

Bulletin from North Pole:

Santa says there's lots of snow so Rudolph and the other reindeer will have easy sledding Christmas Eve



Kissing under mistletoe Norse custom

Kissing under the mistletoe, a custom which provides much merriment at Christmas family parties owes its origins to the culture of the Norse, the warlike people who ravaged Europe for centuries.

Mistletoe was thought to be sacred by ancient Europeans. Druid priests employed it in their sacrifices to the gods, while Celtic people felt it pos-

sessed miraculous healing powers. In fact, in the Celtic language mistletoe means "all heal."

It was thought mistletoe not only cured diseases, but could also render poisons harmless, make humans and animals prolific, keep one safe from witchcraft, protect the house from ghosts and even make them speak. It was also thought to bring good luck to anyone privi-

leged to have it.

Norsemen had a symbolic myth about mistletoe. The story goes that mistletoe was the sacred plant of Frigga, goddess of love and the mother of Balder, the god of the summer sun. Balder had a dream of death, which greatly alarmed his mother, for should he die, all life on earth would end.

It is related the tears she shed for her son turned into

the pearly white berries on the mistletoe plant. In her joy Frigga kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew.

The story ends with a decree that who should ever stand under the humble mistletoe, no harm should befall them, only a kiss a token of love.

Later, the eighteenth-century English credited mistletoe not with healing powers, but with a certain magical appeal called a kissing ball.

At Christmas time a young lady standing under a ball of mistletoe, brightly trimmed with evergreens, ribbons, and ornaments, cannot refuse to be kissed. Such a kiss could mean deep romance or lasting friendship and goodwill.

If the girl remained un-kissed, she couldn't expect to take that trip to the altar the following year.



SUPERIOR SUPPORT: A \$5,000 cheque from Superior Glove owners Joe (left) and Tony Geng, to ASAP - Acton Sports Action Park - committee chair Deb Fendley will help the Acton skateboard facility become a reality. - Frances Niblock photo



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**Very Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year**

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

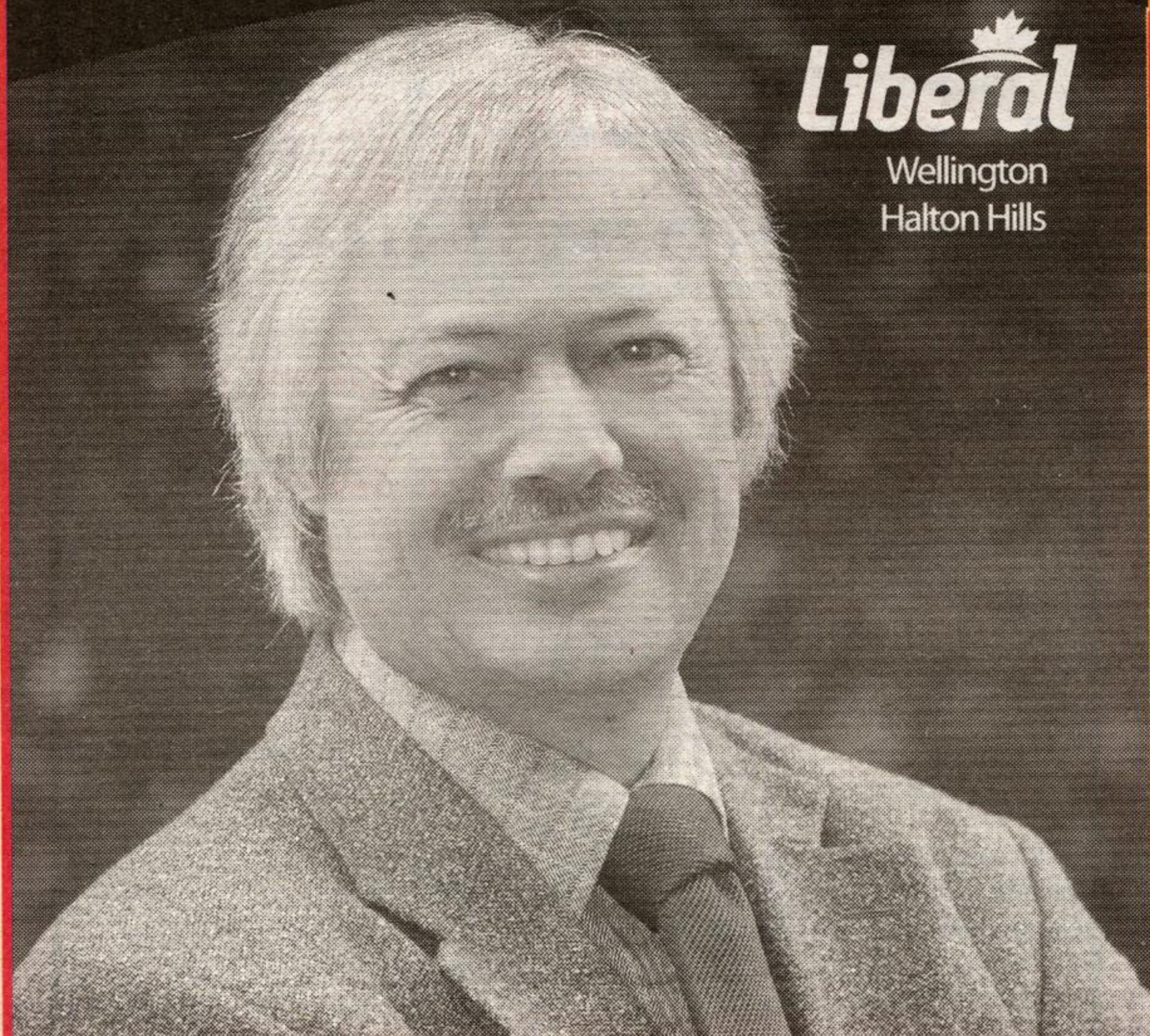


May all your
wishes come
true this
festive season.

Bruce, Jeannette,
Betty Ann, Ken,
Jeff & Danny

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Season's Greetings



Liberal

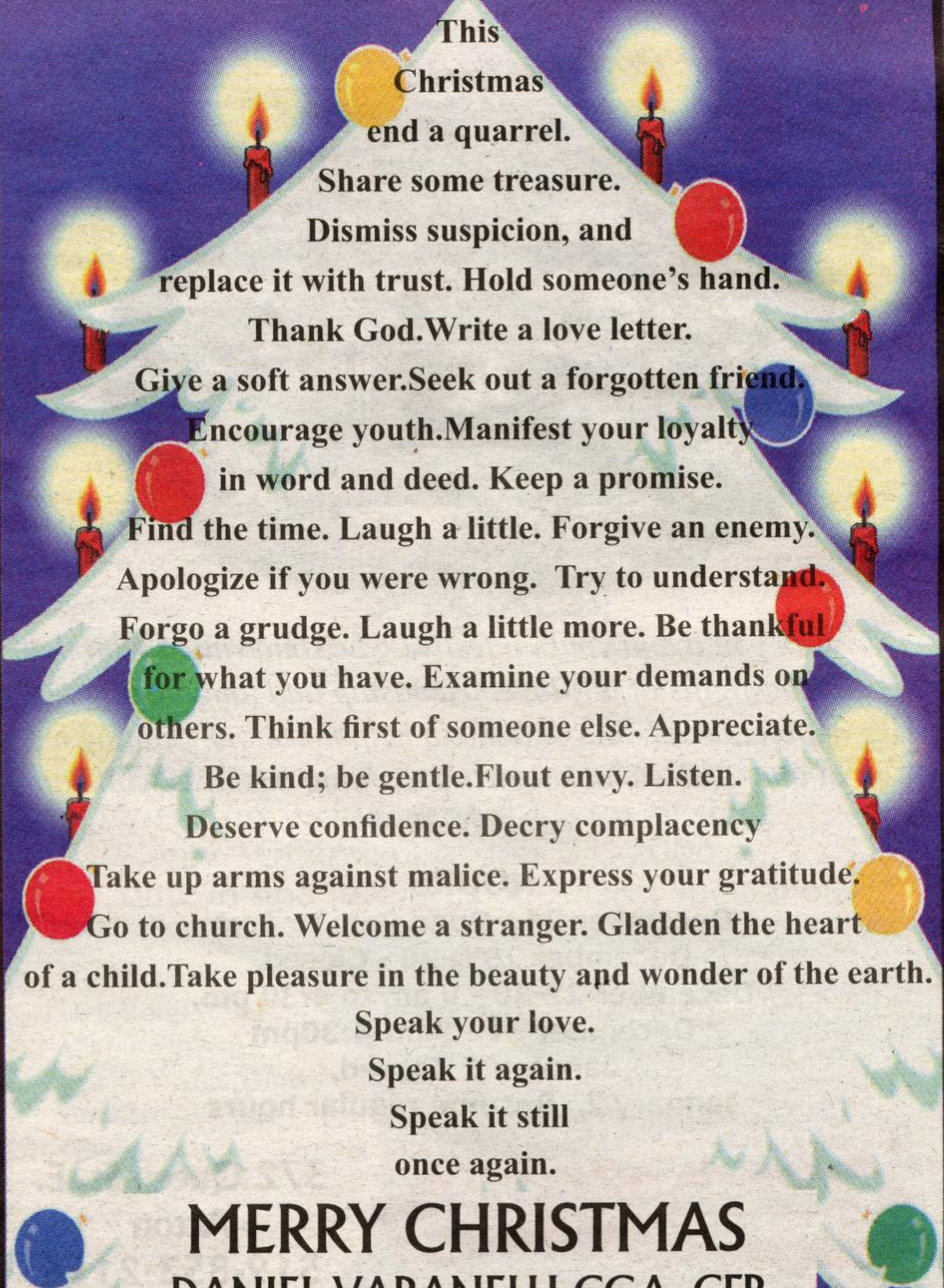
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For a Strong & United
Canada Elect

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Authorized by the official agent for Rod Finnie.



This
Christmas
end a quarrel.
Share some treasure.
Dismiss suspicion, and
replace it with trust. Hold someone's hand.
Thank God. Write a love letter.
Give a soft answer. Seek out a forgotten friend.
Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty
in word and deed. Keep a promise.
Find the time. Laugh a little. Forgive an enemy.
Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.
Forgo a grudge. Laugh a little more. Be thankful
for what you have. Examine your demands on
others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate.
Be kind; be gentle. Flout envy. Listen.
Deserve confidence. Decry complacency
Take up arms against malice. Express your gratitude.
Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart
of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love.
Speak it again.
Speak it still
once again.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DANIEL VARANELLI CGA, CFP