

## Editorial Liar, liar...

Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara acknowledges his promise-breaking budget has cost his party some "political capital" but insisted a day after clubbing Ontarians with \$9-billion tax hike (over four years), his budget was "inspired".

We have other words for it, but none we can print. We also hope Ontario voters have a long memory, four years hence and remember how the Liberals knowingly lied to the electorate.

What irks us most about this Grit tax-grab that hits every income level and penalizes every person whether five years old or 85, is not that the Liberals lied to the public in last fall's election, but that they seem so damned proud about doing so.

Last fall Premier Dalton McGuinty signed the Taxpayer Protection and Balanced Budget Act vowing, "I will not raise taxes or implement new taxes without the consent of Ontario voters." Six months later he has done both, guaranteed three years of deficits and reintroduced the very health care premiums a Liberal government eliminated 15 years ago.

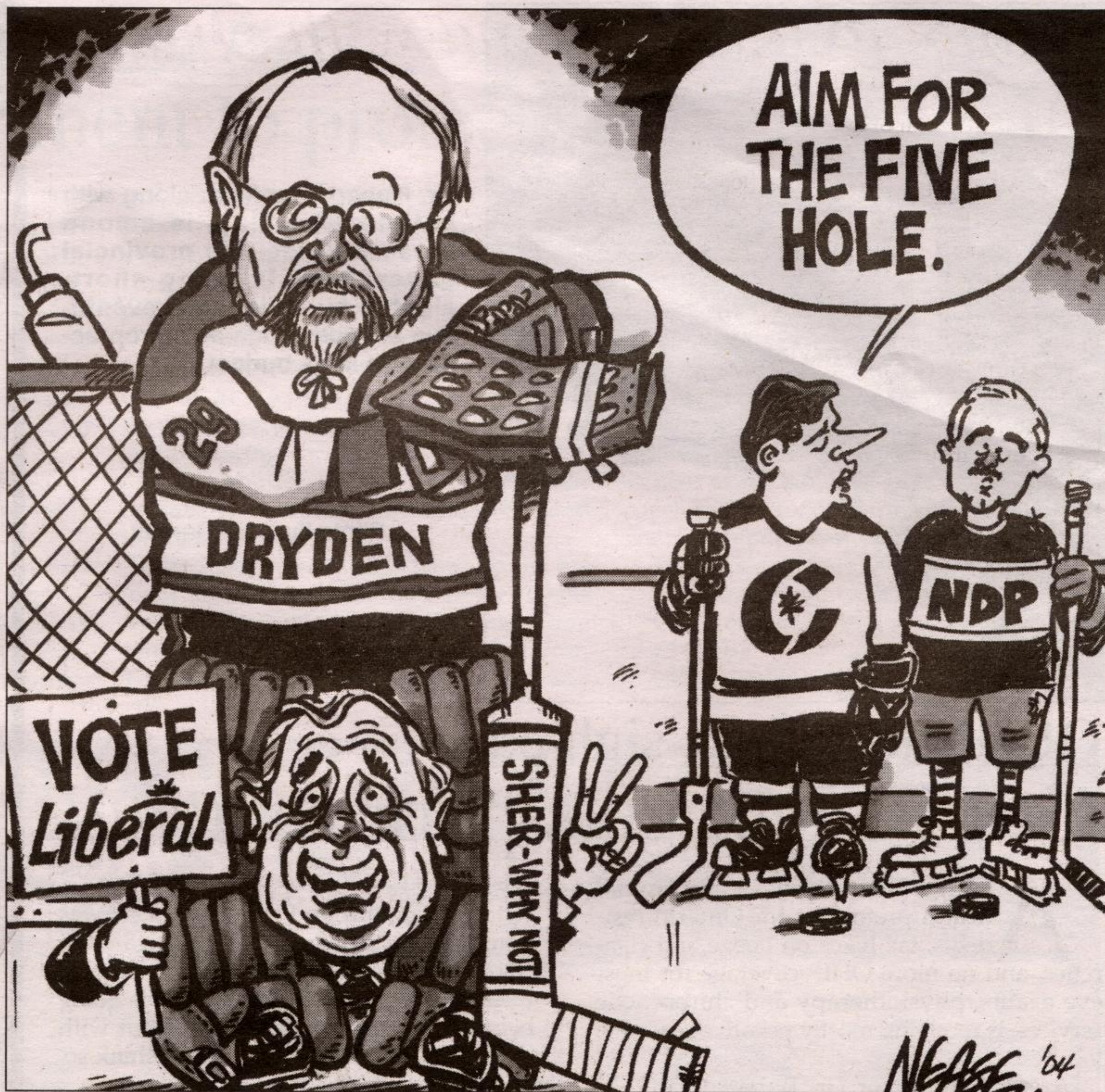
Under the Act, McGuinty vowed to hold a referendum if he hiked taxes, but Tuesday announced he will gut the Act so he won't have to hold the referendum. What gall!

Today, under the Liberals' new Ontario, residents will pay more for chiropractic care, eye exams, driver's licences, physiotherapy, alcohol...the list seems endless.

And for this we have Liberal promises to invest this money in education and health care, to help cities with transit costs, to aid the disabled and create day-care spaces.

Promises, promises and more promises.

We have seen how this government handles promises... and it isn't pretty.



## Letters to the editor...

# Residents must rally to save hospital

Dear editor,

Re: May 7 editorial, Bye, bye baby.

I agree with you 100 percent!

### 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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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**

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Both my husband and I are from small towns (my husband grew up in Georgetown) and when we were expecting our first child, despite the fact that we were living in Mississauga at the time and had access to the "state of the art" Credit Valley Hospital, we used every connection we had to get an obstetrician in Georgetown so that we could deliver our child in the community we knew we wanted him to grow up in. We are now living in Georgetown and expecting our second child in November. Naturally, we are quite upset to find that this child will not be born here.

I have heard so many stories from friends about their experiences at other larger hospitals, where you are treated more like a numbered patient than a member of the community. My experience with the birth of my son at Georgetown Hospital was so superb that I sent thank you letters to my doctors and the wonderful

nurses in obstetrics. Their expertise was invaluable but most of all they were kind and caring.

I cannot believe that just because there are not enough births a year in this growing community of 51,000 that we have lost one of our essential services. What will Mr. Bell next deem is not an essential hospital service for this community? And when does the Minister of Health step in to protect our growing community?

I don't want to stand idly by and let them take away from our community. If there are others out there that agree, please write to the paper, to Mr. Robert Bell, and to the minister so they know how we feel.

Let's show them that just because we may be smaller than other towns, we are a community and we stand together.

Kirsten Mills,  
Georgetown

More letters page 7

## Former doctor urges action

Dear editor,

I am writing to you as a former physician and resident of Georgetown who is gravely concerned about my former community and patients in the wake of planned closures of the obstetrics and pediatrics department of the Georgetown Hospital. I am not speaking for any current physicians or staff that currently work at the Georgetown hospital.

I strongly urge the residents of Halton Hills to recognize and act to prevent further erosion of health care in their community. Closure of local facilities with 'access' to those services in a community that is 20km away should be considered unacceptable to local residents. I am concerned that other core programs such as local acute care, including emergency facilities, will be the next program sacrificed in the name of short-term budget pressures.

Action must be taken by local politicians and citizens. Once a program is cut, there is considerable difficulty in reimplementing the vital personnel and equipment at a later time. The CEO and board of the William Osler Health Centre should be made aware that the citizens of Halton Hills will not accept a second-class position to Brampton and Etobicoke residents when it comes to their health. Halton Hills citizens should rally to save what is left of their hospital.

Dr. Joseph Chong, MD, Vancouver, B.C.

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