

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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Vote for yourself!

Well folks, it's almost here! We're talking Monday! The BIG E-DAY! Federal election day! A chance for Canadians to really choose who will govern them into the 21st century.

I don't think I've been this excited since my pet fish Ralph developed claustrophobia and I had to take him for daily swims in my shower. Sad to say, I lost Ralph one morning when I was trying to clean under one of his fins. But that's another story.

Back to the BIG E.

The Reform party seems to be causing all sorts of problems for those used to the status quo in Canada. That's as it should be - especially come election time. But that doesn't necessarily mean the Reform wannabes are any better - or worse - than the political bozos we have been putting up with for years.

Don't fool yourself! Preston Manning is a lean, mean political machine and has a few personal bucks to boot. He also has a few political debts to collect on behalf of his dad, Ernest Manning.

In addition, the Reform party has received corporate contributions from Imperial Oil, Rogers Communications, Canadian Occidental Petroleum, Winspear Securities and Canadian Pacific. Not what you would call your average Ma and Pa corner store operations.

Getting back to the tie-in with Ernie and the kid - the All-Canadian bash boys.

At a recent Reform rally in the Ottawa Valley, Preston admitted he had played a part in the Ernest Manning Social Credit party radio broadcasts which aired throughout Western Canada (and into some parts of Ontario) in the '50s, '60s and early '70s. Ernest was the Premier of Alberta for 25 years.

When Social Credit was going strong out west, Ernest wanted to join with the Progressives (the fore-runners of the Progressive Conservatives) and campaign nationally. Quebec was to be excluded from this puberty-soiled party. It never got beyond the talking stage.

William Aberhart (co-founder with Manning of the Social Credit party) came up with the recall of elected officials idea way back in '30s - pre-Pres, don't you know. The law was quickly rescinded when it was discovered 60 per cent of his own constituents wanted him recalled.

The memory of the 'Dirty '30s' is still a frightening specter to quite a few Canadians, when jobless and homeless men 'rode the rails' across our country looking for work.

They found it in Alberta, all right. Ernest Manning, Premier at the time, set up work camps and those who rode the rails through his province were summarily tossed into these camps and forced to work for their keep.

In the early '60's, Ernest Manning fought long and hard against medicare.

Signs in Preston Manning's Alberta constituency proudly proclaim him "The son of Ernest Manning."

The racist issue - well, sorry to say, I've always felt there is a bit of racist in all of us. There has to be. Pride of heritage is part of an individual's makeup. That will never change.

But when you have self-avowed racists in a political party, like the Reform turkey in Toronto (who supposedly slipped through the screening process and whose candidacy has since been revoked) you have to wonder how many others are hiding in the bushes.

But, nobody's perfect. Most especially not some of the dim bulbs elected to lead Canadians into the land of the light.

Native aboriginals weren't given the right to vote, until 1960! Remember the Chinese head tax? How about the theft of property and the confinement to virtual concentration camps that Canadians of Japanese ancestry went through when the bugles blew for World War II. Remember when Jews, fleeing the horrors of Hitler's Master Race in Europe, were barred from entering Canada?

The Reform party has some excellent ideas that need exploring. I agree with their philosophy that our political system needs revamping. I also don't feel Canada will benefit - at this particular time - with a majority government controlled by either the Liberals or the Progressive Conservatives.

At the same time, we would be in a sorry state if either the Reform or the Bloc Quebecois held the balance of power to stalemate a newly-elected federal government in what just might be a government of opposites that attract for the common good of Canada.

The results of the Oct. 25 election will not only test Canada's mettle, but also test the commitment of those politicians who baffle with moose droppings, while assuming that Canadian's brains are stuck in neutral.

It's about time these denizens of the pig trough checked out.

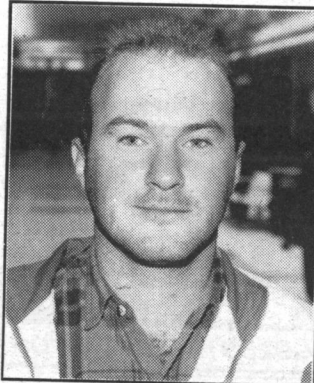
I personally think the best thing that could happen to Canada would be a minority government. Then, with all the hues from the political spectrum front and centre in Ottawa, we would really see who wants to work for Canada and which politicians are merely excess baggage.

Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

People's Forum

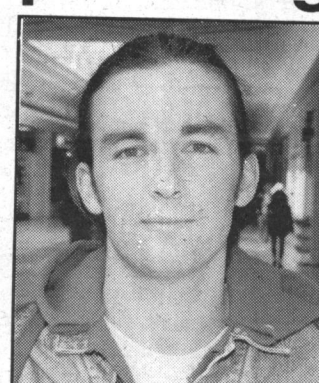
Thoughts on the upcoming election



Jay Anderson, Georgetown: "It will be a case not of who wins the election that matters but who loses the election. We don't have much of a choice."



Linda Armstrong, Glen Williams: "I'm concerned the public will turn this election into a retaliation vote like what happened in the provincial election."



Kevin Euwen, Georgetown: "I do not have much confidence in any of the political parties to effectively manage the affairs of Canada"



Judy Alton, Georgetown: "I am undecided about the sincerity of the political leaders on what they say on the issues."

Reform Party not racist

To the Editor:

Re: Editorial "Let the Voter Beware"

I must point out to you the inaccuracy of your remarks respecting Preston Manning. You stated "The Reform Party has glibly hidden the role that Preston Manning played behind the scenes when his father, Ernest Manning, and William Aberhart, unveiled the racist and funny money Social Credit Party way back when...."

I was living in Alberta when William Aberhart's Social Credit party won the Alberta election of 1935 by taking 56 of 63 seats, with 54 per cent of the popular vote. This was the unveiling of the "Social Credit Party," as you put it.

It was not difficult to hide the role of Preston Manning because he was not born until 1942, seven years later. Where did you get your facts?

William Aberhart died in 1943 and the "funny money" principle died with him.

Mr. Ernest Manning took over as premier. Of his administration, the Canadian Encyclopedia has this to say: "Social Credit won nine successive elections and governed the province until 1971. This

remarkable success was purchased in part by the replacement of Social Credit fundamentalism with conservative financial and social policies which even bankers could applaud. Success was also purchased by judicious use of massive oil revenues which flowed to provincial coffers after 1947".

Not a bad record, as I see it! It shows that Preston Manning has good political blood lines, like father like son.

Furthermore, what gave you the idea the Social Credit party was racist? When it came to power, Alberta was a dirt-poor, depression-ridden province. It had no attraction for minorities and none were there. There were no minorities except for Indians on reservations on which to practise discrimination if one were inclined to do so. Social Credit was not racist.

Again, where did you get your facts?

**Richard Hill
Terra Cotta, Ont.**

Editors note: For more on the Mannings, father and son, check out the column on the left. The racism issue is also addressed. Your own views on racism speak volumes.

Rural posties disappearing

To the Editor:

With all this sudden, renewed interest in jobs, jobs, jobs, (especially by the Tories), you'd think Garth Turner and his cronies would stop stripping away the remaining 7,000 jobs held by rural postmasters and their assistants in smaller Canadian communities.

Despite what Garth says, the contracts replacing these jobs are a joke (just ask the folks in places like Belfountain, Limehouse and Cheltenham) and what was

once the backbone of the Canadian postal service is now a fraying patchwork.

There's probably more truth to the "Morning Smile" in the Globe and Mail Oct. 14 than many incumbents will admit. "The real reason politicians want to get reelected is that they know they couldn't find a job in this economy". (But then there's always patronage, I guess).

**Liz Armstrong
Erin**

Vendetta against Heaton

To the Editor:

The persistent vendetta against Councillor Heaton has no place in your community paper. He is mandated by Ward 2 residents and only they can take him to task for what you and Mrs. Monahan see as errant behavior. Councillor Heaton showed me the papers which were far too trivial to justify the attack and your concurrence.

Your Weekend Edition (Oct. 9) featured two letters deploring government and council's denial of their own By-laws. These were prorogued after three years of superbly represented public inputs. Yet the zoning decision abrogated population density, minimum parking rules and height ordinances, all hardly dry on the statute books where the process to get them there had cost hundreds of thousands of dollars more than the MVA deliberations.

The coming municipal election is skewing voters towards a protest against government's and politician's indifference to people, their paymasters. The protest is past angry and borders on revolt. And still, politicians and government bureaucracies don't get it.

Mrs. Monahan's committee for all its attributes, like trustful, cooperative, hard working, superbly time-managed (they completed in eight months what regular committees take three years to accomplish) conscientious, comfortable, balanced, well-respected, sacrificial (potential tax losers), magnanimous (tax winners), hard working, studious, positive and sensible, seemed to miss the point. She should be affronted had Councillor Heaton denied these accomplishments. But he hardly need apologize for saying the process they were in was a sham. He

could have added that regional shams are legion in town.

A recent cynical ploy by government is to convene public committees, feed them libraries of quite speculative and often sloppy, information all purporting to support the government decisions. As the game progresses, the public input is ignored or discounted and replaced on agendas by points which support the administration's case.

If data is challenged, the issue is doomed, in the nicest, politest way, with an occasional consultant's put down. It is a power-mongering process.

Embarrassing, vindictive confused, furious, angry Robert Heaton, the original adjectives which you wisely expunged from your printed version, is a lot more perceptive than Mrs. Monahan thinks. He was, moreover, too much of a gentleman to libel her. She is not immune to a libel suit by serving on a public committee, which no doubt you advised her.

**Bill Hyde
Georgetown**

Editor's note: Get real! Mrs. Monahan's complaint was treated like any other news story affecting our community. I have never met the lady and have not "advised" her on any matter. I spoke to the lady once on the phone then turned her over to a reporter. Are we now supposed to suppress unpleasant news because of one individual's sensibilities? Especially an elected one? Not as long as I'm running this newspaper buddy!

What persistent vendetta? We took up Mr. Heaton's cause against council regarding the story about the memo making Heaton off limits to town staff and have never had a vendetta against anyone! Clue in!