

# LETTERS

The views expressed in these published letters are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The New Tanner Publishing Ltd.



## Re: Townhouses, condominiums and bungalofs—oh, my!

To the Editor,

I read Angela's editorial re the new builds in Acton. I live beside Prospect Park and have asked people on many occasions what they have been doing to the water treatment plant. They say they are "improving" the filtration system. Same with the waste treatment plant south

on Churchill. The water storage plant north of town also had work done...looks like someone is planning for more houses. They could also say it's for the industrial area being built off Hwy. 25. The public transit also scares me... we'll end up like Brampton, Milton, Mississauga etc.

Craig Hough

## SPORTS TALK

### The Group of Death

Every FIFA World Cup competition always has at least one proverbial "group of death". This usually refers to a group in the preliminary stage of the tournament that is unusually competitive, because the number of strong competitors in the group is greater than the number of qualifying places available for the next phase of the tournament. This all but guarantees that one or more of the strong teams in the "group of death" will be eliminated, who might otherwise have been expected to progress farther in the tournament.

With only the top two teams in each of the eight groups guaranteed to proceed to the round of 16, there is bound to be a few surprises.

For this year's World Cup in Russia, the group of death tag will fall coincidentally on Group D. The group has the 2014 finalist Argentina led by probably the best player at the World Cup, Lionel Messi. Also, Croatia, currently ranked 18, who until their independence in the 90's played under the umbrella of Yugoslavia. The relatively young country had their best outing

By  
**Michael Oke**

at the 1998 world cup in France where they clinched third place and their star player Davor Suker won the Golden Boot after scoring six goals. These two teams are regarded as the "seeded" teams and are expected to qualify for the knockout stages.

The other two teams are Iceland—surprise quarter finalist at the 2016 Euros—who despite a total population of about 330,000 still manage to do well at international level, and Nigeria, who have had a history of qualifying for the World Cup but have never progressed beyond the round of 16.

Interesting fact: Nigeria has being matched up against Argentina in five of the six world cup tournaments they have qualified for since 1994.

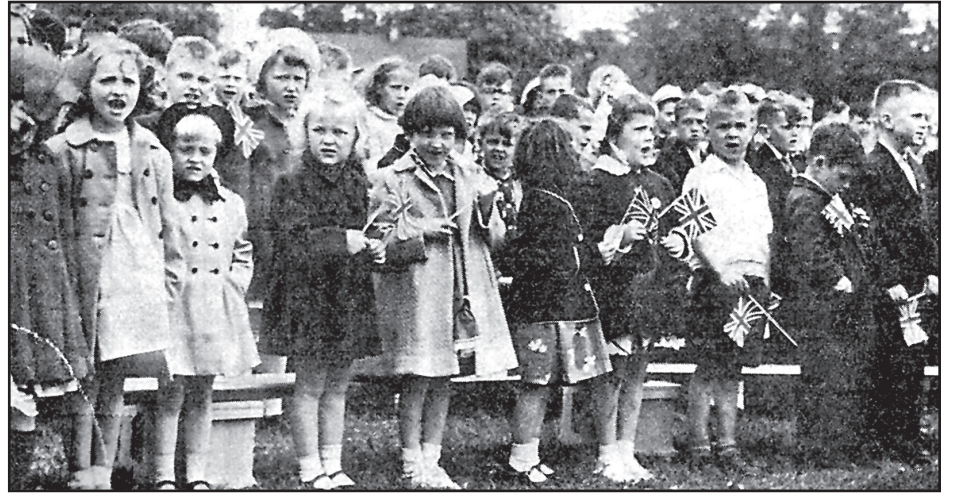
In a recent interview, the Croatian coach Zlatko Dalić insisted the game against the only African side in their group—Nigeria—would probably be their toughest game for them due to the many unknowns.

All in all, I think Argentina and Nigeria will be the teams to progress from the "group of death".

## LOOKING BACK

By: Scott Brooks

Children lined up along Mill Street to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on May 31, 1953. Photo Credit: Dills Collection



## JUST A THOUGHT

### But choose wisely

It never fails. At some point, be it media, candidate or just ol' Joe Public, someone, as though through some great epiphany, will proclaim this election to be the one that truly matters, as if all previous ones never had so much riding on them. Ironical, because as much as such a claim can seem inaccurate, it is also completely spot on. This election is sure to decide the fate of Ontario, perhaps even Canada, just as the last one did. Sure, we cannot change the past, but to ignore it is to invite peril. It is why we find ourselves here today, and yet, when it comes to election season we tend to look at our past with glasses of the rose-coloured hue, picking and choosing the parts we celebrate, callously seeing past the mistakes.

So, today, Ontario finds itself in a bit of a pickle; a situation seen grimly or sunny, depending on who you ask. Of course, this is no surprise. The party in power will always paint an optimistic picture of a province on track, with a foundation too important and long standing to waste. The Liberals hope the "stay the course, things are going rosy" plea, and a fear of the unknown, will continue to sway voters through arguably some of the most controversial and notorious scandals in provincial history—think eHealth, Hydro, cancelled contracts—the list goes on. Wynne knows this song and dance well, and, to her credit, it has worked for them. Since 2003 they have decided our fate. And while it is easy to like a party that appears balanced in reaction to both social concerns and business needs, one must recognize that with such a vast and varied history of corruption and questionable business practices—according to judicial rulings and auditor findings—a Liberal vote is saying these actions were okay.

Some pundits, however, argue



By  
**Trish Bell**

the Liberals didn't win so much as others simply lost and certainly previous Progressive Conservatives leaders Ernie Eves and Tim Hudak seemed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. A controversial leader like Doug Ford put into play late in the game this time have many wondering if history will repeat itself. After all, we seem predisposed to dislike Conservatives. The cold, penny-pinching status quo; perhaps business smart about how to keep the financial house in order but clearly no fun at parties. True they have yet to release a platform for scrutiny but some could equally argue releasing one could once again defeat the party—as has happened in the past. No one likes the responsible uncle telling them they can't afford the southern vacation after all. In truth, maybe not promising anything would be best; at least then they can't be accused of not upholding their promises?

And then there's the NDP. While our parents feared anything socialist in nature—perhaps for good reason considering the wars and scars they endured—today's youth feel disenchanted by a system that seems old, stale and demanding, and they see the orange wave as hope. While some still suffer from the early 90's NDP experiment with massive unemployment and even more spending, others are drawn to promises of free without remembering anything deemed free by a government is actually paid for through government funds—usually taxes. What's more, when the richest people either leave or find a way out of paying, the lower and middle class will have to

shore up the difference. Add to this the vast amount of money leader Andrea Horwath has charged her party—nearly \$44 K—for clothing expensed under travel, office supplies and advertising despite earning four times the average household income of those in her riding, and a well-costed plan with a glaring \$1.4 billion error, and today's voters should maybe be a bit warier of a Bob Rae déjà vu.

In the end, none of the parties are perfect. All have flawed history, less than stellar personalities and plans that frankly never add up. Be it these or any of the 28 registered parties in Ontario—yes 28—our province still needs leadership and direction and the electorate must choose. Local candidates' worthiness aside, sometimes a message needs to be sent. When governments believe they can do things that are illegal, immoral or just appear wrong, it is because they believe that they do not answer to the people who elected them. When candidates articulate values we find repulsive as a group—Remembrance Day is not war mongering, Christmas is a part of our culture, the police are not to be cussed at nor suffer the slings of racial slurs, women's oil wrestling does not celebrate women's rights, 9/11 was not a US government action, Hitler is never to be inspirational, bombing the "gun nuts" is wrong and so on—parties need to choose values over votes. There is no shortage of people fit or unfit for office no matter which party banner they hold. If we can abandon businesses, brands and pop stars for personal opinions and bad decisions, we should remember to turn our attention to what our politicians are saying on our behalf. After all, the legacy we leave for the next election is really dictating our history. So, as the knight says of the Holy Grail, choose. But choose wisely.

The New Tanner welcomes your LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, but, please keep in mind that letters must include the author's name, address and phone number in order for us to contact you if needed. Letters that are sent in anonymously will not be published. They may be edited for content or length. They are published as a first come first serve basis and we do not guarantee publication due to space availability.