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DAVID A. BEATTIE, Publisher
and General Manager

MIKE TURNER
Editor

DAN TAYLOR
Advertising Manager

Phone 877-2201

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Tory race is wide open



Queen's Park
Derek Nelson

Thomson News Service

There is a possibility the looming Ontario Progressive Conservative leadership contest could be wide open.

And that would make it much more of a thriller than any previous provincial leadership race since that won by the NDP's Michael Cassidy in 1979.

All leadership contests since then in the three old-line parties (Liberal, NDP, PC) have had acknowledged front-runners who, in all cases, have gone on to win.

But maybe not this time. The one-man-one-vote principle recently adopted by the Tories throws the race wide open.

Interestingly, at the constitutional conference that approved the one-man-one-vote system, the heaviest applause won by a potential candidate went to Dennis Timbrell.

A former MPP and cabinet minister, he has twice run for the party leadership and failed to attain it, yet, he probably remains the person most representative of that portion of the party that eschews ideology of any kind. At the moment, he is seen as the one likely having the broadest following among Tories.

But how deep is it?

Timbrell's critics suggest he is yesterday's man, that since he proved incapable of organizing a winning campaign for leader in 1986 when it was his for the taking, he is unlikely to succeed in beating

Premier David Peterson's Liberals.

Second choice on the applause meter at the constitutional convention was party president Tom Long, who has been unofficially running for leader for a long time.

He is a small-c conservative with innovative ideas of how the party should be structured and of how a campaign against the Grits should be run. He is considered to be the best organized of the undeclared leadership candidates.

But he alienates many people, some ideologically and some on personal grounds.

NO CORONATION

That neither Timbrell nor Long has a coronation ahead when they declare goes without saying.

And that opens up the fascinating possibility of a Joe Clark-style leadership finish.

As some may remember, Clark became federal PC leader in 1976 by coming up the middle out of nowhere when the two frontrunners deadlocked. Clark was everybody's second choice.

Some of the other Tory hopefuls

can read the past, too.

There is North Bay MPP Mike Harris, one of the few PCs to better his election totals in the face of Peterson's 1987 sweep and a probable favorite for leader among what's left of the Big Blue Machine crowd who surrounded former premier Bill Davis.

Harris, the Tory house leader, has one serious failing. When expressing outrage in the assembly, he rings false, because he isn't an outrageous man.

Another dark horse is Leeds MPP Bob Runciman, whose always-calm exterior masks a small-c conservative heart and who probably has the most varied background of any Tory candidate (union president, corporate manager, small businessman, newspaper owner).

Both Runciman and Harris had rooms at the constitutional convention for delegates to meet them. Neither are broadly known among the rank and file.

Burlington MPP Cam Jackson was also present, although with a lower profile than the others. Backroom genius John Tory, who has been and done everything in the PC Party (including run the last provincial campaign and, earlier, serve as principal secretary to then-premier Bill Davis) was also present.

Another intriguing possibility is Durham Region's Stephanie Ball, a failed candidate in the 1987 election.

When help is needed...

"March is Red Cross Month" and The Canadian Red Cross Society is asking Canadians to stop and think what their community, and the world, would be like without the services of the Red Cross.

Across the country, the Society is hard at work every day helping Canadians through a variety of programs and services. Red Cross helps thousands of Canadians to a healthier life by collecting, testing, processing and distributing blood and blood products. It provides emergency assistance during local disasters, trains people in first aid and offers courses in water and boating safety.

Throughout its history, the Red Cross has dealt with the most urgent human needs. A humanitarian organization begun in the late 19th century to assist wounded soldiers, Red Cross volunteers are still working hard to prevent and relieve suffering; help the victims of disaster; and promote good health in Ontario communities and around the world.

In local neighborhoods, Red Cross programs and services provide physical and emotional assistance to those in need. These services include the short-term loan of wheelchairs and crutches; Meals on Wheels; Homemaker Services; visitation programs for veterans and disabled persons; and transportation services for those who are otherwise housebound. To avoid duplication of services, Red Cross works with other organizations and if need be, refers specialized cases to the appropriate agency.

Red Cross comes face to face with need every day. The generous and humanitarian spirit of Canadians helps make a difference for thousands of people, here in Canada and around the world, who depend on the Red Cross for assistance. This March remember - "When help is needed. The Red Cross."

Support your local Red Cross branch - part of your United Way family.

Counted with the quitters



Editor's Notebook

Mike Turner
Herald Editor

- when the push was on for people to butt out.

I think I've finally got it together now.

And maybe you're right, one month isn't such a big deal. But you have to go a month, before you can go a year.

With the publication of this newspaper, on March 1, 1989, I will have completed one (albeit short) month of going without a cigarette. "Big deal," you may say. "Come back in a year and see if you can say that."

Good point.

The simple fact of the matter is, I never realized how easy this could be (except, of course for the last time I quit - then, it was for three months).

You know the story of the father who finds his son secretly smoking, and makes him sit down and smoke the entire package in one sitting. The kid gets so sick he can't even look at a cigarette.

I suppose quitting came in a similar way for me. I was finally so sick of smoking, quitting came very easily.

The first few days I quit were, of course, the toughest - not so much because of the urge to smoke, but because I wanted to keep it a secret. I figured if I was going to fail, I didn't particularly want to have to bear the wrath of the "nons."

The truth is I've simply succumbed to peer pressure, which is quite interesting when you think about it. While I was growing up most of my friends smoked but I had no interest in following suit. Instead, I started in my late twenties

Fur industry experiences renewed confidence

By RENEE MacKENZIE

There's a fresh optimism in the fur industry, which, just a few years ago, seemed to be under a mounting seige by animal-rights activists.

A triumph over activists in Britain and an expanding market for fur garments has given the industry renewed confidence.

The turning point in the conflict over animal rights was the British proposal to label and perhaps ban products made from the fur of animals that may have been trapped in Canada. It pitted the British trade minister and activists against the fur industry and the native people of Canada and Greenland. In the end, the plan was scrubbed for legal and technical reasons.

Kirk Smith, executive director of the Fur Institute of Canada, describes the termination of the labelling campaign and "the return to common sense" as a watershed in the international debate on the fur issue.

There was a significant shift in both public opinion and government support after radical animal-rights groups turned to violence, attacking research labs and fast-food outlets, as well as department stores that sell fur garments, he

said. Their actions exposed them to public scrutiny and their ultimate aim, to eliminate the use of all animals for research, clothing and food, became clear, he explained.

"The animal-rights ideology inherently contains the seeds of its own destruction. It is a concept that leads to a belief among the radical fringe that the ends justify the means, that animal life can be placed above human life. Unlawfulness and violence is therefore condoned," Smith said.

"They are really turning off the public."

Smith also said the movement's efforts in Britain have been blunted by the jailing of some of its leaders.

But there's a question of whether the movement ever presented a serious threat to the fur industry, though it did seriously hurt the sealing industry. In 1986, when sympathy for the animal-rights cause was peaking, industry sales were up more than 16 per cent. And Alison Beal, marketing director for the Fur Council of Canada, reports total exports increased from \$349 million in 1986 to more than \$467 million in 1987.

"Our markets are healthy," she said. There are more European

buyers visiting Canada and there is a steady growth in the industry.

FASHION

"The main preoccupation for both Europe and the Orient is fashion," she added.

Smith said extremism does not have a significant impact on the industry.

"The international fur trade is healthy and growing and the occasional blasts of emotional propaganda don't make sense and the consumer understands that," he said.

The labelling drive, he said, was an extension of the successful campaign against the East Coast seal hunts.

"The activists thought they could go and do it again to the fur trade and then the leather industry, and on and on. It hasn't happened. It's not going to happen."

But the labelling issue, now dormant in Britain, is still stirring in the European Parliament, where debate continues on a resolution that deals with both labels and leghold traps. Under constant lobbying from natives, government and industry, however, the proposal has been watered down to such an extent that the resolution may not have any effect, even if it

does survive the complex European parliamentary process.

"It will have no impact now," said Beal. "It's virtually incoherent and there's nothing that can be legislated upon within it."

Native groups still see a threat and intend to continue lobbying in Europe. A spokesman for Indigenous Survival International, an Ottawa-based native coalition, said the group is more optimistic now, but its members recall the impact the European ban on seal skins had on Inuit communities.

The ISI continues to monitor the fur market and is planning to send another delegation to Europe in the spring.

Both Smith and Beal said the Canadian delegations were effective in convincing politicians in Europe that research and action is being taken in Canada on the issues of trapping and conservation.

European lawmakers now realize, though, that the aims of the animal-rights activists are progressive and the focus could shift from imported furs to European leather goods, food products and farm practices, said Smith.

"Now, they are all hitting stone walls," he said.

