

People's Forum

More women needed in Labour Movement

Dear Editor:
Recently, I have had the opportunity to attend classes at the CAW education centre in Port Elgin, to learn about the union movement in general and the Canadian Labour movement in particular. To say the least, it has been an education. Although I feel very positive, and even proud about most of what I have learned, I am concerned about the role of women in the Canadian Labour Movement.

Women have always played a key role in organizing unions. Unfortunately, the role of unions themselves have been ignored in our schools, let alone the history of working women. Women represented 16.4% of all union

members in 1962; this figure had reached 36.4% in 1986 as an increasing number of women entered the workforce and asserted their right to organize. While women now comprise more than 1 out of 3 unionized workers, unfortunately this is not reflected in the number of women in leadership positions.

In this area, at least, we can learn a lesson from Norway. The Norwegians, for example, have adopted a bold affirmation action program, which has had a dramatic impact on the power structures. During the 1960's and 1970's, numerous women's groups lobbied all political parties to train, select and promote women candidates. Women's caucuses within parties became

an important source of pressure and are currently a training ground for women interested in politics.

Because of this pressure in 1982, Norway's Labour Party adopted a rule that neither males nor females should occupy fewer than 40% of the party's posts, including candidacies for local and national offices. Today, this party holds power in Norway, with a female prime minister, Dr. Yra Harlem. In addition, 8 of 18 cabinet ministers are women.

We in Canada have many reasons to be both proud and grateful. Lets add women's equality to the list.

Florence Butler,
Georgetown, Ontario.

Time better spent serving others

Dear Editor:
In last weekend's Herald, reader Ray Kathwaroon wrote of the need to reform the federal political system.

I agree with him. Reforms are needed so that individual MPs can vote more freely of party position and so that voters feel they have more direct input into the system. If we're going to have a Senate, then it should be elected and democratic.

We should have laws ensuring a balanced budget, integration of all levels of government to avoid waste, duplication and inefficiency, and some mechanism whereby people can directly participate in voting on major issues.

All of these personal beliefs

were published and sent to every home in the riding of Halton-Peel by me last December, as I asked people for their support.

At that time, Mr. Kathwaroon responded most bitterly, questioning my motives and character. Fair enough. He's got every right.

But to tell your readers that I am "ignoring constituents completely," begs a response. For the first year of being an MP, I responded to his letters with a personal note. As his criticism mounted, I figured my time was better spent serving others.

I guess I was right.

Sincerely,
Garth Turner, MP.

Acton Cancer Society Unit grateful

Dear Sir:
Spring fashions and flowers filled the Acton Legion on March 26 when Elizabeth's Fashions and Bridal Boutique and Victoria Lane Children's Wear presented "Spring Fling," a benefit for the Canadian Cancer Society.

On behalf of the Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, I would like to thank all those sponsors, who enabled us to raise \$1,100, a healthy start to our campaign goal of \$51,700. A very special thanks goes to the clothing store owners for their cooperation, time and effort in organizing this event and to Designing Ways for their donation of flowering shrubs and plants that set the mood for the evening.

Local merchants from Glenlea Drug Mart, Jack Tanner's Restaurant, Wetherby's, Profile,

Corries, Tuitmans Garden Centre, Tweedle D's, Acton Home Jewelry, Acton Pharmacy, Blue Springs and Rene's Florists, Robin's Nest, Kids Only, Designing Ways, Elizabeth's and Mary Kay representative Bev Gray are to be recognized for their generous contributions of door prizes which added to the evening's festivities. In addition we extend many thanks to the Royal Canadian Legion for the use of their beautiful facilities and the many kindnesses they extend to our unit throughout the year.

Our mission is to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life for the people living with the disease. More than 90¢ of every dollar raised goes to research, patient services and public education. Every contribution brings us closer to the time when cancer will be cured.

For all of you who attended our fashion show, your support was appreciated. Together we continued the progress towards our goal.

Sincerely,
Catherine McGillivray,
Communications
Representative, Acton Unit,
Canadian Cancer Society.

Supreme Court must be consistent

Dear Editor:
An unborn child, delivered by caesarean section 3 months before the normal end of gestation, is a person and a human being with all the rights of Canadian law, while the same baby, if allowed to grow to full term, is not human until it has completely left the mother's body. This is the ridiculous conclusion of the Supreme Court of this land. If not a person and not human, then what kind of being is it? The decision flies in the face of science and common sense: by which magical process does the transformation into a human being occur when a doctor in-

tervenes to extract a baby from the womb?

A reverse argument can also be made: If separation from the mother is the only criterion for determining humanity, then through abortion we are producing 100,000 dead human beings per year!

If we cannot count on the Supreme Court to be consistent with itself, reality, scientific evidence and common sense, how can we trust the whole judicial system?

Giuseppe Gori,
Executive Vice President,
Family Coalition Party
of Ontario.

GST costing taxpayers

Dear Editor:
When Libertarians calculated the cost of putting the GST into place by the government, we calculated, based on normal business sense that the GST would cost at least \$150 million.

Of course, it seems when government is involved that normal business sense does not apply.

I am now told that the GST, has in fact cost taxpayers about \$600 million to implement, and no doubt this figure is climbing.

No wonder our politicians do not want to tell us about this. No wonder the country is in such deep trouble.

John Shadbolt,
Libertarian,
Acton, Ontario.

Business community is praised

To the Editor:
The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award is a prestigious one, especially if you are the recipient.

The Business Community is terrific in the support of the respective awardees. This year was no exception. It is also an opportunity for those outside our Town to be invited and see what

we are all about. Presumably, we are a little different in our approach than other small towns, but, when you live here, you have a tendency to think we're special. At least that's my opinion.

The Chamber members not only provide a base for commerce to function in, but they have financially supported this town, many for a lot of years. In addition, our commercial and industrial base provides employ-

ment to many, giving our Town a significant place in Ontario.

We're proud to be part of the economic and social development of Halton Hills. To the businesses and progressive citizens, thank you for the recognition. Let's continue to work together for a positive future.

Yours very truly,
Paul C. Armstrong,
Georgetown.

Opinion

Gallup poll gives Chretien a needed boost

OTTAWA - The latest Gallup poll on voter intentions couldn't have come at a better time for Liberal Leader Jean Chretien. He was in dire need of a boost, even if it turns out to be temporary.

It would by no means be overstating things to say that Liberals have not been happy campers of late. Within the last few weeks, there have been all sorts of rumblings of discontent - the type that would drive a new leader to distraction.

In fact, it's difficult to remember the last time there was any memorable good news to come from the Liberal sector of politics. Not only did Mr. Chretien and his supporters take a hammering for a wishy-washy approach to the gulf crisis, but scarcely a day has gone by without other unhappy mutterings.

There has been a great deal of unhappiness, for instance, about the way Mr. Chretien's office being run, and how he is allegedly being stage-managed by his "handlers". Some MPs have complained about lack of access to the leader.

Then there have been all those reports of discord in the field.

Some Quebec riding association presidents, and fund-raisers, are in the process of quitting. The party is having a devil of a time trying to reduce its \$3-million-plus debt.

And, to top it off, Mr. Chretien has not been attracting rave reviews for his performance as party leader. After eight months on the job, it's obvious that not all the rust has worn off.

GOOD NEWS

So, just imagine how the Liberal faithful must have reacted to the latest Gallup - showing that, for the first time in five months, their party is the most popular in the country. Even if it turns out to be a temporary blip, it's an important development. It will be a full month before Dr. Gallup does another survey.

This latest poll showed that Liberal popularity climbed to 35 per cent from a January level of 31. The big losers were the New Democrats, whose heady standing of 41 per cent in January was reduced to 34.

This came as a surprise to many - particularly those who felt the party's unequivocal opposition to Canadian participa-

Ottawa Bureau
by
Stewart MacLeod
Thomson News Service



tion in the gulf war would attract many new voters. Obviously, it didn't.

In Ontario, NDP popularity plunged to 42 per cent from last month's 56.

As for the Tories, well, it's still not champagne-popping time when a governing party stands at 16 per cent. But all things are relative and, just a month ago, the Gallup organization informed us that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservatives were at a dismal 12 per cent.

No doubt there are some optimistic Tories out there who are saying that, on a percentage basis, the party has just ex-

perienced its greatest ever month-to-month increase in popularity.

...Still, 16 per cent...
SMALL CHANGE

As for the fledgling Reform party, its popularity dropped one point to eight per cent. And in Quebec, the popularity of the separatist Bloc Quebecois went down three points to 23.

Actually, the Quebec results surprised many Liberals, considering the unrest that has been reported in the province. Their party, with 37-per-cent support, is by far the most popular. The Tories managed to rise five percentage points, but still reached only 22.

A senior Liberal official, while acknowledging that little should

be read into a single survey, said the timing of this one made it extraordinary. "It's no secret that a certain malaise was beginning to take hold," he said. "And it's also no secret that Mr. Chretien was still being judged rather harshly."

"We desperately needed a kick-start of some kind."

Mr. Chretien's own office, along with party headquarters, are in the process of being reorganized, and the official said the effect of the poll has been nothing short of phenomenal. "Yesterday, the proposed changes were all about getting us out of a slump. Today, they're all about maintaining a surging popularity."

As they so often say in politics, timing is everything.

Today as many as 65% of children with acute leukemia are alive and well 10 years after diagnosis.

Cancer can be beaten.

Please support our April campaign

