

Editorial

Change is in the air

In eight days time the path this province has travelled for the past eight years could veer sharply in another direction. The choice is in the hands of you—the electorate.

An underlying theme of this provincial election campaign has been change, and if the polls are accurate, change is likely to occur. But change may come in a variety of forms.

While many may argue Premier Ernie Eves and his Tory candidates do not offer change, we disagree. Eves is not Mike Harris and has his own style—one distinctively different from that of the former premier who led the Tories out of the political wilderness to back-to-back majority governments. Eves and Harris, while both conservatives, have many philosophical differences when it comes to managing the province. To choose Eves will mean a change from the way things have been handled at Queen's Park.

That change may not be for the better. Eves has shown to be less decisive than his predecessor and there is no mistaking the fact the Tories have been beset by a variety of problems in recent months (some of their own doing; some not) that voters aren't likely to forget by Oct. 2

"Choose change" has been the cornerstone of the Liberal campaign. With leader Dalton McGuinty at the helm promising no new taxes, and no tax cuts, the Liberals are hoping to satiate the public's thirst for a kinder, gentler government. Economic prosperity may not be as high on the list of objectives for the Liberals as it is for the Tories, but the Grits are banking the public is ready to believe them when they promise more money for health care, education, etc. is available from money they won't dole out to business.

The NDP, typically, have been the one party not to represent change. They have remained true to form offering lovely philosophical bouquets on improving the air, getting everyone to car pool and bringing those evil Bay Streeters to their knees without accounting for the realities of their pie-in-the-sky promises.

Voters have a little more than a week to determine which path Ontario will follow. Whichever way you decide, you can be certain of one thing: change is in the air.

We will share our views with you in Friday's edition.



Letters to the editor....

Fair organizers, police to blame for riot

Dear editor,

I have read too many reports in the local press since the events of the night of September 6 that blame the

teenagers involved and cast them as scapegoats while failing to admit egregious planning on behalf of the organizers and the police.

Teenagers are immature adults. Normal teenage behaviour includes being rebellious, forgetting to think rationally and following the maxim of strength in numbers. We would do well to remember this when we hold public events and neglect to plan adequately for all possible eventualities instead of blaming the kids for being what they are.

I have brought up three teenagers in Georgetown and have listened to many complaints about harassment from police officers in public places and I can attest to Councillor John Day's comments about the lack of places to congregate without being told to move along. Hats off to him for recognizing the causes of the problem rather than complaining about the symptoms and announcing a few fix-it-quick measures for next time.

Bridget Rosser, Georgetown

Cancer drivers are unsung heroes

Dear editor,

Talk about unsung heroes. We need to thank the men and women who drive cancer patients for radiation, etc. The work is all done by volunteers and some of the drivers have had cancer themselves.

I'm told the Canadian Cancer Society has distanced itself from Georgetown so the Cancer Assistance Services-Halton Hills has taken on the job. They receive no

funds from the Cancer Society and just rely on each of us to support them to pay for gas, etc. Any surplus funds they receive above their costs are passed on for cancer research.

I would like to say thanks to all the people involved: drivers, schedulers; all are doing a great job. My life has been made easier because of them.

Dee-Ann Quinnell, Georgetown

Teens must be accountable

Re: Police, youths clash at fall fair.

Reading the article in the newspaper regarding the disturbance at the Georgetown Fall Fair really saddened and frightened me.

I feel sad that these teens have no direction, and feel frightened that they could be on a road to self-destruction. What a waste of life!

I was reminded of another article I recently read that brought back memories of my youth.

I grew up in a time when "our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. No one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. Imagine that!"

You cannot break laws, destroy other people's property, threaten the police and terrorize neighbourhoods without consequences. Covering up for the wrong doings that have occurred will not help anyone, most of all those involved.

I urge all parents of the teens involved to do your children a favour. Take the time to know where they are and what they are doing at all times. Make them accountable for their actions, so they can have the same opportunity to grow up and become good citizens as we were given. They might not appreciate it at the time, but they will thank you for this someday.

Marjorie Bilton, Milton

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.

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