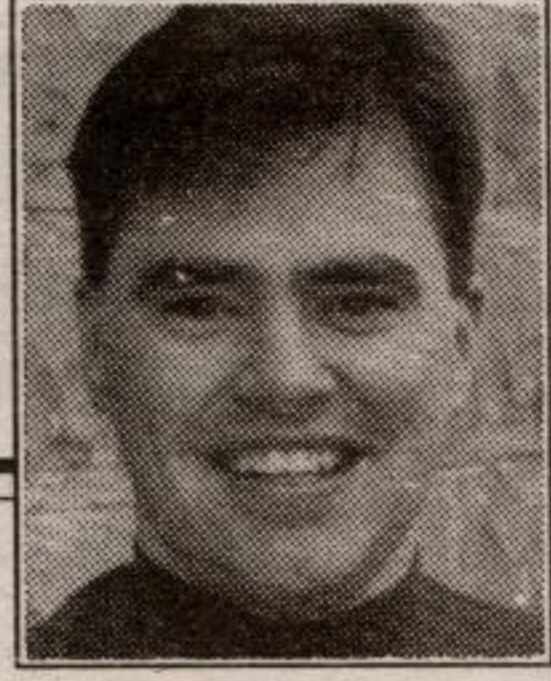


## EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



# Hold high the meat cleaver, Mr. Harris

It's the final week of the provincial election campaign and we've got a half-way decent shot at getting a new government with a new style of governing. While Mike Harris and his Progressive Conservatives offer fundamental change, a Lyn McLeod government would, I fear, mean only a marginal shift away from NDP policies and process — and that's just not far enough.

Mike Harris, small business owner and champion of "common sense," is probably a better choice right now for the citizens of Ontario. Lyn McLeod is a politician, and in these last days she's often become so bogged down by her own political rhetoric she's missed an important point: *We're tired of politicians and we're looking for a leader.*

Again, the issue is "fundamental change" (Harris's oft-repeated credo) versus "I'm certainly prepared to be part of the work that has to get underway." If you've ever listened to her, you'll recognize the latter statement as a true McLeodism. Just like "good-faith negotiations should be a top priority" and "this is an ongoing concern; I'm prepared to work with people to find solutions."

Maybe it's just me, but I watched the Liberal leader field questions on City-TV's election forum Sunday night and I had difficulty understanding most of what she said. Lots of sweeping generalizations and poli-talk. No clear conviction.

But let us move on to the issues at hand. The Tories promise to trim \$6 billion from government spending; the Liberals vow to cut \$4 billion.

The Tories have promised \$4 billion in tax cuts. The Liberals plan \$1.7 billion — and last week McLeod attacked the Conservative plan as "nonsense" and "reckless."

Don Lenz, however, doesn't agree. Lenz is the vice-chairman of a Toronto investment banking firm who was a "born-in-diaper-Liberal" (like myself) until a year ago. In Saturday's *Globe and Mail* Lenz explained his endorsement of the Tory platform by advising, "If you don't take a meat cleaver to bureaucracy, it grows rapidly."

The Tories say they'll cut the size of government bureaucracy, reduce the number of politicians living off the public payroll and end the unfair practice of hiring according to quotas rather than merit. Harris has pledged to repeal the NDP's labour legislation — Bill 40 — in its entirety. And balance the budget.

The Liberals promise to balance the budget, cut "political staff" (by \$2 million, versus Harris's \$650 million), and "get Ontario working again." Under a Liberal government, Ontario will be "open for business again."

In the final analysis the most important variable is this: Mike Harris seems to appreciate the depth of our cynicism toward politics and politicians in this province right now. "Government isn't working anymore," he admits. "The system is broken," he agrees.

But will it get him elected? It could; Jean Chretien — rough-edged and sincere — reached out to disillusioned voters 1½ years ago and rode his own "common sense" wave into the Prime Minister's office.

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Provincial leaders and party platforms are valid criteria to consider before you vote next Thursday. But individual qualities of local candidates is also important, and both Walt Elliot (Liberal) and Ted Chudleigh (P.C.) have shown concern for and knowledge of the "Acton issues."

Guaranteed, both men would be an improvement over MPP Noel Duignan. But more on this next week.

### Generous donations

To the Editor,

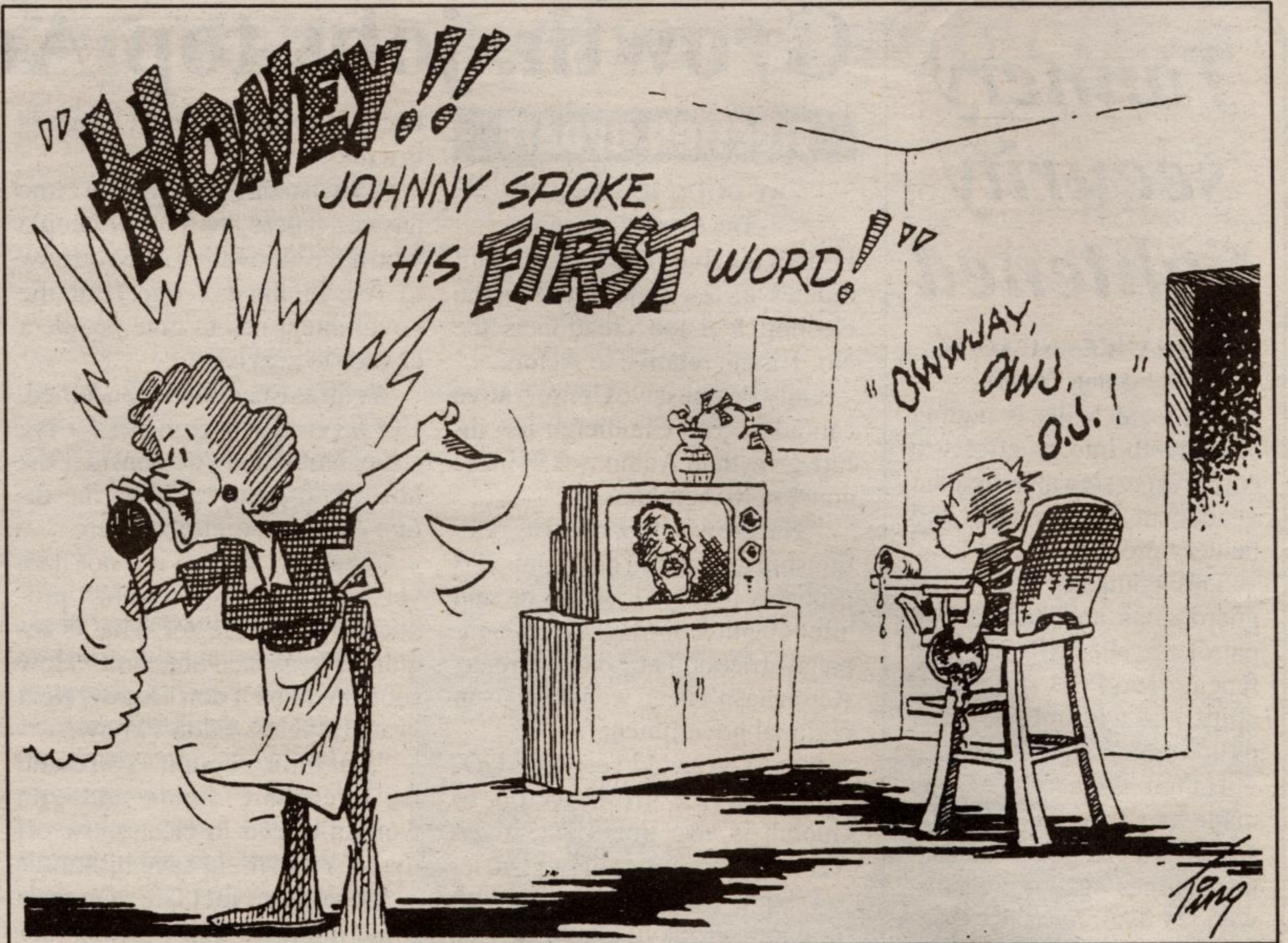
Thank you to the people who came out and enjoyed our barbecue on Saturday, May 20. Over \$200 was raised for the Acton FoodShare food bank.

This event was made possible

by Acton Foodland, who donated food and pop, by the Acton Rotary Club, who manned the barbecue, and by Acton resident Lori Ball, who donated the burgers.

Once again, thank you Acton for making this a success.

*Al Cunneynworth, Al and Al's Olev Richling, Blooms Away*



## LETTERS

### What goes around ...

To the Editor,

Peter Pomeroy, former chair of Halton Region and mayor of Halton Hills, was found completely innocent of all charges in two recent trials.

In both cases the judge was highly critical of the prosecution, describing the charges as completely without merit and effectively making the judgment that the charges should never have been laid in the first place.

This comes as no surprise whatsoever to his many friends and supporters, who unanimously believed throughout this horrendous experience that he would eventually be completely vindicated.

Now it is time to start asking some direct questions about how a miscarriage of justice of this magnitude could happen.

This man, Peter Pomeroy, has made a greater, positive contribu-

tion to the Halton area over the last two decades than any other single individual. Virtually everyone who knows him well, respects his intelligence, his competence, his honesty and integrity.

Throughout this difficult ordeal, which would have destroyed many a lesser man, he has stood tall, while a pack of jackals has incessantly snapped at his heels.

What goes around, comes around, and now there is every reason for the venue to switch from criminal to civil court. It is time for Pete to seek complete and total compensation for the damage, pain and suffering of the last four years.

Halton Region, who is paying his legal bill, should seek compensation from Ontario for provincial actions that were more persecution than prosecution.

For many of us who felt some pain as we watched his suffering and resented the mounting injustice, it will be a most satisfying sight to watch his tormentors in this unjustified and malicious conspiracy, as they get a taste of their own medicine.

*D.B. Dawkins  
R.R. 1, Acton*

### Time for action

To the Editor,

Well, here we go again. Another election is upon us. Unlike Stratford's Shakespearean theatre, which provides the public with a good, solid performance for their buck, Canada's political theatre provides taxpayers with a purely fictional comedy of errors and lies. No bang for the buck at all.

During an election we are subjected to political propaganda from all parties, ranging from false promises to the blatant lies and manipulation of the current ruling party's performance record.

In Canada, it is impossible for every person in the country to personally attend Parliament and vote on each and every issue that affects them. Citizens vote for someone to speak for them — someone who will carry the voice of the majority to the government and vote accordingly on the issues.

The reality is that our political system has become nothing more than a party line dictatorship, based

not on majority opinion, but on party politics and private agendas.

The majority remains without a voice as politicians are influenced by lobbyists, minority groups, wealthy business people and other outside factors.

It is now time for action. During the current provincial election, we must ask the candidates what they will do to ensure that the majority's voice, our voice, will be heard and acted on by the new government.

We must ask what they will do to ensure a free vote on all bills before Parliament. We must insist that a free vote becomes the norm, rather than the exception.

We must demand the abolition of the current system of party line dictatorship and return to a true democratic society.

Think about it!

*John D. McConnell  
Greenore Crescent*

**Send a Letter to the Editor!  
Deadline: 9 am, Mondays**

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