

Editorial

# Gomery: Do we care?

Now that Justice John Gomery's report on the federal sponsorship scandal has concluded that a coterie of highly-placed Liberal party members, a cabinet minister and numerous political flunkies knowingly stole millions of taxpayer dollars all in the name of an ill-conceived, poorly-run plan to bolster federalism in Quebec that was, in essence, a kickback scheme to line the pockets of backroom Liberals and Grit pals, what happens next?

Will we demand an election to throw the Liberal bums out?

Will we, as a duped electorate, demand the heads of these Liberal liars on a silver platter or at least, their backsides in a jail cell?

Unlikely.

While Gomery's report should sound a death knell for the federal Liberals politically, it is unlikely to have any immediate ramifications and, as time moves on, voters will likely put this latest scandal behind them.

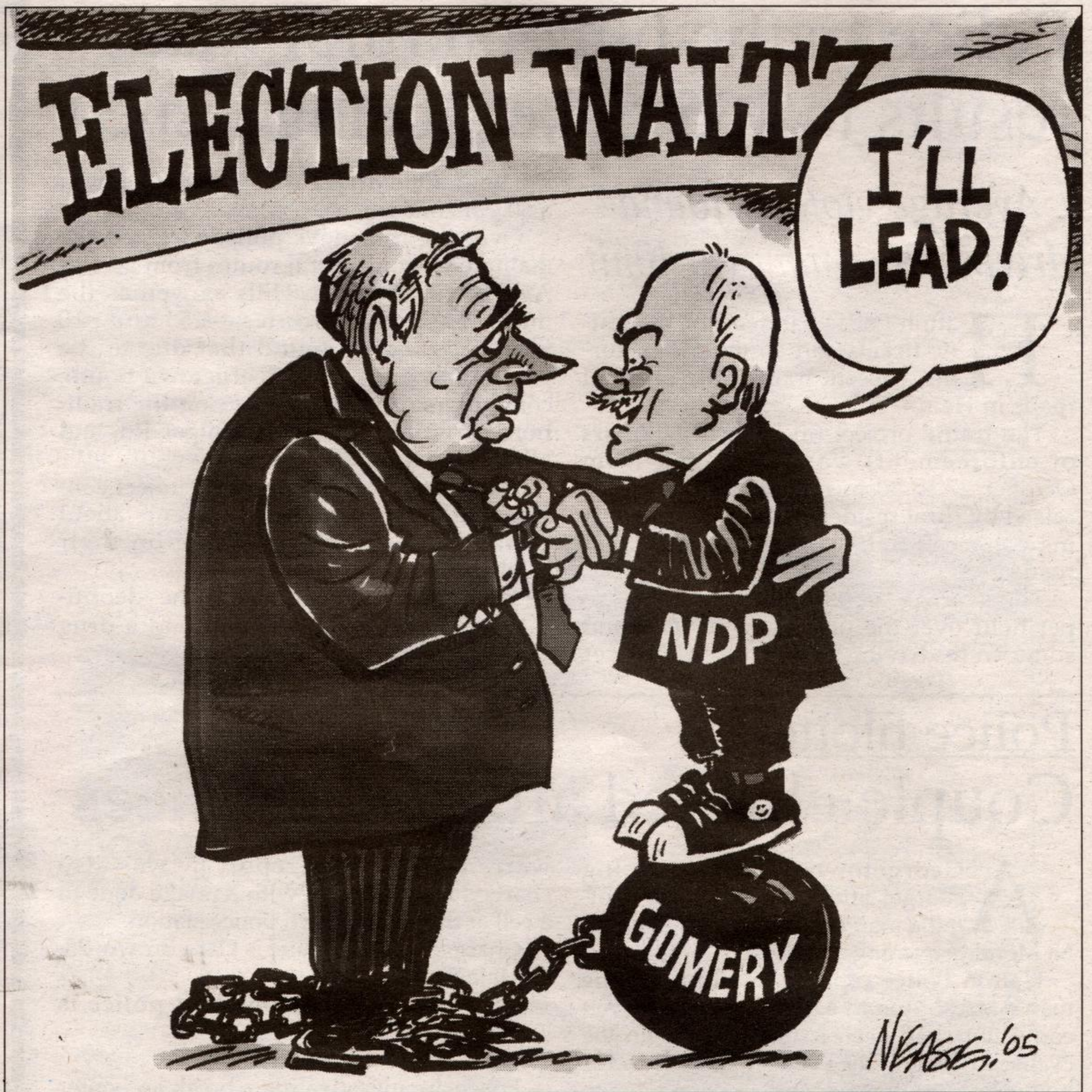
Despite the fact a former Prime Minister (Jean Chrétien) was held partly to blame for the mismanagement of the sponsorship program—a program run out of Chrétien's office and managed by his chief of staff—a former cabinet minister (Alphonso Gagliano) was directly involved in partisan decisions when it came to awarding contracts, and a slew of Quebec Liberals blatantly wasted millions of taxpayers' dollars, the scandal will likely have little impact on current PM Paul Martin (who was exonerated of any wrongdoing) by the time the next election is called.

That folks, is because the political landscape in Canada today is as mixed as a tossed garden salad.

With a Conservative party steeped in Western (read: Reform Party) values that are not palpable to Ontarians, a Quebec party set on separation and a socialist party that simply collects the left wing leftovers at each election, the not-so-squeaky clean Liberals still likely will remain the party of choice for many Canadians.

And don't think Paul Martin doesn't realize this. He has already successfully distanced himself from this scandal and will continue the spin doctoring to paint himself as the man who cleaned up Chrétien's mess.

Perhaps Canadians will simply come to view the sponsorship scandal as "just another scandal" and have come to expect little from their elected officials. If that's the case, pity us all.



## Letters to the editor....

### Older trick-or-treaters lack manners

Dear editor,

I finally got to take my daughter out for Halloween. My

#### 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

boyfriend and I got her all prepped for the big night with the cutest costume in the world and her trick-or-treat bag. She was ready, and told us she was "very excited".

The first three houses she trick-or-treated at were a success as she got the hang of it. She was ready to race to the next house when all of a sudden, bigger kids came running up behind her, pushed her out of the way and rushed up to the door when they clearly saw her.

When they got their candy, not only did I not hear a thank you out of any of the kids, they knocked my daughter almost to the ground and ran off to the next house— never to hear a "sorry" or an "oops" for pushing my daughter out of the way.

Why is it that Halloween has turned into a greedy candy night for the older kids? I know it is

nice to have the kids do something in Georgetown other than get in trouble but they don't care about anyone, as long as they get five bagfuls of candy. They also have no manners! My daughter isn't even three years old and was more polite than these 15-year-olds!

I'm not upset that older kids can get away with trick-or-treating. I am upset because it makes it hard for the younger children to enjoy themselves when they are being pushed out of the way. What is that showing my daughter? That it is okay to butt in front of the line? That it is okay to not say thank you? That it is okay to knock someone down to get there first? All for a little chocolate bar.

What on earth happened to Halloween?

Katie Connolly,  
Georgetown

### Famed surgeon lived here

Dear editor,

Re: Oct. 28 Looking Back special section.  
I found this section to be interesting, having lived in Georgetown (pardon me, Halton Hills) for more than 35 years.

Something I found out several years ago was that my grandfather was born in Georgetown July 1, 1868 (I moved here with my family around 1960.) My grandfather, whom I didn't know personally, was Dr. C. (Clarence) L. Starr. His father, my great grandfather, also a doctor, resided in or around Georgetown and for a period was the local coroner. This latter information I garnered by browsing the census records on-line via the local library.

Dr. C.L. Starr was a prominent surgeon and in 1916 served as Lieutenant-Colonel in the C.A.M.C. (Canadian Army Medical Corps) both in Canada and overseas. He was chief surgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children, a position from which he resigned in 1921 to accept the appointment as Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto.

I just thought it might be of interest that this famous surgeon, for whom more than a few First World War veterans have to be thankful, has a connection to this town.

Doug Brownlee, Georgetown

# The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1 (Georgetown Market Place)  
Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398  
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  
Advertising Sales: Jennifer Spencer, Adam Spinney,  
Aaron Chiasson, Brendan Louth  
Real Estate: Sue Spizziri  
Classifieds: Mary Watson, Kristie Pells  
Accounting: Rose Marie Gauthier  
Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell,  
Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Friday at 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown Ont., L7G 4B1. It is one of the newspapers published by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Bancroft This Week, Barrie Advance, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes,

Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Mississauga Business Times, Napanee Guide, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orangeville Banner, Orillia Today, Oshawa-Whitby/Clarington

Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune, Forever Young, City of York Guardian.  
Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for, but the balance

of the advertisement will be paid for at the acceptable rate.  
In the event of typographical error advertising goods or services at wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.  
Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.  
Price: Store copies 50¢ each; Subscriptions \$26.00 per year by carrier, \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130.00 per

year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.  
Second Class Mail Registration Number 6869. The Independent & Free Press is a member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association.

