

The Independent

Weekend Edition & Free Press

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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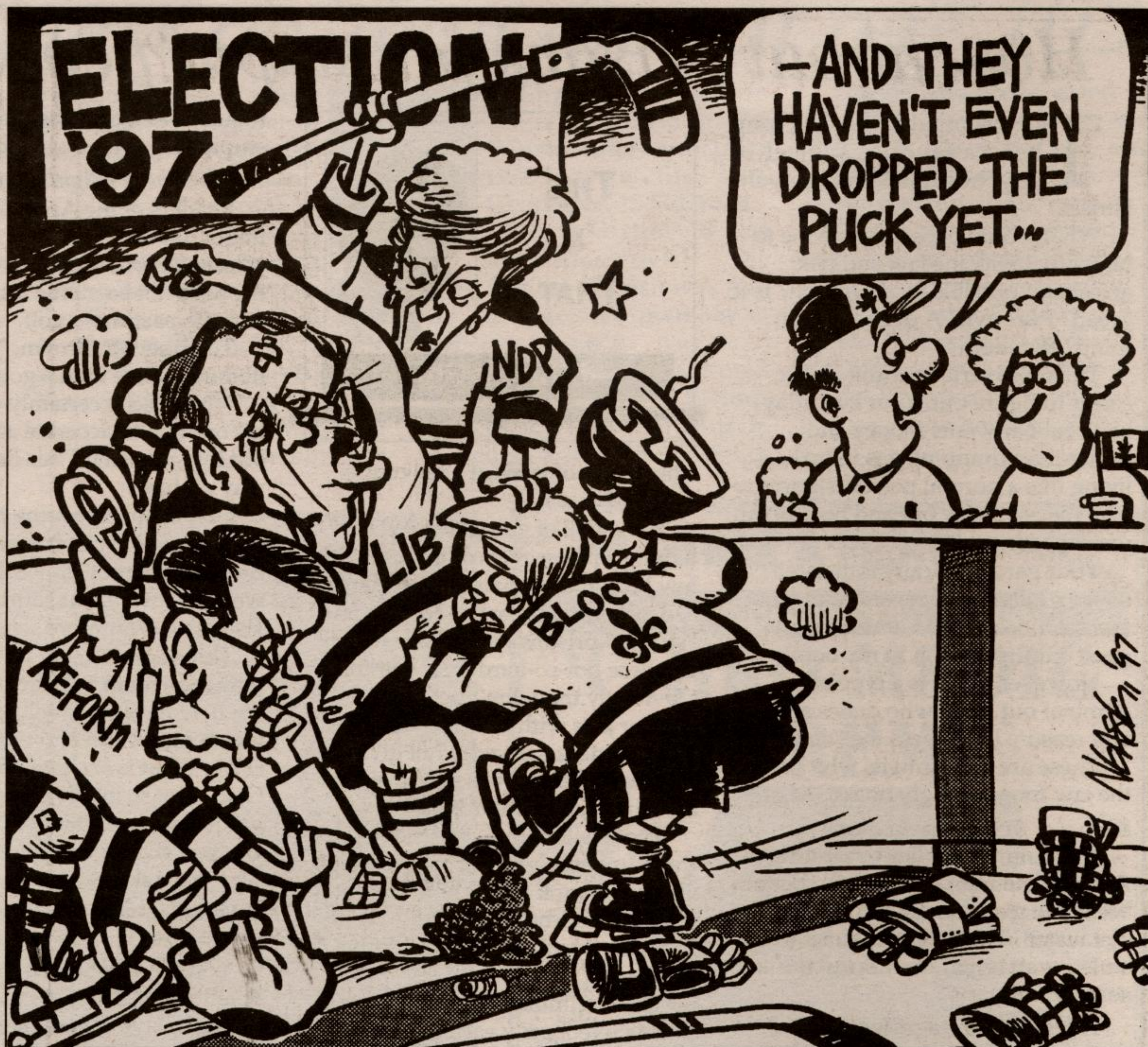
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Keep it green

On the front page of today's paper you will notice a young girl from Glen Williams School planting one of 150 white ash trees donated by Georgetown IGA.

This tree planting is part of a re-naturalization program the Grade 4 students are taking part in, in cooperation with the Town Environmental Advisory Committee (TEAC) and is only one of many events held this past Tuesday to commemorate Earth Day.

Yesterday, (Saturday) the owners, managers and staff of more than 180 IGA stores across Ontario, along with their customers and other community groups took part in the fourth annual Hometown Spring Clean-Up Day. These volunteers have given up a day to pick up trash in alleyways, school yards, woodlots and along river banks all in the hopes of putting a little shine back into the community.

Our environment has taken a beating over the past several decades and it has only been in the past 20 years or so that we have realized the urgency to preserve our rivers and forests and skies.

Through tree-planting projects and clean-up days, we are able to restore some of the damage we have caused to our natural settings. The volunteers who have given their time to help preserve our environment this weekend (and on other occasions throughout the year) are to be thanked.

And these events should serve as a reminder to all of use to treat our planet with more care.

Every day is earth day

Dear editor,

Last week in my Grade 8 science class we read two newspaper articles from the Toronto Star that made me very upset.

The first article was on a new endangered species list. It stated that the loon you may hear up at your cottage every summer just might be put on this list along with the timber wolf and, worst of all, the codfish. If the codfish were to be put on this list, the Maritimers couldn't fish for it at all legally, which would put most of them out of a job.

The second article upset me more than the first one. It was about global warming, an issue most of us don't like to hear about. It said that the earth's temperature was going up one degree every 10 years. Sure, it might not seem like much, but even the snow up north is melting one week earlier than normal.

I'm sure that right now we would like the weather here to get warmer but if the polar ice caps start to melt there would be no Florida, P.E.I., or lots of

Letter of the day

Animal clinic staff commended

Dear editor,

You have been printing letters about heroes, and I would like to tell you about a few. Dr. Ross and his staff at the Georgetown Animal Clinic are the most caring, compassionate and professional people I have ever had the pleasure of dealing with.

On March 25, our six-year-old shepherd/collie cross, Tabitha, had a sore jaw and trouble eating. She seemed to be in pain. We took her to Dr. Ross's clinic Tuesday morning to be checked out. Dr. Ross called and asked if he could perform a "fine needle biopsy" to see what was wrong. The results were inconclusive. He then performed a biopsy, again the results were inconclusive.

On Good Friday, he called us at home to report that a blood test they had performed was negative and that they would like us to bring her in to the clinic on Saturday to do a head X-ray. They were looking for a tumor. The X-rays showed nothing. Again, Dr. Ross phoned us at home and asked if he could perform another biopsy, this time taking more tissue. Easter Sunday passed and Tuesday, April 1, we went to see Dr. Ross. The results were conclusive. Tabitha had osteo-melanoma (bone cancer).

Dr. Ross had expert opinions from three pathologists. There really was no course of action, the cancer was spreading too quickly and surgery would not take all the cancer and she would also be in pain. We decided to put her down to end her suffering.

Everyone at the clinic was caring, compassionate and they are the hardest working people I know caring for the dignity of animals. We want to thank Dr. Ross and his staff for their hard work and caring nature.

S. Harris and family, Georgetown

other places that we like to go on vacation.

The point to this letter is to ask everybody to do something for earth week and not only for

earth week but we should do something every day for our earth and hopefully our children's children's earth.

Andrea Forrest, Georgetown

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Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com