

*Editorial*

# Tory time

Eighteen months ago health care was the key issue surrounding the federal election campaign. During the current campaign health care has received only a passing notice as the focus has been on what type of government Canadians desire.

From our perspective (and we're not alone here) this election has boiled down to two choices— Stephen Harper's Conservatives or Paul Martin's Liberals.

In many of Prime Minister Martin's speeches, whether it be about getting tough on crime, bringing accountability to government or improving social programs, we have heard him begin sentences with the phrase, "We are going to..." The fact remains the Liberals have held power for 13 years and, while they have done a credible job in dealing with the deficit and building a surplus, one can't help but wonder how much more time do they need to fix what ails this country?

We can't forget— nor should voters— the sponsorship scandal. High level Liberals stole millions of taxpayers' dollars and yet they want Canadians to ignore that fact. Coupled with the billion dollar human resources boondoggle, the flawed and hugely costly gun registry and the Option Canada scandal which broke last week, one can only wonder what next can we expect from the party which has managed OUR money for the past 13 years?

Throughout this campaign, the Liberals have looked anything like a polished group ready to govern. Martin especially has often looked unprepared, doddering and unfocused— not exactly prime ministerial.

To be sure, Stephen Harper's Conservatives have run the better campaign. He has managed to temper the reservations many Canadians have about him and some members of his party. He has managed to keep in check— or eliminate— the radical right wingers the former Reform party was infamous for. More elected Tories from Ontario would only strengthen the party and keep it from listing too far to the right.

The Conservatives have laid out an ambitious platform and one we believe that would deal seriously with criminals, benefit the provinces, bring more accountability to government and be better for many Canadians. While we are not naïve enough to believe a Conservative government would be immune from scandal, we believe the Tories have earned the right to govern.

Locally, we heartily endorse incumbent Conservative Michael Chong. In the past 18 months he has shown a desire to make the Wellington-Halton Hills riding work despite our contention that this riding's layout was, and is, a mistake Elections Canada should fix.

Chong has proven to be a hard-working representative for this area in Ottawa and we believe he should be given consideration for a cabinet position within a Harper government.

Liberal Rod Finnie appears, by all accounts, to be a straight-talking pragmatist who truly cares about the people in his riding and his country. While he would make a good local representative, he is not an improvement over Chong.

Noel Duignan of the NDP is a veteran of these campaigns and while he is likeable, his party's policies would be ruinous and far too costly for this country. His leader, Jack Layton, appears to be more of a bad salesman than a potential prime minister.

Brent Bouteiller (Green), Mike Wizniewski (Independent) and Carolann Krusky (Christian Heritage) offer alternatives ranging from the unworkable, to the unrealistic, to the positively frightening.

In the end, however, the choice rests with you, the voter. We urge all residents to make their own informed choice Jan. 23.



## Letters to the editor...

### Bread Basket appreciated donations

Dear editor,

During the two weeks prior to Christmas, the donations came flooding into the Georgetown Bread Basket.

These donations came from churches, schools, businesses and individuals (in grocery store drop off boxes or dropped at GBB).

Some donations came in the form of cash which allowed us to purchase both hams and turkeys again for our clients. The amount of food was overwhelming and once again shows the caring community in which we live.

Our shelves were stocked high for our clients to make their selections and we were also able to give them personal care bags and a choice from a table which held treats like chocolates, nut cakes and many other items.

On behalf of the George-

town Bread Basket clients, I say a very big "thank you" for the continued support from the people of the Georgetown community.

May they and their families enjoy a New Year of

*Volunteer is pleased to see Georgetown Hospital is back*

Dear editor,

I am a volunteer at the Georgetown hospital. My duty on Friday (Jan. 6) was to be of service at the front desk in the lobby.

I arrived early so that I could exchange my I.D. and parking card for our new ones. As I walked down the hallway to the office there were people smiling and going about their duties. I had the pleasure to talk with the hospital's Chief Operating Officer Cindy McDonnell and Chief Executive

good health and happiness.

**Marian Viant,**  
Director  
media co-ordinator,  
Georgetown  
Bread Basket

Officer John Oliver and I am glad we have them on our team.

Already I have a good feeling about the future of our Hospital.

Thanks to our mayor, hospital staff, volunteers and all who joined in to help with petitions, rallies, etc. We have our Georgetown Hospital back

**Martha Stone, Georgetown**

*More letters  
page 10*

# The Independent & Free Press

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, Eamonn Maher  
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.

