviewed, whereupon a final list of potential bidders will be produced. A potential subsequent proposal call may be prepared inviting only those bidders appearing on the final list of bidders.

"Request for Information" responses must be received in the "Request for Information" envelope, sealed and returned to the attention of the Purchasing Department, Town of Oakville up to the deadline for receipt.

NOTE: FAX SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Deadline for receipt of Request for Information will be no later than 12:00 noon, Monday, May 29, 2000. Late submissions will not be accepted.

R.J. Courmoyer, C.I.M., P.Mgr.  
Director, Purchasing and Office Services

Strategic Land Use Options Study  
For Lands North of Dundas Street

Public Information Meeting No. 4

In preparation for future urban development on the lands located north of Dundas Street [Regional Road 5] within the Town of Oakville and City of Burlington [east of Bronte Creek], the Town of Oakville together with the City of Burlington are undertaking a Strategic Land Use Options Study. The purpose of the study is to undertake a general review of the subject area as a precursor to the preparation of any individual secondary plan(s) and to set out broad strategies for the implementation of the ultimate land use plan. In addition to establishing the secondary planning areas, consideration will also be given to the operations of Highway No 407, phasing policies including trigger mechanisms, servicing and drainage.

The firm of Hemson Consulting Ltd. together with BA Group (transportation), MacViro (engineering) and W. Scott Morgan (retail) is about to complete Phase Three of the study. The fourth in a series of public information meetings will be held on May 18, 2000 7:30 PM at Town Hall (Oakville and Trafalgar Rooms) to inform the public of the results of the Phase Three program [analysis of preferred option], continue discussions on this study and to obtain any public comment on this last phase prior to the final report being brought to Council for consideration.

Should you have any questions or wish to provide the study team with any related information on the subject area, please contact Robert H. Thun, Planner at (905) 845-6601 ext. 3029.

Dated at the Town of Oakville, this 3rd day of May, 2000.

Lynne Gough, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Long Range Planning Section  
Planning Services Department, Town of Oakville

COUNCIL & STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

<b>Monday, May 8, 2000</b> Planning & Development Council Council Chambers 7:30 p.m.	<b>Tuesday, May 9, 2000</b> Community Services Committee 7:30 p.m. - Oakville Room Administrative Services Comm. 7:30 p.m. - Bronte Room
<b>Monday, May 15, 2000</b> Council Meeting Council Chambers 7:30 p.m.	<b>Tuesday, May 23, 2000</b> Community Services Committee 7:30 p.m. - Oakville Room Administrative Services Comm. 7:30 p.m. - Bronte Room

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