

*Editorial*

# Leaders failed vets

After witnessing our so-called leaders in Ottawa being shamed into calling a cease-fire to their political posturing in order to spend a day honouring our country's Second World War veterans, we wonder if any of them is fit to lead.

It is a national embarrassment that Prime Minister Paul Martin and the leaders of the three opposition parties waited until Tuesday of last week to announce they will appear in Holland together in recognition of the 60th anniversary of VE-Day. Their gesture amounts to nothing more than damage control. It is far too little, coming way too late considering the four leaders will miss the main ceremonies in the Dutch city of Apeldoorn, arriving for the last day of a week of scheduled events.

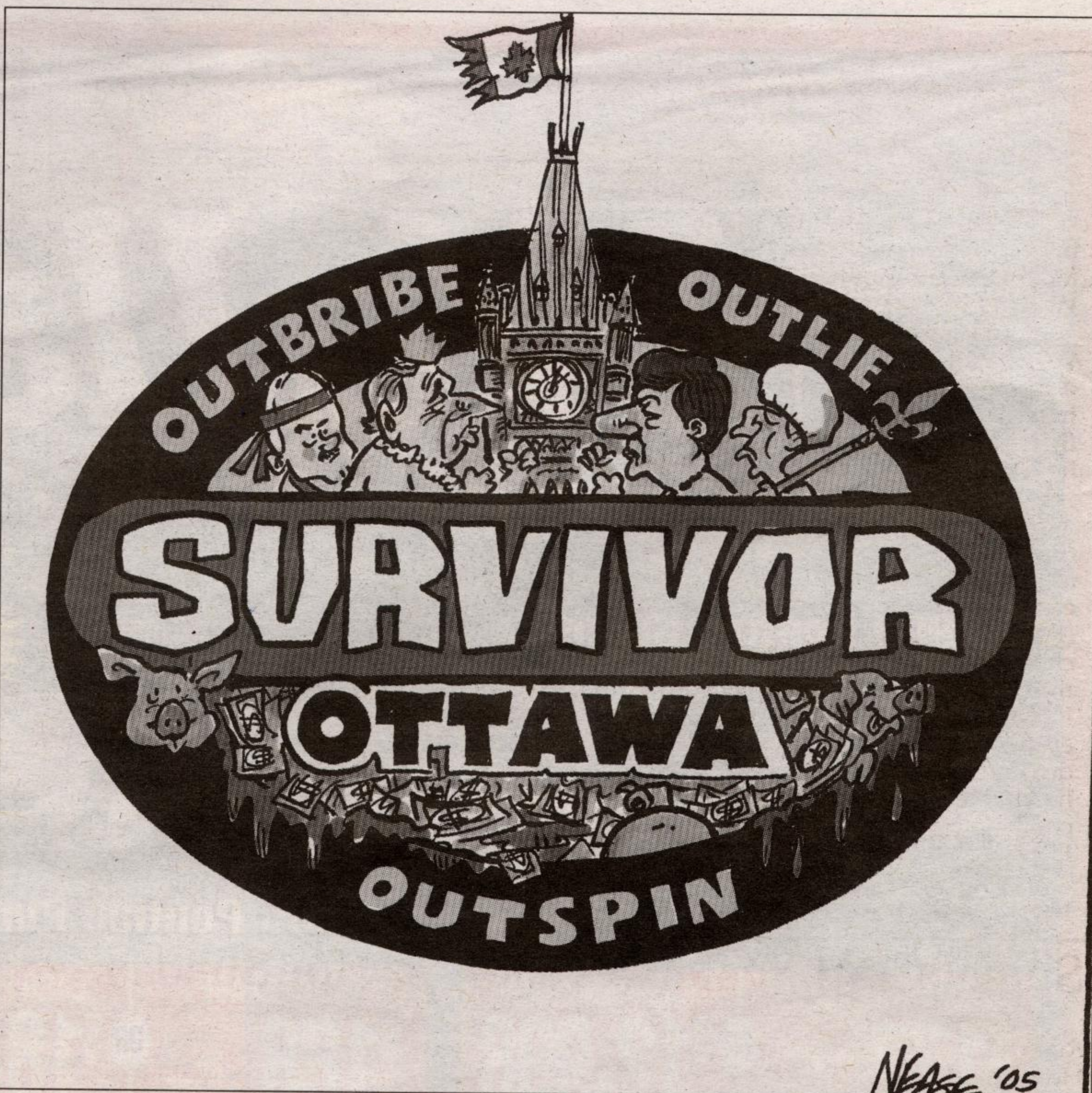
Sunday's remembrance of May 8, 1945—the day the war in Europe finally ended—should have taken precedent over the political power struggle being played out in Ottawa.

Canadian veterans and their families were justifiably outraged upon learning their leaders would not be in the Netherlands to honour the memory of our country's bravest citizens.

Martin was wrong to cancel his original plan to attend VE-Day ceremonies. Last week's retreat from that position proves that he and his advisors finally realized the magnitude of their mistake.

To have allowed the petty politics, childish name-calling and mudslinging of recent days to take centre stage over the heroic deeds of our nation's soldiers, sailors and airmen is a slap in the face to the thousands of men and women who laid down their lives in the name of our freedom.

It's disgraceful that those elected to lead our land would get so caught up in their own power struggles that they allowed themselves to forget the brave souls who sacrificed themselves in the name of democracy.



NEASE '05

## Letters to the editor...

### Kids can benefit from organized sports

Dear editor,

The vandalism at Remembrance Park is indicative

of a growing problem of the youth in the Halton Hills area today.

While the vandals are not yet known, and therefore their ages cannot be specified, we do know that the youth that are not involved in extra-curricular activities after school and in the evenings can be frequently seen loitering at the malls, parking lots, fairgrounds, etc., for lack of something better to do.

What are they learning there? Are they providing a positive contribution to our community? How can we change this?

As a parent and board member of both the local youth soccer and hockey clubs, I see first-hand the benefits of our children's involvement in sports, and look forward to their future involvement in our community.

The thought of "hanging out" or causing damage to public property does not enter their

minds, not just because of lack of time, but of responsibilities and respect instilled from instruction and participation in organized sports. These lessons the kids learn will come back to our town ten-fold.

As our town is not getting any smaller, sports facilities are in high demand. I urge all readers to support further development of our parks and recreation programs and facilities in our town so that all of our community will continue to benefit.

There are already waiting lists, and limited practice time for most sports organizations in town, causing negative effects on programs.

Please mention this to your local and regional representatives. YOU can make a difference.

Drew Riedstra,  
Georgetown

### Make The Cut a success

Dear editor,

April 17 was the culmination of a special event at Great Expectations Salon and Spa in Georgetown. Make the Cut—The Women of Halton Fight Against Cancer, was a fund-raising event organized with two purposes in mind—to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society (thanks to all our sponsors as \$21,000 was raised) and secondly, to inspire women to shave their heads to demonstrate solidarity with victims of cancer.

Not surprisingly, most women would not even consider taking part, yet 12 special people stepped forward to participate. I have heard it said that a woman's hair is her crowning glory. I have also heard that for some cancer victims losing their hair due to treatment can be as traumatic as finding out they have cancer.

Special thanks go out to each person who participated in their own special way: Christine Scovell; Deirdre Feindel; Gary White; Jennifer Marples. To those women and one man who chose to sacrifice their hair: Anita Huggins; Anneke Cox (and husband Ed); Regional Councillor Clark Somerville; Gayle Kyle; Judy Deamude; Marie Kroeker and Sharon Arbour, who showed a selfless love and concern to others in an extraordinary attempt to raise awareness about cancer.

I am honoured to have taken part in this with you.  
Ramona Vetro, Event co-ordinator, 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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