

Editorial

the HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

A Division of Canadian Newspaper Company Limited
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6

K. ROBERT MALCOLMSON
Publisher and General Manager

877-2201

EDITORIAL - COLIN GIBSON
Managing Editor

Table with 2 columns: Location, Subscription Rates. Includes rates for Halton, Canada, and Foreign.

CNA logo and text: The Herald is a proud member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association... The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages...

Conflict of interest

Municipal election issues will take centre stage over the next few weeks leading up to the Nov. 12 call to the polls and this is as it should be.

Unlike politicians on the provincial or federal level, often faceless names in newspapers, municipal politicians reflect the persona of a community. They can, and should, be seen at local events ranging from business openings to sports happenings, special birthdays and anniversaries. All part and parcel of a municipal politician's duties, over and above the actual governing of a community.

These duties are often misunderstood or undervalued by the local citizenry and this is unfortunate.

By the same token, elected municipal officials have a responsibility to their respective communities—a responsibility that is sometimes abused.

A report commissioned and recently received by the provincial government, aims to end corruption in municipal politics by suggesting beefed-up conflict-of-interest legislation be introduced at the municipal level.

As it stands now, individual citizens must lay a charge when a municipal politician is suspected of conflict-of-interest.

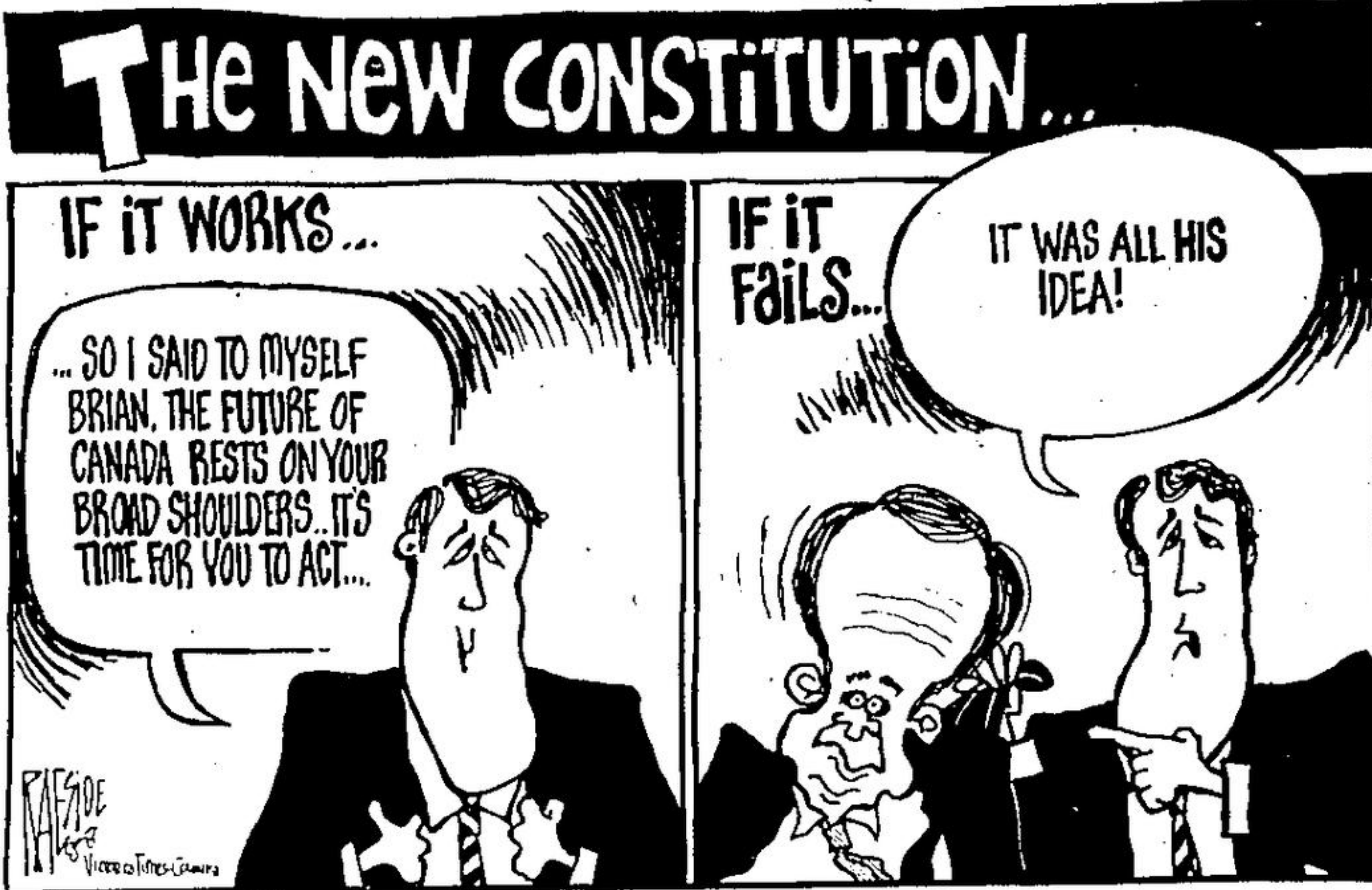
Of 28 cases heard since 1972, municipal politicians have been found guilty of conflict-of-interest in 25 instances.

The report suggests mandatory penalties be imposed for a municipal politician (councillors, school board trustees) found guilty of conflict-of-interest.

Penalties urged include a 90-day suspension from office, without pay or benefits, or a fine of up to \$5,000. If financial gain was realized, the guilty party would have to pay the money back.

A judge would also have the right to remove the offender from public office and could even ban the guilty party from holding public office for seven years.

It is to be hoped the provincial government will take the report's suggestions to heart, and institute appropriate legislation.



People's Forum

Columnist urged to run for office

Dear Editor: Mr. Gibson's poison pen commentary (Don't be fooled by PC pig-in-a-poke proposals) brought back memories of the writings of student activists in the late 60's, early 70's. They wished to tear down the establishment, stripping it of power and authority and their shrill cries were rarely accompanied by reasonable suggestions on how to fill the void they wished to create.

In his propensity to condemn and to criticize, rather than to create or to resolve, Mr. Gibson

is not alone. As Garth Turner did, perhaps Mr. Gibson and others of his ilk should get down from their editorial pulpits and run for office.

They would be best suited, if elected, to the opposition benches.

There they could join the braying pack in screaming insults at the government.

After all, unlike the politicians he castigates who must wait until after election to contract the illness of brain death, it is arguable that Mr. Gibson already demonstrates signs of its advancement.

What's wrong with Town Hall meetings to give the electorate a forum? What programs would you cut or taxes would you raise to help the economy? How would you mediate the disputes plaguing the community, province and country?

I submit Mr. Gibson that while it is easy to tear down and to criticize it accomplishes nothing if it is not accompanied by the requisite creative ideas to replace that which is destroyed with something better.

Yours truly, C. Richard Fogal, Georgetown, Ont.

Turner objects

To the Editor:

In the Herald's October 2 issue, editor Colin Gibson dumps on the government's proposals to amend the constitution, strengthen the economy, attack overlap and duplication among governments and keep Canada united.

That's fine. It's a free country. But Gibson goes on. He says politicians are brain dead and forget why their constituents voted for them.

Immediately after that he criticizes me for holding public meetings to get public reaction on the government's plans. These were his exact words: "What a joke!"

Now, let me get it straight, Mr. Editor. You say I have forgotten what the people of Georgetown want me to do, but I'm wrong to have a meeting to find out.

What am I supposed to do to gain public input? Sit in Ottawa and read the Herald?

No thanks - I'd rather hear it from the people themselves. And I invite everyone, even Colin Gibson, to join me at the North Halton Golf Club next Tuesday evening, October 15.

Garth Turner, MP Halton Peel.

Editor's note: Read the column. Public meetings aren't criticized as such. More discussions on an issue (unity) that has already been talked to virtual death is what the column was all about.

Mulroney trashed

Dear Editor:

To quote Brian Mulroney's statement in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record of September 14th:

"I'm not going to be deterred by hooliganism."

So waving and smiling condescendingly, he drives by the public service workers in a large limousine (probably bullet proof), well protected by his security police at a cost of \$4.9 million taxpayers' money for one year, to say nothing of the cost of all previous years since he became prime minister.

What does he consider hooliganism? These people were not riding in large limousines or

carrying guns, merely picket signs, asking for better wages, working conditions and the right to bargain in good faith.

Security is only one of the many benefits he has bestowed on himself since 1984 and neither he or his family are worth a penny of it.

If he had handled his obligations to Canada with honesty and integrity, his rating in the polls would not have plummeted to 12 per cent and he would not even feel the need of such excessive security.

Yours truly, Carl and Anne Ott, Arris, Ontario.

Support appreciated

To the Editor:

Recently, I wrote to the Letters column in your newspaper objecting to a retail item which the Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch, found offensive to individuals afflicted by schizophrenia.

I am gratified to report that since our concerns were raised, two of the stores which carried the offending items have since pulled them and will not have them available for sale.

We believe in giving credit where due so I would like to offer our public thanks to Robinson's and Jack Fraser for their responsible treatment of this issue.

In a letter from Robinson's, Janette Sanno, Vice President

stated: "Robinson's has always worked very hard to serve our community. I hope that the course of action we have taken is an indication of our strong commitment to serve all of our customers in the best possible way."

Frank Wynia, General Manager of Jack Fraser, said, "Please, again accept our apology. Jack Fraser is sensitive to the needs of our communities across the country and does not wish to offend anyone."

Finally, thank you to your newspaper for helping CMHA bring these concerns to our caring community.

Yours sincerely, Pearl Wolfe, Executive Director.

Community Forum

How is Canada faring?



OLGA LAVS, GEORGETOWN: "I don't think Canada is faring very well. Things in general aren't going well for this country, especially with the recession and lack of jobs."



GRANT GREENAWAY, GEORGETOWN: "Canada isn't faring well because our politicians aren't flexible enough. All they have to do is give a little and take a little."



ROB SALES, GEORGETOWN: "I think the state of Canada is improving. People seem to be more optimistic and spending more."



IRIS WILSON, ACTON: "Canada is not doing well and it's because of the government. We're overtaxed. There's too much red tape and bureaucracy in this country."