

Editorial

Dalton's dilemma

Dalton McGuinty may be hard-pressed to escape the political vortex swirling about new back-bencher Greg Sorbara.

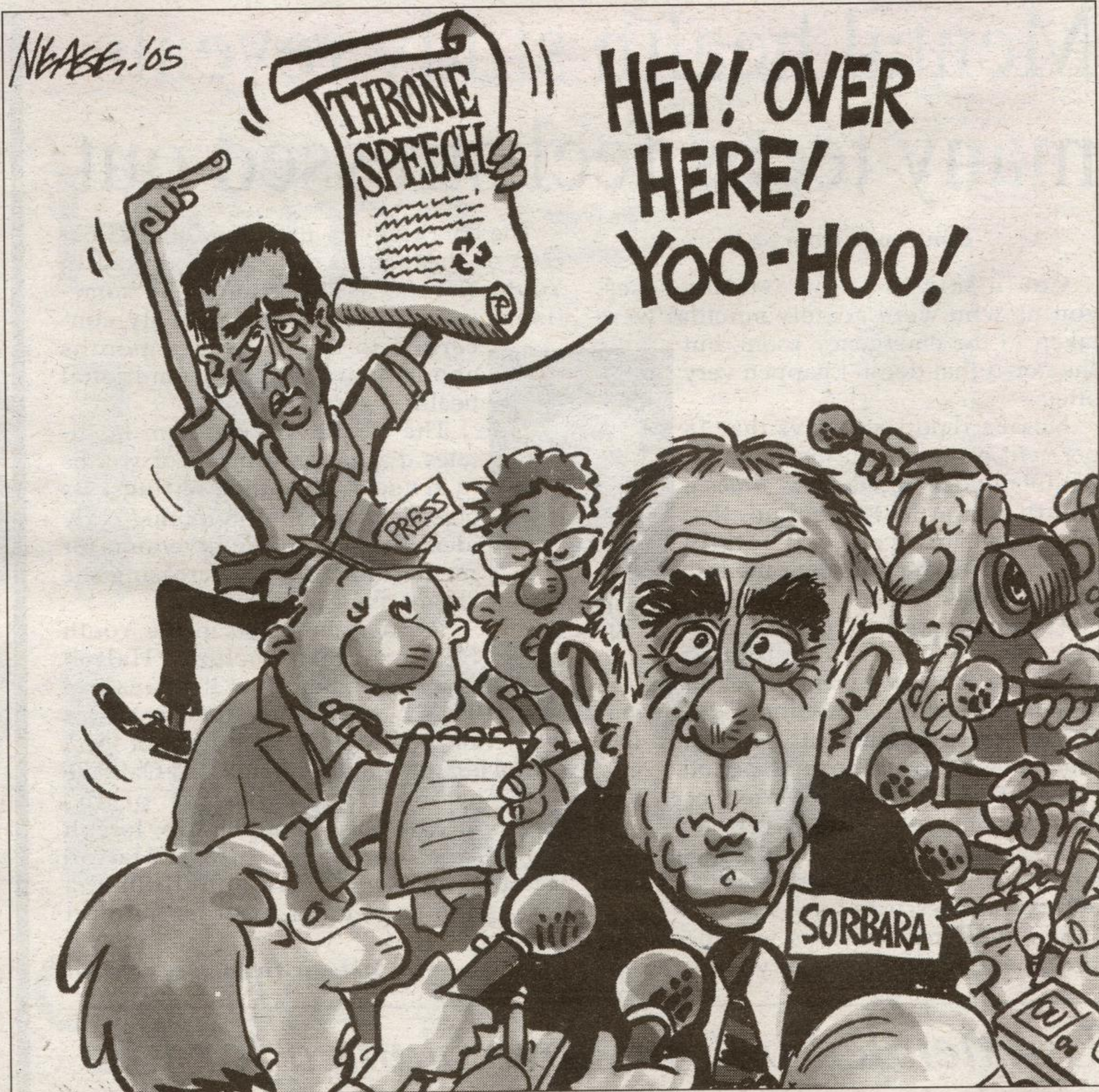
When your go-to guy, your right-hand man, your finance minister resigns amid allegations of defrauding a company in a land deal, unproven allegation or not, there's a sort of knee-jerk reaction to call into question the premier's choice of candidates to control the province's purse strings.

It was hard to escape the imagery of the proverbial fox guarding the hen house following Tuesday's bombshell that the province's finance minister was stepping down amid a search warrant's allegation he and three others defrauded Royal Group Technologies.

To be fair, Sorbara has yet to be charged with any crime and the allegations within the search warrant have not yet passed the litmus test of a court of law. It must also be noted that Sorbara has consistently maintained he has done nothing wrong and termed his resignation the responsible thing to do pending the conclusion of the police investigation. Still, the timing of Sorbara's sudden departure—on the eve of his government's throne speech—wasn't good for McGuinty.

Not since the federal sponsorship scandal— involving members of yet another Liberal government— has a leader been left looking so vulnerable.

While McGuinty is in no way tied to the RCMP investigation that named his finance minister in a search warrant of a family-owned business, should Sorbara be found guilty of any kind of financial wrongdoing, it could be the anchor that sinks the good ship Dalton.



Letters to the editor....

View on teens was unfair, but justified

Dear editor,

Re: Store owner wrong to point finger at teens (letter to the editor, Oct. 7).

While I understand the point of view written by Hillary Lutes, I feel compelled to point out store owner Linda Patton was right in assuming the kittens were stolen by teenagers. Her discrimination against the teens, while unfair, was obviously fueled by her experience of having a pet store across the street from the local high school.

Ruffins is a pet store that is frequented by regular customers. Why does Ms. Lutes assume the adults in the store were strangers and not 'regulars'? As for the comments by Ms. Lutes to "respect us" maybe Mrs. Patton would show teenagers some more respect if they used her store for more than just a place to loiter.

Should the teenagers choose to show her respect by not stealing her merchandise, and thus income, her faith in today's youth could be stronger.

And maybe, now that the cat was returned by a local police officer Mrs. Patton won't be so quick

to assume the police "won't do anything" when a crime is reported.

Melissa Mowat, Georgetown

Garbage should be at the curb on time

Dear editor,

I am writing to complain about people who put their heavy garbage out the day after the pickup.

We are given plenty of notice to have it out by 7 a.m. Monday. When I drive through town and see people putting it out later it makes me angry, because it makes our town look terrible. On Thanksgiving weekend there was garbage out along the street. We are lucky enough to have these pickups, but they will stop if people leave their garbage sit beside the road for a week.

Our town is a tourist town and what do visitors think when they see all this garbage?

Donna Keating, Acton

Library youth services staff say thanks for great summer

Dear editor,

The Children's and Youth Services staff at Halton Hills Public Library would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who helped make our summer reading programs such an incredible success.

We kept kids reading and provided programming for hundreds of children with the help of our two terrific summer students, Sarah Venema and Alyssa Caverley.

Thank you to the student volunteers who helped, and to those parents who encouraged their children to participate.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Nelson Henriques at TD Canada Trust, Guelph St. branch for providing prizes. A special thank you to *The Independent and Free Press*, Acton Tanner, Cooper-Standard Automotive, and Cogeco for promoting our programs.

Finally, thank you as well to Ken Baker, Georgetown Little Theatre and Coles Bookstore for their support!

We look forward to more fun next year!

Halton Hills Public Library
Children's and Youth Services Staff

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must 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

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Editorial e-mail addresses

John McGhie

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Cynthia Gamble

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Lisa Tallyn

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

Herb Garbutt

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

Ted Brown

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

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Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1 (Georgetown Market Place)

Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398

E-mail: production@independentfreepress.com

Web site: www.independentfreepress.com

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising Director
John McGhie, Managing Editor
Carol Young, Business Manager
Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble
Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt
Photography: Ted Brown
Retail Advertising Manager: Cindi Campbell
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