

# Opinion

**Halton Hills THIS WEEK**

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## No wonder voters are restless

It seems safe to suggest we are now well into Phase Two in the run-up to the federal election called for Oct. 25.

For the uninitiated, Phase Two can quite simply be described as Media and Opponent Bashing.

Political party election campaign manipulators and spin doctors have the whole thing mapped out, you see and woe betide the candidate who doesn't follow the script.

We're experiencing a bit of it here locally over Halton-Peel P.C. candidate Garth Turner's questionable handling of a press conference called by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce concerning the water and fish habitat problems as they pertain to development in Acton.

'Nuff said, it goes with the turf. But here's hoping the voting public won't be taken in. Basically put, it's all a scam so the respective candidates don't have to put anything in writing, get specific when it comes to electioneering promises or explain their past political foibles, miss-calls or plain incompetence.

Put another way, it's called avoiding the issues the voting public wants aired.

What the hell, it's worked in the past! Why change things now?

Phase One involved the smarmy introductions of the candidates and their leaders to an assumedly gullible public. You know; kissing babies, dancing at Fall Fairs, showing up for local openings, smiling and waving and saying nothing.

Phase Two, as mentioned, also involves bashing the other guys/girls purported platforms while studiously changing the subject when it comes to the respective individual candidates' views on certain subjects. When challenged on this the inevitable heartrending cry of, "You just don't understand!" echoes across the land.

Phase Three will be coming up shortly and this, again, is intended to thoroughly cloud definitive answers. Best put, it might be termed, "Speak loudly, but reveal nothing."

This is akin to the schoolyard game of 'I can do you one better'!

Or the game played in local watering holes known, politely, as liars poker. One-upmanship where all candidates come out firing blanks.

For example: "We'll cut the deficit in five years!", says one. "We'll do it in three!", says another. Up pops a real spin doctor who proclaims, "There is no deficit! 'It's all a pigment of people's imagination!'"

Or how about! "We'll create 200 jobs in the manufacturing sector!" says one. "I'll see that and raise 300 jobs for unemployed youth!" says another. "I'll call both of you and raise 500 jobs for aboriginals!" cries a third.

No doubt PCs, Reformers, Liberals and even NDPers will cry foul over the above scenarios exclaiming they have already stated their respective cases in these areas.

In a pig's eye.

Putting people out of work in one sector of the country to create jobs in another sector is no solution at all to unemployment. So how is the unemployment albatross to be realistically attacked? - if at all? Which specific social programs will be cut to save money - and by how much? Canada Pension? Unemployment Insurance (again)? Universal Medicare? Where, specifically, will the money come from for retraining and apprenticeship programs? Will Canada's military face cost-cutting? Where, and by how much? Where will these savings go? We need specific answers to these questions.

In the Final Phase we have the Mad Max dash for the throne of Canada. An orgy of photo-ops, sound and video bites, the major rags falling all over themselves telling people how to vote.

Give me a break. Maybe if the public was given some real answers to their questions from the politicians, instead of doublespeak, we could truly elect a government properly representative of Canadians. Don't hold your breath.

Colin Gibson

## The People's Corner

### People's Forum

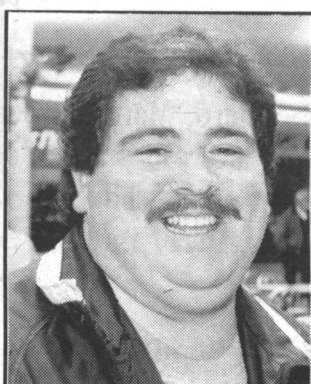
## Impressions of election '93 - so far



**Vince Cicero, Georgetown**  
 "#\*!\$%?@- censored."



**Mary Maan, Georgetown**  
 "I am not impressed with the leaders and they are all skirting the issues."



**Paul George, Georgetown**  
 "The election is a big game with false promises and false hopes. Its time to reform the government."



**Anne Fraas, Georgetown**  
 "So far, I have heard a lot of rhetoric with little substance."

## Offering an attractive alternative for voters

### To the Editor:

Having waited such a long time for a federal election to be called, Canadian voters now have cause to be disappointed by what they are hearing from the leaders of the three major parties.

Kim Campbell hints at this and that but makes no definite statements on any of the issues that concern the public. Personality and gender seem to be all she has going for her, Jean Chretien's plan to

spend billions of dollars on job creation can only strike terror into the hearts of the already over-burdened taxpayers. We need more governmental spending like we need another senator!

Audrey McLaughlin hammers away with her plan to distribute the wealth in spite of the fact that socialism has never worked anywhere in the world, is not working here, and will probably never work anywhere, any time,

ever. As Winston Churchill so aptly put it "...the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries".

Preston Manning's "Let the people speak" is the only statement that makes sense. If the people were allowed to speak and be heard as they were in the Charlottetown Accord referendum, they would make the decisions necessary to put Canada's affairs in order.

If the people are not allowed to speak and be heard, we can only expect

more of the mismanagement and wrong priorities that have plunged us into debt, divisiveness and despair.

Promises to seek out and act upon the will of the majority, to make elected representatives accountable to their constituents, and to generally apply some common sense to the running of the country's business make the Reform Party of Canada an attractive alternative for voters in the upcoming election.

Eileen Hutcherson  
 Actor

## Get heavy trucks off Maple Avenue

### To the Editor:

My family and I have just returned from our annual visit to Georgetown, where we are fortunate to have family connections. Yours is a lovely town in an area offering so very much, and we are more than happy to sing its praises wherever we go. But there is one thing that really, truly bothers us; the trucks, trucks, trucks!

Nowhere have we seen so many huge, barreling trucks - and we don't exactly live in a backwater. Perhaps we are keenly aware of these rogue vehicles because our two family homes both lie on Maple Avenue - a sleepy, charming name which belies the street's current rumbling nature (never mind its residential status).

How many times did we walk between the two homes, up from or down to the 8th Line intersection, clutching our children as dump trucks or semis gunned past in an attempt to catch the light, virtually sucking us into their grinding "wake"? About 50 per cent of the time, I'd say, conservatively.

Beyond the obvious question (what sort of madness is this?), another kept popping up: who's in charge here? (And what friends in trucking have they?) Whoever

they are, I hope they listen to the voices of reason (among them, R.G. Sears, HHTW - Sept. 1), before something tragic occurs on Maple Avenue. Heavy trucks don't belong there.

That's just plain, common sense, isn't it?

Tom Christie  
 Los Angeles, CA

## Thanks for the coverage

### To the Editor:

Here is just a short thank you note for your fantastic coverage of the 1993 Halton Hills Sports Academy. It was greatly appreciated.

Our success is largely due to the stories and articles written by your paper. Thanks to your coverage, before, during and after the school, another group of

hockey players from all over Halton will be ready for the new season.

Once again, thank you for all your hard work and we'll see you again Aug. 29 to Sept. 2 next year.

Dave Krause and  
 Tim Bennett  
 1993 Halton Hills  
 Sports Academy

## Students should know their politicians

*Editor's note: Eileen Ross is a 17-year-old Grade 12 student at Georgetown District High School who has joined Halton Hills This Week as part of the school co-op program.*

### By Eileen Ross

Politics represent a sticky topic at the best of times. What with conflicting opinions and interests, it's difficult to know who and what to believe.

It would seem that although in general, high school students may know a little about what's going on in Canada in the political sense, they feel it doesn't really concern them. I know I haven't been very involved with the upcoming federal election. And speaking strictly for myself, although I recognize the candidates, I can't say I'm all that familiar

with them or their respective platforms. If I was voting I couldn't honestly say I'd know who to vote for. I spoke to several students at Georgetown District High School, and these are some of the reactions I received when I posed the question "Have you been following the election at all, and what are your feelings towards the candidates?"

Debbie McQueen 16, Grade 11. "I think the lady (Kim Campbell) deserves a chance."

Erin Voegeli 17, Grade 12. "Although I'm more interested in politics than last year, I don't really know too much about the current candidates."

Ken MacKenzie 18, OAC. "It's not worth voting because they make promises they don't keep."

Alison Tsang 17, Grade

12. "Because I'm not 18 yet I haven't really thought about it."

Jen Richards 17, Grade 12. "I do care about what happens to Canada, but I haven't really been following, so I don't know what the candidates stand for."

Sarah Packer 16, Grade 12. "Although I haven't been following the election that closely, there are things I think should be changed in Canada"

To become more informed about Canada in order to judge what's best for its future, is something everyone - and not just students - should actively work towards. Canada is our special home and its leader and his or her plans for our country, is something we should all make the extra effort to learn.