

Editorial

A vote for change

The voters have spoken— emphatically— giving this province a resounding majority government led by Dalton McGuinty and his Liberals.

After leading the province for eight years, the Ernie Eves-led Conservative government was unceremoniously ousted from power Thursday night with rapidity. A Liberal majority was declared 20 minutes after the polls closed.

The PCs tumbled in popular vote from 45 per cent in the last two elections to 35 per cent — and losing 35 seats to a meager 24.

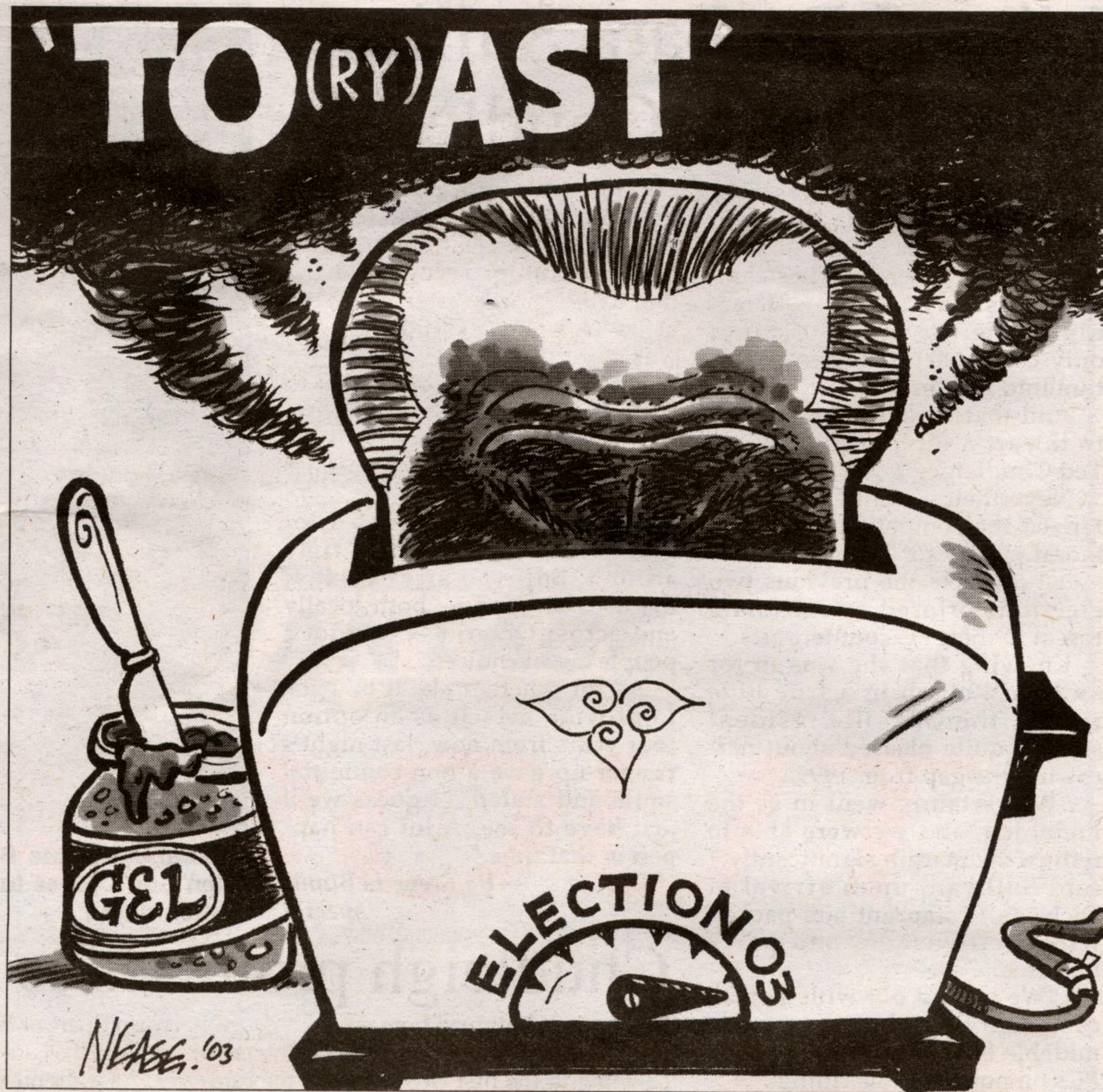
Locally, Conservative Ted Chudleigh, Halton's MPP for the past eight years managed to retain his seat over Liberal Barbara Sullivan. But he too saw a drop in his popular vote from 65 per cent in 1999 to only 48 per cent this time.

The NDP fared no better than the PCs, perhaps with many voters so determined to rid this province of a Tory government that they switched their vote to Liberal. They lost their party status, earning only eight seats.

While the Liberals have been given a solid mandate to run this province for the next four years, voters will be watching them closely to see that promises are fulfilled. First and foremost, voters will be watching as McGuinty treads a fine line between appeasing the vociferous unions on education and health issues while maintaining his promise to not raise taxes.

Here in Halton, we hope Chudleigh will continue to be vocal at Queen's Park on local issues such as more schools, funding for the Norval bypass and protection for the Niagara Escarpment.

Political change is inevitable, but whether this change is for the good or the bad, will be answered over the next four years.



Letters to the editor...

Board gets F on hurricane closure day

Dear editor,

The Halton District School Board's decision to close the schools for Friday, September

19th, because of the threat of Hurricane Isabel, made in the afternoon of September 18th, gives me great concerns.

(1) It was the only jurisdiction within the Greater Toronto Area to make this decision;

(2) They definitely got caught in the media hype about an impending disaster;

(3) I thought one of the tasks of the board was to instill in our children the ability to separate hype from reality, the wheat from the chaff, etc.

The board's decision making process failed miserably and set a poor example. It lowered the "mean mark of mediocrity" of the children under their care.

In a society increasingly fragmented and bombarded by information, the board's ability to implement their mandate to train and educate our children, is seriously questioned by this parent. It might be noble to protect our children but the Board

surely was alone and out in left field.

Suggestions:

(1) In future do not make decisions like this without consulting other boards and/or government organizations.

(2) Establish/become a member of an Emergency Preparedness organizations, that I hope, exists somewhere within the GTA.

(3) Apologize to the Halton population for having erred in a decision area where you have zero knowledge or experience.

In an increasingly competitive world, traits such as endurance, courage and strength are crucial for a child's successful future. In closing the schools, the board eliminated an opportunity for our youth to learn some of these traits. As such they failed in their entrusted leadership in inculcating these values in our children.

Dick M. A. Haas,
Acton

Unforgettable experience

Dear editor,

The first annual Weekend to End Breast Cancer, a two-day, 60-kilometre journey, was an overwhelming success, raising \$12 million for breast cancer research at the Princess Margaret Hospital, far exceeding the expectations of the organizers.

To participate, each walker was required to raise \$2,000 in donations, a somewhat daunting task but nonetheless a commitment that demonstrates the serious interest of the participants. Sixty kilometers is a long way to walk and think of those friends that are both battling the disease or have succumbed to cancer. It was humbling to walk amongst the survivors and witness their ongoing courage. It was also exhilarating to experience the outpouring of support and encouragement of the streets and communities that we walked through.

I wish to say bravo to the walkers, many from Halton Hills, the crew of organizers, those that stayed at home to support those that walked, and particularly to the donors. In my case, over 200 donors supported my walk, including local merchants McMaster Meats, McGibbon Hotel, Which Craft Arts & Crafts Studio, Freckled Lion, Teamwork Business Solutions and Fiera Foods that supported the Camp Out for Cancer Research co-ordinated by my son Marcus and 35 of his friends.

The 60-kilometer journey is etched in my mind as one of the most incredible unforgettable experiences ever. I encourage you to become part of the next journey scheduled for September 10 to 12, 2004. Go online at www.endcancer.ca to find out more, and join me next year as I walk again.

Laura Rees, 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.

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