

The Independent & Free Press

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Crunch time

Quebecers will go to the polls next month and while this is technically a provincial election, it is really a statement on the sovereignty issue.

Will Quebecers ignore the economic problems that Lucien Bouchard and his Parti Quebecois co-horts have been unable to solve during their time in power and hand the reigns of power back to a man intent on tearing Canada apart. Or, will they turn to former Tory Jean Charest, now cast in the role of Liberal savior, who promises not only to turn Quebec's economy around but also keep Quebec within Canada?

We hope that Quebecers embrace Charest and the Liberals. As we have said countless times before Canada is better with Quebec as a part of the country.

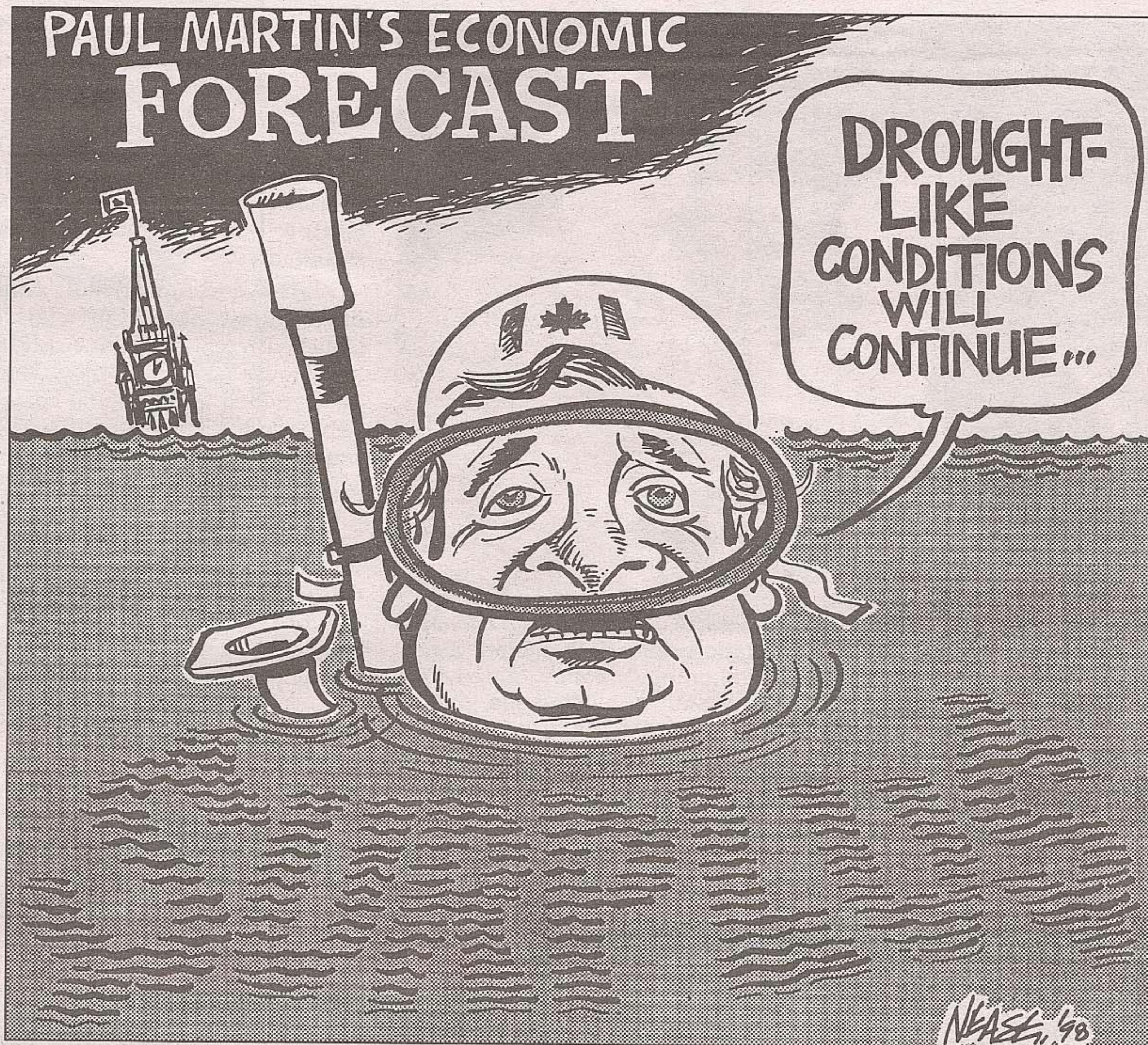
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We commend the commitment and energy shown by the community groups, Acton Agricultural Society and Heritage Acton, in their attempts to save the old arena. In two months time they have put together a preliminary report, garnered more than 1,000 names on a petition and collected \$100,000 in pledges.

However time seems to be running out on the groups. Next week's council meeting is the last opportunity they have to change councillors' minds. And that seems unlikely to happen with more than a majority of the councillors unwilling to spend any more money on the building— except to demolish it.

If the group is unsuccessful in its attempt, we urge them not to be disillusioned by Halton Hills politics. It is essential that the same commitment and energy used trying to save the building be redirected towards developing a master plan for Prospect Park. Only involved participation by Acton residents can ensure that a new home for the Acton Agricultural Society is built in a timely fashion.

PAUL MARTIN'S ECONOMIC FORECAST



Street name proposal gets readers' support

Dear editor,

This is in response to Mr. Lawr's letter to the editor (October 7)

We, being children of veterans that were in the Second World War, and longtime residents of Halton Hills, feel that Mr. Lawr's suggestion is a very commendable idea. We were lucky enough to have our fathers return from the war, but to those who were not so fortunate we feel that at the very least, naming a street after them would be a fitting and admirable tribute to these men and women.

As Mr. Lawr suggested, if it weren't for these men and women we probably wouldn't be building these streets today.

We concur with Mr. Lawr on this issue and hope to see some of the names that appear on the cenotaphs in Halton Hills used in the naming of new streets in Halton Hills.

As Remembrance Day draws near, we must remember, in any way possible, those who fought to keep our country free. We also urge the teachers, parents and other older people to remind our younger generation of just what Remembrance Day is all about. It is too common today for the children to answer "I don't know" when asked what Remembrance Day signifies.

If any of our councillors or fellow citizens would like to respond with an action plan to move forward with this suggestion, please respond to the editor or us personally.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Reid,
Halton Hills

Letter of the day

Norval residents the last to know

Dear editor,

Congratulations to Councillor Kathy Gastle and Norval Community Association President Stella Bryant for speaking up about a sanitary pumping station installed within metres of the west branch of the Credit River.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson suggests that council is "making a decision and voting in a way that we feel is in the best interests of the town." As citizens, this is what we hope for in our elected representatives and paid staff. I do not challenge their integrity or professionalism. The question however is, "What is the town?"

Is the town the incorporated entity known as Halton Hills? The politicians and paid staff? The people of smaller communities such as Norval, Glen Williams, Georgetown South or even Acton? The developers? Or is the town truly some great mixture of all of these?

The problem is that it seems that when it comes to the "town", it is usually the developers who come out on top.

Look at the obliteration of the trees on the Eighth Line north of Argyll. Look at the voracious appetite of the developer wanting to swallow up all that land in Georgetown South for residential development instead of Official Plan-approved industrial/commercial. Look at the invasion of a sanitary pumping station just up-creek from the magnificent dream of Willow Park Ecology Centre. Look at the bombshell of 36 unannounced potential residential units for Norval.

People seek to be citizens in a community; a community where they can genuinely live, work and worship, a community that provides for all citizens and gives the opportunity for participation in the creation of that community, a community that promotes and encourages a healthy lifestyle.

It is not right for citizens to be the last to know about and have the least impact on the development of their own community. It is time we started some discussion about the morality of development and the creation of community.

Paul Ivany, Norval

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 may be edited for content or length and 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