

## EDITORIAL

# 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'

I've always liked Keat's 'Ode to Autumn'. It has a very English taste to the words.

'bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees'

Now we have never had much luck with the apple trees on our farm. I've pruned and cosseted, sprayed and cursed, but nothing seemed to have any effect. All we ever got were a few shriveled excuses for fruit. I had put it down to the age of the trees.

Any growing things as gnarled and venerable as these trees; trees obviously put in at the same time as the house in 1853; are entitled to be barren and unresponsive.

All the farmers I talk too are not thrilled about the coming harvest. Too wet when it should have been dry, too dry when it should have been wet. In other words, Mother Nature has been as obliging as usual. Picture my disbelief when bough after bough at my farm is now loaded with apples. No pears this year, just apples. And not the trees I had singled out to torment, but every tree including ones in the bush that can't have been pruned for a century or more. And not crabby small fruit but regular supermarket packaging size.

What Nature gives with one hand Man takes away with the other.

Compare the mellow fruitfulness of Nature in the first photo with the mists of corporate rapacity in the second. I'm not singling out PetroCanada; the photo just reflects where I happen to buy my gas. The rush has been on over the last weeks to deliver new sign parts to the gas stations. Imagine; the only thing holding back one dollar plus gas was the fact that they didn't have enough space to print such an engorged price. Corporate Canada is now happy to report that that crisis is over; the new parts are in place. Personally I'd like to give all the oil companies a taste of mellow fruitfulness.

On a happier note, the Compass would like to welcome 'the neighbourhood mechanic', FM740's Dave Redinger as a weekly columnist. Dave has

a radio audience from PEI to Vancouver that would bring warmth to the hearts of ad managers everywhere. We're just happy he's along for the ride. He's a lot of fun and we know you'll like him.

We would also like to welcome Peter McCusker as Compass photographer. Peter has had a long and distinguished career as a news photographer. Now we've had everyone on staff take a turn clicking away, even yours truly. Figured it was about time we had someone who'd remember to take the lens cap off every time. Welcome Peter.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Wow, now that's spin. Gary leaves us with the impression that Brian Mulroney's Conservatives were responsible for putting the country into massive debt which Paul Martin then single-handedly saved us from. What he doesn't mention is that it was the irresponsible management of the previous Liberal governments that put us in that position. Just out of curiosity, what was the deficit when Mulroney took over? Paul Martin's cuts may have resulted in balanced Federal budgets but they have left the Provinces struggling to balance and unable to maintain the levels of service we had until Mr. Martin started slashing transfer payments. The fact that there is only one level of taxpayer to fund various levels of government seems to be irrelevant. He also forgets that despite the unpopularity of the GST, it has proved to be a major factor in the success of the free trade agreement and grappling with the deficit after 1983. In 1991 the Liberals campaigned on the promise to eliminate the GST and then when elected found, as with most Liberal promises, that this was impossible to do, not only does it generate necessary revenue it gave a 13.5% boost to exporters.

Gary states that 14,000 new jobs were created in June, this is true according to Stats Canada but we lost 26,000 manufacturing jobs so what sectors of the economy accounted for this increase? I hope our Federal M.P. realizes that Ontario's economical well being is dependent on manufacturing jobs.

What Gary doesn't mention in his report is that this Liberal government is continuing to take in unprecedented amounts of money through high income taxes and unemployment premiums as well as GST collected on the ever rising price of gasoline and hydro. The Liberals have made the same funding promises over and over again for the past decade and yet our Health Care, Education, Military and Municipal funding levels are worse than ever.

Keep telling us that we're the most prosperous country in the world Gary and that we have the Liberals to thank for all this and maybe we won't notice that in reality we are falling further and further behind. It will be interesting to see how you're going to spin the next few "reports" when interest rates start to climb this fall.

One last question Gary, what is the exact total percentage of Federal taxes collected on a \$1.00 litre of gasoline?

Sue Henshaw  
Milton

## Are we being hazed?

Dear Editor,

As I look east from our beloved escarpment towards the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), I see nothing but haze. Is this a clear sign of what our environmental future holds for us? More and more haze!

We are being asked to cut back on using electricity as our government says we don't have enough power to meet the needs of today, let alone tomorrow. Yet this same government is telling us we have to grow our population in leaps and bounds within the next decade or so.

We are being told by our scientists that we are or that we soon will be drawing on water from the non-renewable zone (left from the last ice age) within our great lakes and that we are severely taxing our water table too, yet we are being told we have to grow.

Housing development is moving further and further away from our places of work and this result for increased transportation is causing untold damage to our environment and our air/water sustainability. Also, by allowing development to migrate over precious agriculture land near our cities we are placing many hurdles in front of our real ability to effectively feed ourselves into our future. Yet again, we are still being told by our politicians that we will need to and thus have dramatic growth planned for around the GTA.

I ask your readers, are we being hazed by the politicians?

Is not what we are doing with planned population growth at this point in time akin to asking more passengers to come onboard the Titanic after it has struck the iceberg?

Bob Beyette  
Campbellville ON

Dear Editor:

The Liberal MP's most recent column was factually incorrect. He overstated the budget deficit that existed in 1993 by a whopping \$10 billion. He neglected to say when speaking of the Liberal economic record, that Paul Martin's first budget had a deficit of \$37.5 billion.

And he said the Liberals have made Canada debt-free for the first time in three decades. Wrong. In fact, Canada's debt of \$390 billion in 1990 is today at \$570 billion, and during those 15 years, Liberals have been in power for 12 of them. Not that impressive, I would say.

Garth Turner  
Campbellville

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