

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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We stand on guard

That just might aptly sum up the Liberal torrent that has swept across Canada as the electorate spoke eloquently - from the ballot box - concerning how, and by whom, Canadians want to be governed.

The Liberal sweep also represents a total repudiation of the Progressive Conservative's sorry nine-year record of federal mismanagement of the economy and the country (fronted by Brian Mulroney and his henchmen); a total rejection of the sorry lot of supposed 'leaders of the people' foisted on us by the PC backroom boys and total disbelief in not only the PC party, but its members and their empty promises for the future.

Never, in the history of Canada, have the voters turned so viciously in an election on a party that previously had held a majority of seats in the House of Commons.

Admittedly, if was with a feeling of trepidation that I turned on the ubiquitous television set to watch the results roll in on Monday night; federal election night in Canada. Most definitely not to be confused with Hockey Night in Canada; although one wonders how Don Cherry would fare as a political analyst! No doubt considerably better and with more honesty than the human anachronisms who keep getting dragged out of their partisan political closets to offer so-called expert insights into things far beyond their reach or intellect.

Once again, these prehistoric pundits - shrouded in self-interest silks courtesy of pig trough groveling - have been proved wrong.

Just as they were in the PC-pushed referendum-plebiscite when, to their collective amazement, they awoke to the fact Canadian voters did indeed have intelligence and could think for themselves without being pressured, pushed, threatened or cajoled - thank you very much!

I offer no sympathy to the Progressive Conservative Party, nor to its defeated candidates.

You were the agents of your own misfortune.

Through the ill-planned and mismanaged GST - which was shoved down Canadians' throats - to the Mulroney-ego-stroking Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords (which cost taxpayers millions of dollars and proved exercises in futility) to the Senate stacking; the U.S.A. sucking-up Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Act and the obscene Mulroney patronage appointments, it became increasingly clear this was a political party mired in its own mud.

A political party which took the pulse of Canada and borrowing from a cliché, proclaimed, "The operation was a success! Unfortunately, the patient died."

The carcass of the PC party shouldn't be dragged through the streets, however! Rather, it should be revered for what it once stood for and what it still could become.

The hyenas, of course, who have been huddling coward-like in the middle of the PC pack and gnawing at the bones of Canada for years, should be exiled from the pack and sent unceremoniously on their way.

In a phrase; the PCs blew it.

We will hear all kinds of maudlin sheep-like bleating and blaming for the PCs fall from grace - and power - but perhaps the furious gaze should be turned inward to discover the true core faults.

Whether the Liberal tidal wave will sweep away the flotsam and jetsam of old-style politics remains to be seen.

But what happened Monday night was a Canadian revolution. It showed that ordinary Canadians - through ballot box democracy - can indeed have a say in how their country should - and can - be governed.

The people have spoken.

Oh Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

The Liberals would best be advised to keep this in mind come any shenanigan time.

Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

Decision was a breath of fresh air

To the Editor:

I write this letter in response to the passing of the rezoning necessary for the Mackenzie-Ferraro apartment building.

I feel the decision was a just and correct decision and I'd like to explain why.

1) As we all know, the economy is still extremely weak and in many sectors, things are continuing to worsen instead of improving. The construction industry is the greatest generator of all for creating jobs as well as creating a multitude of spin-off advantages to the business sector. I feel all want to maintain the standard of living we are experiencing or even better, to improve it.

We have to realize the importance of business in our communities. For years now, business has been taking a bashing in all communities across the country. The perception that business people have enormous sums of money and a multitude of tax loopholes must change. Regardless of what political stripe you are, one must realize that all of the various forms of business provide all of the monies necessary to sustain our social programs as well as our standard of living. All levels of government must consciously realize this and work to provide an environment in which business can succeed.

2) People who live in the area around the downtown core must realize that for years many properties in this area have been designated for high density projects with no height limits on them whatsoever. When this project was first initiated, these were the rules that were in effect.

3) Some people argue that the ambiance of downtown will be destroyed by this building. I strongly disagree with this position. The uniqueness of our downtown architecture is that it's all different, with some of the present buildings not that pleasing to the eye.

Unacceptable behavior

To the Editor:

On the evening of Oct. 12, I attended the weekly council meeting at the Municipal offices and I was appalled at the unacceptable behavior of certain public spectators. I was thoroughly disgusted at the verbal abuse towards the town council after their decision in favor of the Mackenzie/Ferraro Development.

I believe everyone has a right to their opinion. Thus, the various groups were well represented by their spokespeople. However, these groups lost all respect and

4) I've heard people argue that they moved to Georgetown to escape development, but the reality of the situation is that we live in the Greater Toronto area and we are obligated to provide for a percentage of the increased population.

The town will require different types of building projects in order to provide housing for young couples as well as retirees who will wish to move from their houses.

5) Probably the most offensive thing I've read and heard is when builders are accused of building out of greed.

Give me a break! This is what some of us do for a living and the industry is starving! If we are good business people, we also want to optimize our profits just like any other sector in the economy.

6) I had to laugh to myself when I heard some of the protesters say "they aren't listening to us". A reference to the council. The reality of the situation is that for years government has been listening too intently to the pressure groups in our society. This decision was a breath of fresh air for the people in our community who are willing to put their money where their mouth is and provide employment and wealth for us all.

7) If we really wish to get out of this deep recession we are in, many people in all of our communities are going to have to change their mindset. People are their own worst enemies and spend too much of their time in negative activities, which in reality are a plague in our society. It's also a mockery when these negative activities claim they are representing great hordes of people in Georgetown. What they truly represent is their own selfish desires.

8) Will this building be the salvation of our Main Street? I really don't think so, but I do feel it's one of many factors that will definitely help. The argument for a lower

profile for the building in order to help attract the tourist trade was also bantered around. I have real trouble believing that Georgetown will ever become a tourist attraction.

9) In conclusion, I would like to comment on the individual home owners who came out and expressed their concerns, but when you live adjacent to the commercial core of a town which has been targeted for higher den-

sity, you have to expect change.

I sincerely believe that if this project is built correctly, the people who live in the area will not be affected negatively.

Let's hope that once this project has been built, all concerned will sit back and wonder why it was such an issue in the first place.

David W. McNally
Georgetown

Got a beef or a comment?

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request. Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations.

Send your letters to: The Editor, Halton Hills This Week, 232 Guelph St., Unit 9, Georgetown, ON, L7G 4B1 or fax to: 905-873-3918

In defense of truckers

To the Editor:

I have just read the letter, "Truckers Take Heed" by P. Fendley and it left me somewhat upset. I was very offended by the direction of the comments made in the letter, as I have been a trucker for the past 15 years.

I can honestly say that a very small percentage of the drivers of these rigs are the ones that are setting a bad example. Many of the drivers that I encounter on my 3,000 odd miles per week are nothing but true professionals and I would like these other cowboys off the roads just as badly as anyone else. I do not like to be grouped with these so-called bullies because I take pride in the job and the fact that I have remained accident free as I reach the two million mile plateau.

I will be honest and say that while sometime having to try and share a road with the drivers of these offending rigs, what really scares the hell out of me is the number of cars on the road that have no regard for anyone else on the highway.

The percentage of these truckers far outweigh the percentage of so-called bully truckers.

How somebody can speed down a highway in heavy traffic doing 130 to 150 km/h, 10 feet off the car in front while talking on the phone, drinking coffee, reading the paper, working a lap top computer, changing clothes, putting on makeup, or having sex is well beyond my thinking, but I see it done on a daily basis.

Then there are the drivers who make six or seven lane changes to get around a car gaining only 20 feet of road while never signaling, or driving behind a group of other vehicles with their high

beams on. These are only a few of the things you see every day.

I personally don't know any drivers of trucks or buses who like to cut people off so we can hold up traffic for miles. But when we have a car trying to come off a ramp at any cost and are forced over and then cannot return to the lane because there is no room, I know there are people who do not realize this and may think it is done on purpose.

There are an alarming number of bad, discourteous drivers out there and the numbers are growing all the time but there are also a lot of good drivers trying to cope, and that goes for both cars and trucks.

I would like to say to P. Fendley that I have a second seat and extend the invitation to come on a run with me at any time so they can have their eyes opened to the whole picture of what really goes on, on the highway.

I have included my phone number with this letter to the editor as I am willing to back up what I say, so if you have the time, I have the truck.

D. Holman
Georgetown

Editor's note

Gremlins crept into our letters to the editor section in last Saturday's edition and we would like to right the wrongs.

The letter headed "The lies must stop" was forwarded by John D. McConnell of Acton and the letter headed "Think very carefully before voting" was written by Carolyn and Larry Peters of Georgetown.