

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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A country of hope

The massive Liberal sweep in last Monday's federal election continues to amaze, confound and perplex. The major Toronto rags continue to regurgitate reams of copy in an attempt to explain the almost unanimous Canadian voter rejection of the Progressive Conservative party.

Their feeble attempts to catch-up on the real mood of the ordinary Canadian - post-election - is simply a reflection of the rest of the crap they put out to fill space between adds at normal times - little Canadian content and fluff stuff with reality and informational stories given short shrift in feeble attempts to placate their national advertisers.

Little time was spent before the election pounding the streets and attempting to find out what ordinary Canadians' concerns really were. Instead, we were offered polls and insights by establishment promoters more concerned with retaining the status quo than delving into subjects relating to the real ailments that were afflicting the Canadian body politic.

These same so-called experts also missed the boat on last year's referendum-plebiscite when they were too busy lobbying for special interest groups' demands. They were also playing charades with the Canadian public because in fact, all they really were doing was sucking-up to the political head honchos hoping that some of the gravy would spill over into their own virtually empty bowl of life.

In both instances, the innate intelligence, grit and courage of Canadians' convictions was ignored.

We are not a people to be trifled with.

Our freedoms, our democratic principles and our right to express ourselves, especially at the ballot box, have been hard won.

November 11 is Remembrance Day (in Acton and Georgetown, ceremonies will take place on Nov. 7); in memory of that date in 1918 when the thundering guns were silenced, heralding the end of World War I.

In 1914 when the terrible war broke out, Canada's population stood at 7.5 million. We had a militia then, which numbered 57,000 and within three weeks of the call to arms, 45,000 civilians had volunteered for military service.

In October of 1914, 33 ships set sail from Gaspe Bay to England carrying 30,000 Canadian troops determined to serve their country in what had been touted as the "war to end all wars".

Four years later, when the armistice was signed, 66,573 Canadians had lost their lives and another 138,166 had been wounded - some horribly disfigured. Countless others would suffer mental wounds that would plague them throughout their lives.

Many historians maintain that the real birth of Canada as a nation came from the bloodletting of World War I.

A violent catharsis of sorts that cut the umbilical cord from mother Britain and the pride in our fighting men, evolved into pride as a nation.

On Monday, Royal Canadian Legion branches across Canada embark on Poppy week.

Members from Georgetown Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion and Acton Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion, will be selling poppies and poppy boxes will also be distributed to a number of businesses.

Members of the Georgetown Legion Color Party will be parading the colors at 11 a.m. at the Georgetown Marketplace Mall and a booth, manned by members of the Georgetown Branch 120 Ladies Auxiliary, will be operating in the Mall all week.

The Poppy Trust Account is used exclusively for assisting needy veterans and their families, widows and dependents of deceased ex-servicemen.

Lest We Forget? We hope not.

The poppy itself is a symbol of hope and at this particular time in our history, what Canadians need is hope.

By buying and wearing a poppy, we also honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice - the laying down of their lives for a country they believed in.

As the federal election results show, Canada is still a country its people believe in.

Colin Gibson

The People's Corner

Maple Avenue is not a drag strip

Editor's note: The following letter was released to HHTW for publication.

**Councillor
 Pam Johnson
 Region of Halton
 Dear Ms. Johnson:**

We wish to add our voices to the growing number of residents who are asking that the large trucks currently abusing Maple Avenue be restricted or banned completely from this residential street. Maple Avenue is not a drag strip or an expressway!

The disruption to quiet enjoyment of the neighborhood and the menace to pedestrians walking on Maple Ave. are inexcusable. The speed of these trucks is often 70 km/hr. or higher, especially as they approach the Main St. lights. Many will not slow down for a yellow, but instead speed up while leaning heavily on their deafening horns to go racing through the intersection. The truck drivers know that anyone approaching or waiting at the intersection will stay out of their way

rather than be killed by one of these monsters.

It is horribly unpleasant and unsafe to be walking on Maple Avenue when a huge truck roars by at high speed, literally within inches of the sidewalk, shaking the ground and blowing dust and grit all over the place.

We implore you to raise this issue at regional council and to assist that some corrective action be taken before there is a tragedy. There are many school children, elderly residents of the senior's building on Main St. and families who use the sidewalks of Maple Avenue to get to and from schools, church, shopping, etc. daily.

Wherever these trucks are coming from and going to, surely some alternatives can be found that are safer and less disturbing to all concerned.

We suggest that large trucks be banned from Maple Avenue altogether. If this cannot be done immediately, then at least there must be meaningful restrictions on their abuse of our

residential street while the issue is studied; specifically:

1) 40 km speed limit (strictly enforced) - would also cut down on other speeding traffic, in evidence at all hours;

2) Load restrictions - many of these trucks are obviously overweight, adding significantly to the danger factor;

3) Time restrictions - heavy trucks should be

banned during the night and during school hours.

If some intelligent limitations are not soon placed on truck traffic on Maple Avenue, it is only a question of time before there is a tragic accident, quite likely involving young children. Please respond to the concerns of your constituents and take action now.

**Suzanne and Desmond
 O'Callaghan
 Georgetown**

Taking the high road

To the Editor

I wish to thank you and your staff for the coverage of the Reform Party and my candidacy.

It was a tough election, and an eye opener. We agreed at the outset of the campaign to take the "high road" and we stuck to our guns.

Although I did not win my own seat, I am consoled by the strong showing our party has had across the

country and feel our party is well positioned for the next election. When a new party can take second place in 57 of Ontario's 99 seats in their first election, we must be doing something right.

My sincere congratulations to Julian Reed and his Liberals on his win in this riding and in the country.

**Dick MacDuffee
 Reform Party
 Candidate for Halton
 Peel**

Reform earned its support

To the Editor:

Garth Turner blames the Reform Party for his loss. Has it not occurred to Mr. Turner to look within his own campaign and that of his national party for the root of his demise? Why must he console himself by blaming others for his failure.

We ran a clean, positive campaign, with policies in print for all to see. The Conservatives and Mr. Turner spent most of their time attacking the Liberals and ourselves. The rest of the time he spent talking about how much different they were from the old PC party, and the more he talked new, the more he and his party did old.

Reform did not invent or buy supporters in this riding, we earned them with the truth. It's a shame Mr. Turner's team didn't follow the same line.

For our part, we thank the voters of Halton-Peel for their support and faith in spite of the fact that we were not the "safe" choice. Our campaign was lean, clean and "debt free", just as we promised.

**Don R. Dagenais
 Campaign Chairman
 Reform Party
 Acton**

Living in dream land

To the Editor:

Not only are politicians completely out of touch with reality but it appears the Conference Board of Canada is completely out to lunch as well.

This board, which I am told is completely independent of any government agency, made a statement to the effect there is no sign of improvement in Canada's economy due to the fact that Canadians are afraid of losing their jobs and are hoarding their money rather than spending it and until Canadian's start spending their hoarded money the economy won't improve.

I would say it is time the Conference Board of Canada tuned in to reality. Who, I ask, has got any disposable cash to spend? Not the working class, I am sure. Most Canadian working class citizens can barely, if at all, supply the necessities for life to their families; you know food, clothing, housing, let alone stimulate the economy by making purchases over and above these items.

No, there is very little, if indeed any hoarding of money going on. On the contrary, most of the working class in Canada have been put into a position where they must go into debt just to go to work. This due to the constant taxation without representation, we the people must constantly endure, from every level of government (provincial, federal and municipal).

I suggest if the Conference Board of Canada really wishes the economy of Canada to improve, they better petition all levels of government to have the working classes hard-earned money returned to them. If not, the retailers across Canada will have to approach the different levels of government to promote sales based on payment by our dollars, as the governments have all our money now.

Wake up, Conference Board, you're living in dreamland with our politicians.

**John D. McConnell
 Acton**

