

Editorial

Mike was right

When it comes to the subject of Ontario Premier Mike Harris there is no room for fence sitting—you either liked him, and his policies, or you detested him.

Fortunately for Ontarians, the former opinion prevailed in two provincial elections. And because of that—because of Harris—Ontario is in better shape today than many predicted it would be back in 1995 when the Tories' Common Sense Revolution propelled the PCs to power.

Was it really only six years ago the Tories brought a welcome end to the five-year disaster known as the NDP government? Spiralling government spending, a climbing deficit, an education system which was producing students ill-equipped to enter the workforce, an under-funded health care system with no direction, and unhappiness in the labour movement (oops, some things never change) were the order of the day.

Mike Harris vowed change. He said he would cut government spending. He delivered. He said Ontarians deserved tax breaks and should be able to keep more of their money. He delivered. He promised to make Ontario business-friendly again and to end the union butt-kissing that had been so prevalent under the NDP. He delivered. He made tough and unpopular, but necessary, choices.

The Harris Tories have not been perfect. Far from it. They have made mistakes. Ironically, they have often been their own worst enemy in not communicating their policies clearly enough. They have been too eager (see education reform) in making necessary changes. They have come under fire for their health care reforms despite the fact they have pumped more money into the health care system than any government before them.

In determining the success of the Harris era, only one question needs answering: Is Ontario better today because of Mike Harris? The answer is an unequivocal YES!



Letters to the editor....

Acton IGA owner sets a great example

Dear editor,
McKenzie-Smith Bennett School has a program called A.O.K.'s in which students are

recognized for their "Acts of Kindness" within their school and community.

My Grade 6/7 class and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize someone in our community who has demonstrated this kind of behaviour and show them how much it is appreciated.

I would like to sent a HUGE thank you to Mike Manes, owner of Acton IGA, as well as his ever-smiling staff for helping to support us here at MSB. Through his

kind donations for our Monday hot dog sales, we are able to fundraise and have purchased some much-needed resources and computer equipment for our students.

With the assistance of community sponsors such as Mike, we are able to further enhance the great learning that happens at McKenzie-Smith Bennett. Thanks for setting a great example for our kids and going out of your way to help us out. Your kindness is very appreciated.

Patti Tufford, teacher MSB

MPPs' pay raises out of line

(This letter was sent to MPP Ted Chudleigh and a copy was made available for publication.)
Dear Ted,

I have enclosed a fitness program as well as specific diet information for you and your colleagues at Queen's Park. I am sure that after accepting a whopping 37 per cent pay hike you must be feeling pretty bloated, somewhat giddy and a little nauseous having buried your head so deeply in the public trough.

All kidding aside, do you even feel a bit guilty having reached so deeply into the pockets of Ontarians? It causes me great concern that the Ontario Conservative Party has, in fact, back-tracked on a principle of the 1995 Common Sense Revolution.

I recognize the need for a pay hike but when your pay hike exceeds the \$5,000 annual salary of a school trustee by \$32,000, one begins to see two different sets of rules. Your government expects public servants to accept a 4.2 per cent raise over three years, while indulging in a level of gluttony unseen since Caligula's reign.

I observed your leader, Mr. Harris, on the TV jumping through hoops in order to explain the rationale and impartiality used in deciding these raises, but, in my opinion, the wrong choice was made by all the MPPs that embraced the pay hike as fair. Monies would have been better spent on attracting seriously needed nurses, doctors and educators to our province.

Mike Foley, Georgetown

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

Mail or drop off

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1

Fax

(905) 873-0398

E-mail

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Editorial e-mail addresses

John McGhie

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Cynthia Gamble

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Lisa Tallyn

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

Herb Garbutt

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

Ted Brown

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

Classic car show supporters thanked

Dear editor,

The organizers of the Georgetown Rock'n and Roll'n Classic car show would like to express our appreciation to all the sponsors, car owners and enthusiasts who supported the car show August 24 on Main Street in downtown Georgetown.

As a result of all your contributions, we donated \$3,000 to the

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills office in Georgetown. You not only supported our show, but our community with your generosity. Our sincere thanks to all of you.

Lee Martin, Emily Filter, Scott Moore, Jim and Mary MacArthur, Doug and Irene Dianan and Mike and Lynne Boyd

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Mailing Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1
Telephone: (905) 873-0301 Fax: (905) 873-0398
E-mail: production@independentfreepress.com

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising/Production Manager

John McGhie, Managing Editor

Lorne Drury, Editor-in-Chief

Carol Young, Business Manager

Dave Coleman, Director of Distribution

Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble
Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt
Photography: Ted Brown

Advertising Sales:

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Classifieds Manager: Carol Hall

Classifieds: Mary Watson, Sharon Pinkney

Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier

Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison,

Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

Distribution: Kim McClure

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