

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

A personal triumph

Although early returns were a nail-biting time for Liberal incumbent Julian Reed, he coasted to victory again in Halton riding. Like his boss, Jean Chretien, Reed "threepeated," a personal triumph in federal politics but especially for him since he also has three wins in provincial politics.

It was a similar story in neighbouring Guelph/Wellington riding where Brenda Chamberlain coasted to an easy win over challengers from the Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservatives.

Although Canadian Alliance party did better than we expected and were the main opposition to the Liberals they couldn't break the grip the Liberals seem to have on Ontario federally. They picked up two seats in this province, one more than they had in the previous parliament. The Progressive Conservatives despite a statesmanlike campaign by leader Joe Clark were almost annihilated in Ontario. They hold only 12 seats just enough to claim official status with all its perks.

Needless to say the Liberals, who gained several seats in Quebec from the Bloc Quebecois, had the door shut on them everywhere past Winnipeg. The Canadian Alliance took the west and it has exacerbated the east-west split in this country, not unlike the United States where geographically the Republicans are paramount but the Democrats rule in the heavily populated industrial states.

Monday's election certainly was a victory for Jean Chretien who called the election a year early on the premise the Liberals needed a plebiscite on surplus tax money spending. Most suspect the crafty Chretien knew an early call would find the other parties unprepared. And he was right. The Liberal organization had a lot to do with the big victory.

We suspect a lot of the unrest in Ontario with the Liberals may have faded when the test at the ballot box appeared. "Better the devil you know...." etc. However, Halton riding has elected an experienced politician, a man who garners respect from all parties. We wish Julian Reed the very best in his third federal terms and the achievement of his goals in renewable energy and clean air.

Tax Increase?

not necessarily

Property owners who received tax assessment notices last week were understandably alarmed. Three-quarters of the residential properties in Halton Hills have increased on average by 15 per cent over the 1996 assessment.

That doesn't necessarily mean that taxes on the properties will go up but don't bet on it.

Town Treasurer Ed DeSousa says reassessment is supposed to be revenue neutral. It is supposed to make taxes equitable, not to increase them. However, Mr. DeSousa also notes that the magic cut off line is 15 per cent. If your assessment increase is over the 15 mark you may have a tax increase.

The new assessments are based on a property's estimated selling price, the location and market conditions. The amount of the tax bill is determined by using the assessment and the residential tax rate which is set after early Spring budget debates.

Unfortunately, not all councils view increased assessment as revenue neutral. Some see the increases as a signal to raise rates, although Halton Hills Council has been very conscious of cost-cutting over most of their terms. Now that projects are going millions of dollars over their estimates they may face the temptation to ride on assessment increases to raise tax rates.

The next few months with new leadership and new faces on council will tell the tale.



SILENT AUCTION WINNERS: Cheryl Daponte and Harold Townsley were winners of Toronto Maple Leaf memorabilia during the silent auction held at the Rotary Club wine and cheese party. - Ted Tyler photo

Pot Pourri!!

Acton broadcaster and cartoonist Jack Carpenter had a novel way of discarding the excess snow that accumulated on his driveway. He piled it up at the end and stuck a sign up, declaring

**FREE
Help yourself
Ideal for a
White Christmas**

Unfortunately, he had few takers but the irony was not lost on those who passed by.

★★★

One of this scribbler's amusements is to collect weird jingles or limericks that are found in various books, magazines or signs. I've had a field day lately with material that has come under my scrutiny. Among them are the following:

What does a bride think about as she stands at the altar about to pledge her troth? This ditty makes a point:
She stood at the altar
A maiden so fair,
She spoke with her lips
But her heart was not there.
As she stood at the altar
Her heart was a-rocking,
As she thought of the terrible
Hole in her stocking!

★★★

Word puzzles are always a delight if you can figure them out. Try this one which comes from a British magazine:

HE RESTO PANDS
PENDAS OCI ALHO
URINH ARMLES
SMIRT HAND FUN
LET FRIENDS
HIP REIGN BEJU
STAND KIN DAN
DEVILS PEA KOF
NOONE

Put some proper spacing in and it turns out like this:

SO CANADA GOT
THE GOVERNMENT

THEY DESERVED..

TROUBLE IS

I GOT IT
AS WELL.

Coles' Slaw

with
Hartley Coles



HERE STOP AND SPEND
A SOCIAL HOUR
IN HARMLESS MIRTH AND
FUN
LET FRIENDSHIP REIGN
BE JUST AND KIND,
AND EVIL SPEAK OF NO-ONE.

Those who might have ideas about heaven and hell, might consider these musings from an English magazine:

Heaven

The police are British
The cooks are French
The car mechanics are German
The lovers are Italian
And the whole thing is
organized by the Swiss.

Hell

The police are German
The cooks are British
The car mechanics are French
The lovers are Swiss
And the whole thing is
organized by the Italians.

★★★

Remember the fruity ditty made famous by Danny Kaye? How does it go?

Da, da, da, da,
In Orange, New Jersey
We'll made a peach of a pair.
I know we canteloupe,
So honey dew be mine, etc., etc.
Well, here's one from England

called:

The Greengrocer's Lament

I am so melon cauli, dear,
since you have bean away.
The thyme has been so very long
I pine for you each day.
No sugar beets your sweetness,
don't turnip your nose at me,
But take this 18 carrot ring
and lettuce married be.

Irish joke: Flanagan was a vegetarian. When he died there was a big Turnup at his wake.

★★★

When the British army marched away in defeat at Yorktown, Virginia the band played a tune about the world being upside down. Well here's a rhyme to go with that theme.

'Twas on an April morning
In December last July,
The sun was falling lightly
And the snow shone in the sky,
The cow was sitting in the tree,
The blackbird chewed the cud,
The frog was making honey
And the bee was eating mud.
The flowers were singing gaily,
The birds were in full bloom,
As I went down my cellar
To sweep the upstairs room.

★★★

Cutting Twain

An aspiring author sent Mark Twain some examples of his work and also enquired whether fish would be a good food to eat to stimulate the brain. Mark Twain replied, "Yes fish is good for the brain, on account of the phosphorous. To judge from the specimens of composition you send I should say that a couple of whales would be all you would want for the present. Not the largest size - just simply good, middling-sized whales."

'nuff sed!



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