

OPINION

www.independentfreepress.com

Phone: 905-873-0301
Fax: 905-873-0398

Grit-ty victory

Heading into the 2007 provincial election Progressive Conservative leader John Tory was hoping Ontario voters would show their anger at four years of broken promises by the Liberal government.

Instead, the electorate turned its anger towards Tory and his ill-conceived idea of full funding for faith-based schools.

And, despite all the spin doctoring by Tory apologists and supporters, the reason the Conservatives will once again be sitting in the Opposition benches at Queen's Park is because their leader misjudged Ontario voters.

It was not the media's fault. It was not Premier Dalton McGuinty "misrepresenting" the issue of faith-based funding. The blame rests at the feet of John Tory, who ironically, lost his bid for re-election at the hands of Liberal education minister Kathleen Wynne.

As we stated in last week's editorial, this was Tory's election to win as the McGuinty's Liberals served up a host of issues on which the Conservatives could focus their campaign on— broken promises, questionable grants, inaction on a number of issues, a needless legal fight against parents of autistic children, etc.

But voters— not the media as many bruised PCs will whine— were enraged at the idea of faith-based funding. A last-minute back-track by Tory on the issue did nothing to turn the tide and only weakened his credibility.

While he vowed to stay on as PC leader, we doubt he will be leading the party when we next head to the polls in 2011, nor should he.

The Liberals, and particularly McGuinty, did not run a great campaign but they ran a winning one. The premier avoided any potential potholes, kept Tory on the defensive, and did more than enough to convince voters that, while he made mistakes in his first term, he was an improvement over the last years of Mike Harris/Ernie Eves and therefore deserved another chance.

NDP leader Howard Hampton managed to gain seats for his party and a decent hike in the popular vote so it is unlikely there will be calls for his head.

The Green Party, disappointed in not electing its first member to the Legislature, showed with its popular vote total that it is likely only a matter of time before they make that breakthrough.

In the horribly-publicized referendum on electoral reform, voters wisely rejected the mixed member proportional option in favour of the current first-past-the-post method.

Locally, longtime Tory Ted Arnott gets a chance to show Halton Hills voters why he was the popular choice of Waterloo-Wellington voters for the past four elections and he easily defeated game, but out-matched, Liberal rookie candidate Marg Bentley. We wish him well and hope he is an effective voice for local residents, albeit from the Opposition benches.

Steve Nease



STAFF DIRECTORY

Publisher
Ken Nugent

Advertising director
Steve Foreman
(sforeman@independentfreepress.com)

Retail advertising manager
Cindi Campbell
(ccampbell@independentfreepress.com)

Managing editor
John McGhie
(jmcghie@independentfreepress.com)

Distribution manager
Nancy Geissler
(distribution@independentfreepress.com)

ADVERTISING

Advertising co-ordinator
Jennifer Christie (jchristie@independentfreepress.com)

Retail Sales:
Jennifer Spencer (jspencer@independentfreepress.com)
Andrew Key (akey@independentfreepress.com)
Amy Sykes (features@independentfreepress.com)

Real estate:
Sue Spizziri (realestate@independentfreepress.com)

Classifieds:
Kristie Pells (classified@independentfreepress.com)

ACCOUNTING

Rose Marie Gauthier, Michelle Wimmer

EDITORIAL

Cynthia Gamble: News editor
(cgamble@independentfreepress.com)

Ted Brown: Photography
(tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

Lisa Tallyn: Staff writer
(ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/sports
(emaher@independentfreepress.com)

PRODUCTION:

Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell,
Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New system needed to pay for development

Dear editor,
In the first week of February 2006, *The Independent & Free Press* printed a story about a Halton Hills council meeting. At that time, the Director of Finance, Ed DeSousa, responding to a question from Councillor Bob Inglis said:
"It's a known fact in the municipal world that development does not pay for development," agreed DeSousa. DeSousa also noted that assessment growth does not cover even all the base budget costs.'

I was told some time ago by an Oakville regional councillor that development charges (DCs) DO NOT pay for all the necessary roads, libraries, fire stations, etc that are needed in new areas. In other words,

Library project must be a community priority

Dear editor,
Over the past year, the board, staff and students at Literacy North Halton were very excited and pleased to hear the expansion of our library services had been approved by the Town.

The obvious need for this expansion has been spelled out clearly in communications to the Town, and information sessions held in this community.

Simply put, our library supports local community literacy programs by allowing access to computers, a comfortable environment to stimulate improving literacy skills, and offers various book collections. It is time that Halton Hills understands and acknowl-

new development is a net drain on our finances.

Now I am confused. *The Independent & Free Press*, Sept. 12 story, "Library project put on the shelf", reported that: "Director of Finance Ed DeSousa painted a grim picture of the future financial standing of the Town should no water be found to build more development. The need to build capital projects— fire stations, libraries, arenas, parks, roads, etc.— would outstrip the ability to pay."

So, if in the past our Town was constantly falling behind due to low DCs in supplying services, is this why we don't have the money needed for library expansion? Were we going to pay off that 'credit card' by

edges our library must be developed and enhanced to match the growth in population and indeed, to bring them on par with other libraries in similar communities.

Libraries are an integral part of every community. It's as simple as A-B-C.

We, at Literacy North Halton, congratulate the Town of Halton Hills for approving the expansion of the Georgetown Library. We strongly urge the Town to keep the library project a community priority, and to move on the development of the library as soon as possible.

Denise Dilbey, Chair,
Literacy North Halton

more subdivisions using the DCs from the new development to pay for services that were required by subdivisions already built?

If Mr. DeSousa's original statement, "that development does not pay for development," is accurate, DCs will not bail us out. The more subdivisions we build the further behind we will be in paying for the necessary services. Can council come up with a system that will pay for all requirements of new development? This should be our aim.

Barbara Halsall, Georgetown

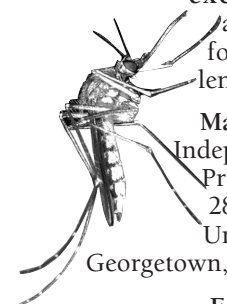
Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!

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 for content and/or length.

Mail or drop off:
Independent & Free Press,
280 Guelph St.,
Unit 29,
Georgetown, ON., L7G 4B1

E-mail:
jmcghie@independentfreepress.com



THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

The Independent & Free Press is published every Wednesday and Friday at 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown Ont., L7G 4B1. It is one of several newspapers published by Metroland Media Group Ltd.

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 50c each; Subscriptions \$26 per year by carrier; \$92.50 per year by mail in Canada; \$130 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.

