

Editorial

Eves' challenge

With his first challenge now behind him, Ontario premier-elect Ernie Eves must focus his attention on an even greater task: selling himself and his Progressive Conservative party to an electorate thirsting for change.

Eves, with his second ballot win over Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, appears to be well on the way to healing whatever rifts there may have been in the Tory ranks. The fact other candidates, Tony Clement and Elizabeth Witmer, threw their support behind Eves after the first ballot indicates any hard feelings that may have developed during the campaign for Mike Harris' old job were quickly forgotten.

For the Tories, it is in their best interest to quickly focus their attention on the Liberals who, in the wake of Walkerton, a nervous economy and an OPSEU strike, are smelling blood. Polls indicate their Tories are running 10-15 percentage points behind the Liberals, despite the fact Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty appears no more premier-like than he did during the last election campaign.

The challenge for Eves is to continue with the heart of the Tory doctrine—tax cuts and offering business a friend—while showing the province an Eves-led PC party is more willing to listen to Harris antagonists—labour, teachers and nurses.

It's a tricky line Eves will have to walk as he can't be seen as paying lip service to groups the Tories have alienated in the past. Eves must also have workable plans to deal other issues that face the province such as ensuring post-secondary institutions can handle the double cohort of students expected this year, the doctor shortage and finding funds he's promised for education and the environment.

Eves has approximately 18 months to sell himself to Ontarians or risk joining the late Frank Miller in the premier-for-a-minute bin.



COMMON SENSE (R)EVOLUTION

NEASE '02

Letters to the editor...

Council 'squandering' taxpayers' money

Dear editor,

What is causing council to become so addled? My taxes increase every year and they have the gall to even entertain

the idea of a covered bridge (*Independent & Free Press* Feb. 27)? And they retained a consulting firm and paid \$2,106 for a review? Hey, that's my money!

The mayor says that she was approached by some community members with that daft request. What was wrong with a polite "get lost"? She also mentions a "staff member who already had a heavy workload", but yet they have the time to discuss this asinine project. Now they want to spend another \$12,000 for drawings and permits! The other \$85,000 will come from the community? Give me a break. I'll end up paying for the maintenance.

Everything this council touches costs me money. Councillor John Day offered a "compromise", a deferral of council approval. Why is it even on the agenda?

Councillors Jane Fogal and Moya Johnson seem like the only ones who have their priorities in order.

And what about the \$200,000 for a "hiker's underpass" (*Independent*, Mar. 1)? A handful of members of the Toronto Bruce Trail Club want the trail

moved "because it is the most scenic and direct route". What's wrong with going up the hill or down to 22 Sideroad and cross safely? The fresh air would do them good.

MPP Ted Chudleigh wants to give them some money from the Protection and Enhancement Fund. Whose money is it anyhow? Mayor Gaste again shows that she has too much idle time on her hands by posing for all these photo-ops. And what possessed council to request the Ministry of Transportation for funding and construction? Where do they think the ministry gets its money from? I will end up paying for this farce also.

I want my taxes to pay for policing, fire protection, education, road repair and other things that benefit the entire community. If you can show me that a covered bridge and a hiker's extravaganza will attract tourists and industry to this town, I just might change my opinion. Until then, keep in mind whose money you are squandering.

Ron J. Summers,
Georgetown

Grateful parent advises others to keep an eye on your children

Dear editor,

I am writing this note as a thank you to all who assisted me and my children at the Georgetown Memorial Arena (free skate on March 11).

My son had fallen face first on the ice and broke one of his new front teeth. Moms stopped to console him, assisted me with finding the broken piece and finally assisted me to the dentist. He will have it looked after in a couple of months as his root is intact and still growing in.

The manager of the arena was great with first aid and thanks to Maureen Wilson.

Please remember if your child can't skate that a helmet (with face guard) is a must.

If your instinct is telling you that your child isn't safe at a certain activity, listen to it.

I had my hands full with my 4 year-old and didn't even see it happen.

Many thanks for all your help.

Devah and Wyatt Walkem,
Norval

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

jmoghie@independentfreepress.com

Editorial e-mail addresses

John McGhie

jmoghie@independentfreepress.com

Cynthia Gamble

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Lisa Tallyn

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

Herb Garbutt

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

Ted Brown

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

The Independent & Free Press

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

Distribution e-mail: distribution@independentfreepress.com

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble

Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt

Photography: Ted Brown

Advertising Sales:

Dianne Fascinato, Cindi Kerlaan, Alexandra Stabins,

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Classifieds Manager: Carol Hall

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