

What if no one got elected to parliament?

The mind is still reeling from B.M. the PM's announcement that he will no longer lead Canada down the garden path.

I had a strange dream the other night. I'm not sure whether it could be considered a nightmare or some sort of vision.

In my dream, a voice from not-so-high called a federal election and no one got elected.

The Houses of Merriment in Ottawa were silent and oddly enough, the old structures seemed to settle more comfortably into their foundations with what might be termed an architectural sigh of relief.

Unemployment offices across the land were swamped. Extra security had to be added as now out-of-work politicians jostled with the now-unemployed, self-proclaimed "political analysts" whose jobs had been trimmed from newspapers, radio and television stations as redundant.

Cries of "I used to be Jean's speech therapist", "I was only following my leader" and "I never really liked Audrey's hairdo", mingled with equally strident exhortations along the lines of "I didn't write the story that the country would fall apart, it was a total misprint", "They trapped me in my

office, I wrote what I did just to escape" and "Don't blame me if I misjudged the mood of the people, my makeup was running".

And the lady behind the UIC desk kept nodding "uh-huh, uh-huh, step to the back of the line" and the beat goes on until the next political bandwagon rolls into town.

I woke up in a cold sweat and needing a quick dose of reality, flicked on the tube desperately channel-scanning to find Sesame Street.

Then the grey cells started nudging each other again and a flashing thought - much like a rent-a-neon sign - started edging into my consciousness. "It just might happen!"

It was time for breakfast and some serious thinking.

Grabbing a cold piece of pizza from the soggy cardboard carton next to my bed, I ticked off our federal political party possibilities.

The now rudderless Progressive Conservatives, about as popular as a communicable disease.

The Jean Chretien-led Liberals, still suffering through Trudeau political-pause.

The Audrey McLaughlin-led New Democrats. Still waffling on issues, still perceived as "No Damn Policy" buffoons.

As I See It



Colin Gibson

Then we have the Reform Party. The latest rumor had Preston Manning urging restraint at a white supremacist campfire outing.

Mel Hurtig, the non-elitist leader of the new non-elitist National party was last reported sighted at a very elitist book-swapping soiree.

The Bloc Quebecois is still looking for a hockey player (preferably French-speaking) to lead them out of their own zone and then we have the Libertarians. When last spotted, these galloping galumphs were trying to organize an ABBA reunion tour.

Scary thought! More brain food needed. I commence digging through old newspapers for that

suddenly remembered carton of Chinese food.

Then, an illuminating thought takes hold - like a fishbone caught in the throat.

Maybe finally, appropriately, Canadian voters can really choose how they want to be governed and by whom. Politicians are out, people are in. Toss aside the pork-barreling party system that ignores voters' wishes; that allows a combination of dreamers, schemers, incompetents, party bagmen and party hacks to be foisted on the public - at the respective party's whim - come election time.

Let's finally really grill those running for elected office. Let's be unmerciless in demanding accountability for the actions - or inactions as the case may be - of those who hold elected office.

Let's disregard empty promises and similarly, disregard with disdain the same empty candidates who promise pie-in-the-sky, never-never lands.

Let's require each candidate to sign a pledge on what he/she will do, or attempt to do, and which legislation the candidate will or will not support, if elected.

The pledge will at least remind those elected that they are morally responsible to their constituent's

wishes. It would also allow voters an easy reference in terms of judging the performance - or lack of same - of their elected representative, when the next election rolls around.

And most important, let's vote for the most qualified candidate, regardless of political party affiliation.

Those against these suggestions will moan that nothing will get done; will cry out that fringe parties will sprout like weeds, that Parliament Hill will be mocked as a conglomeration of iconoclasts totally out of touch with the people.

My reply is simple! Isn't that what we have now?

Maybe I'm dreaming in technicolor, but at this particular blip in Canadian history, I feel the people really do have a choice and a voice in how they want to be governed and in the molding of the future of our country.

Of course, the ultimate decision will be up to the voters - as it should be. Here's hoping people think long and hard about the future implications to themselves and the country when they exercise their franchise in the upcoming federal election which must be called this year.

As I see it, anyway.

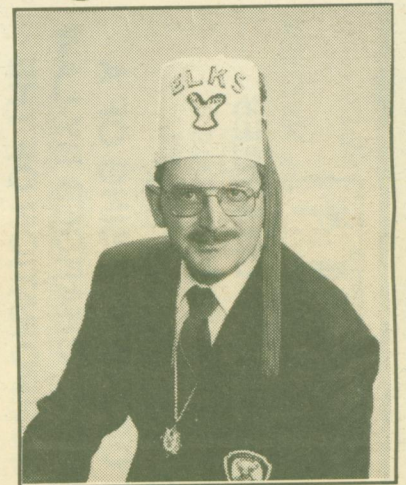
Elks national leader to visit Georgetown

Jim Taylor, Exhaulted Ruler of Halton Hills' Elks Club has announced that Mr. Joe Calder of Plenty, Saskatchewan, Grand Exhaulted Ruler of the Elks in Canada, will be visiting Halton Hills Elks Lodge No. 540 on Monday, April 19, 1993 on their regular meeting night. The local Elks Lodge is located in Norval just off Winston Churchill Blvd.

The Elks of Canada and their auxiliary, the Royal Purple, are a fraternal organization founded in Canada in the year 1912, and have a total membership approaching 50,000 members.

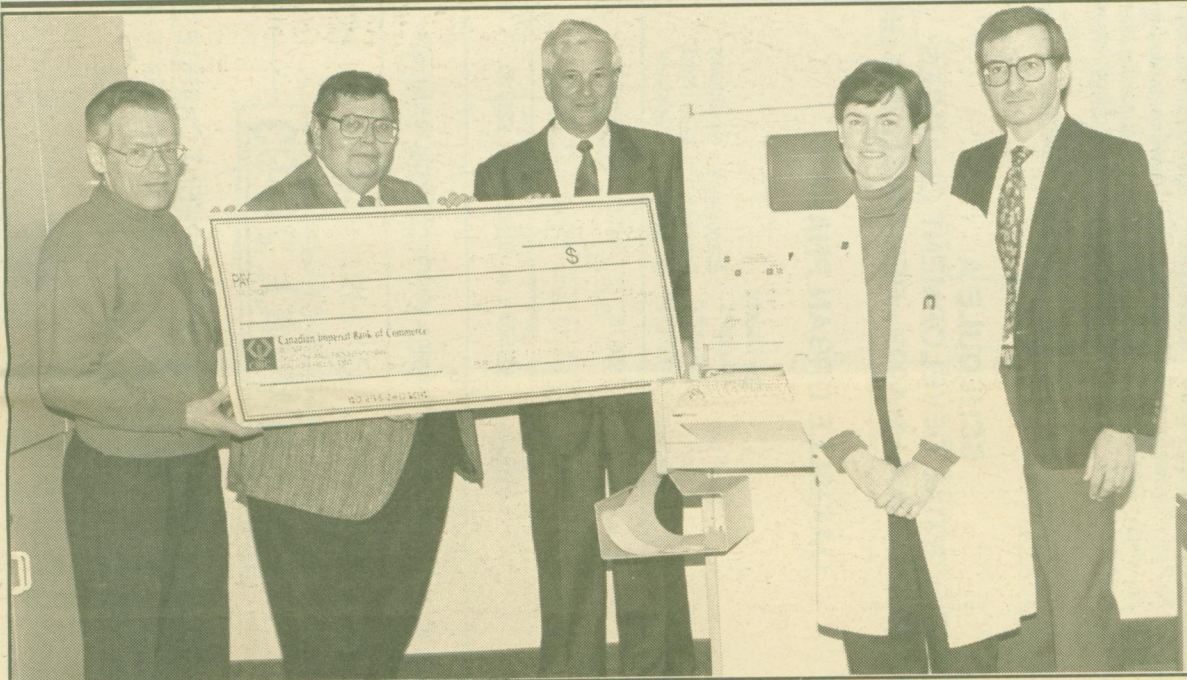
The organization is dedicated to working for the good and welfare of the community with priorities for the needs of children, senior citizens and many others in need. They have provided playgrounds, children camps, senior citizen housing and special equipment for hospitals and regional health units.

Special concern has been placed



Joe Calder

on the need for the early identification and rehabilitation of hearing impaired children. Funding is provided by their National Charity, the Elks Purple Cross Fund. Money from this Fund is also made available to provide assistance for the good and welfare of other children when finances are not available from other sources.



The Kiwanis Club of Georgetown gave a generous \$20,000 donation to Georgetown hospital, pictured here last Thursday in the hospital's board room. The money purchased stress testing equipment. Cheque presentation left to right: Kiwanians Lynn Ferguson, Dennis White, Chairman of the hospital board Connell Smith, lab technician Debbie Cock, Chief of Medicine Dr. Craig Browning.

Kiwanis Club aids Georgetown Hospital

The Kiwanis Club of Georgetown has donated \$20,000 to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. This contribution has been used to purchase stress testing equipment.

A stress test is a continuous electrocardiograph (ECG) monitoring of a patient while walking on a treadmill. The purpose of a stress test is to study the cardiac rhythms while the heart is under some work requirement.

Dr. Craig Browning, Chief of Medicine, notes that a doctor would order a stress test for a number of reasons. It is used to investi-

gate cardiac symptoms (example: chest pain) which may indicate heart disease or to follow the recovery of a patient who has had a heart attack. A stress test can also be used to assess a patient with risk factors which could result in heart disease. Some risk factors include a family history of heart disease, smoking, or an elevated cholesterol level.

The new stress testing equipment (Quinton Q4000K) is fully computerized and provides a detailed reporting to assist the physician in the diagnosis of heart disease.

Connell Smith, chairman of the

hospital board, on behalf of the hospital extended sincere appreciation to the Kiwanis Club for their donation and for their ongoing support of the hospital. The donation is to the hospital but the benefits of the equipment is for the entire community.

Georgetown hospital is a 112-bed primary, acute and long term care facility. As a primary health care provider, the hospital is committed to identifying the health care needs for Halton Hills, and developing programs in cooperation with other health care agencies.

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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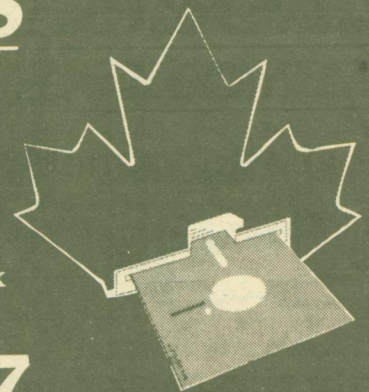
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