

## *The way we were*



## *Look familiar?*

Up until the warm-up earlier this week, Main Street in Georgetown did not look much different than it did in the winter of 1910.

*Photo courtesy of Esquesing Historical Society; Content Heritage Halton Hills.*

## More letters to the editor PM must lead the fight on poverty

Dear editor,

Opinions will vary about the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. My only hope is that he will make a great move towards helping people in need before leaving office.

The death of Nelson Mandela reminds us of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's huge contribution to end apartheid in South Africa. Wouldn't

it be great to also remember Harper for something huge, like being a world leader in the fight against poverty, in Canada and around the world?

It would be quite a turn of events, but it was also quite a change for Mulroney to stand against apartheid more than 20 years ago.

*Bruno Marquis*

## Is an Ontario election in the cards this spring?

In just a few short weeks, there is a strong possibility that Ontario may be in the throes of a provincial general election.

It is a plausible scenario. Here's how it might unfold:

Sometime later this month, Kathleen Wynne's Minister of Finance, Charles Sousa, would announce the date when he plans to present his 2014-15 budget speech. He would likely say he plans to present his budget to the Legislature sometime in April. After the budget is tabled, a debate on the budget motion would then be initiated, and a vote on the motion would follow a few days later.

If this budget motion were to be defeated, it would signal decisively that the Liberal government had lost the confidence of the House.

Tradition would then compel the premier to ask the Lieutenant Governor to dissolve the Provincial Parliament, and a general election campaign would be on. Ontarians might vote for a new government in late May or even early June.

However, another plausible scenario might transpire, whereby the government survives for now, and no election would take place this spring.

Here's how this alternative scenario might transpire:

The premier, seeking to avoid an election she fears she would lose, would again enter into public and private negotiations with the NDP leader. The NDP would offer a wish list of ideas they would want included in the budget. The Liberals might choose to embrace those NDP

proposals, and commit to including them in the budget.

The new spending the NDP requested under this scenario would be paid for with borrowed money. The NDP, having had their requests granted by the Liberals, would promise to allow the budget motion to pass, either by voting for it or abstaining on it. The vote on the budget motion would take place sometime in April or May, and if it were to pass with NDP support, the election would be put on hold.

There are other possible scenarios that might unfold in the coming weeks, and any number of things could happen. No one has a crystal ball, and only time will tell.

In spite of all this, one thing is certain: our Ontario PC Caucus has consistently opposed the Liberal government budget motions, going back over the past ten years.

We have voted against the Liberal budget motions because we do not have confidence in the current Liberal government. We have not supported their tax increases, out of control overall spending, excessive red tape, and their policy of doubling of the provincial debt. We have urged them to adopt our jobs plan, since they appear to have no effective jobs plan of their own.

It is our responsibility as an Opposition party to hold the government accountable, and prepare to form the next government, if we are entrusted with the support of Ontario voters.

*— Ted Arnott is the MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills*



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