

Election post-mortem

There are three things you can count on happening in the coming days: (1) The Toronto Maple Leafs will lose a hockey game; (2) Winter jackets will replace bathing suits in Ontario; (3) Stephane Dion will step down (be forced out) as Liberal leader.

Try as some Liberals might to put a good spin on Tuesday's election results ("Stephen Harper didn't get a majority"; "Most of the 416 area stayed Liberal red"), there is no disguising the fact that Dion, as leader, was an unmitigated disaster.

Despite two years of trying, Liberal party strategists couldn't convince voters that Dion wasn't a nerdy professor who struggled speaking this nation's primary language. He was doomed to failure.

As the world economic struggle muscled its way to the forefront of the campaign, many voters began to lean towards Harper and the Conservatives, forcing Dion and the Liberals to shuffle their much-vaunted, but ill-conceived and ill-timed, Green Shift plan to the backburner. A stronger than usual showing by the NDP and Jack Layton, coupled with Green Party leader Elizabeth May squeezing her way into the debates, only added to the Liberals' woes.

While the knives are certainly out for Dion, what about the other leaders?

The Bloc's Gilles Duceppe is hardly worth mentioning.

Layton has likely bought himself time with a good campaign that saw the NDP gain seats and popular vote—but still finish fourth.

May may have made noise this election, but the Green Party is still virtually a fringe party having elected no members (again) and gaining only 7 per cent of the vote.

Prime Minister Harper once again has been given the keys to the car but voters will not allow him to drive it unsupervised. Surely, in these uncertain economic conditions it would be in Harper's—and the country's—best interests for him to make a concerted effort to work with the other parties in ensuring Canada ride out this storm.

Showing he can lead effectively, without the partisan gamesmanship he seems to enjoy, may eventually lead him to the majority he covets, but has yet to earn.

What do you think?

Below are the results of our most recent online poll. For the current poll go to www.independentfreepress.com

October is Fire Prevention Month. Do you heed safety warnings from the fire department?

- Yes. I usually read safety information released by the fire department. (84%)
- On occasion I will read safety information. (0%)
- No. I rarely read fire safety information. (16%)

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.

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jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Mail or drop off:

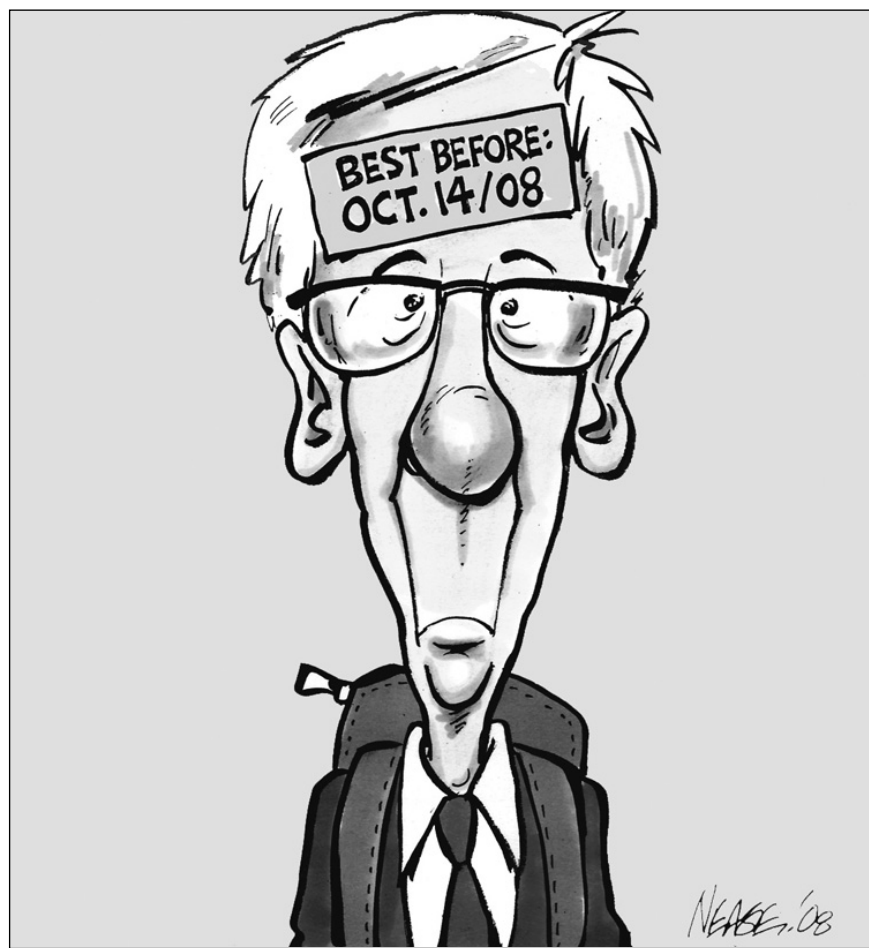
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taste of downtown a successful venture

Dear editor,

I wanted to write and thank the organizers and all of the restaurants that participated in the recent International Flavours afternoon in downtown Georgetown.

What a wonderful experience it was to be able to sample the food of our local dining establishments.

We are so lucky to have such a wide variety of menus with flavours from around the world right here on our doorstep. My only complaint is that it was very difficult to

Retailers commended for use of 'green' bags

Dear editor,

I'd like to recognize a couple of retailers who are trying to become part of the solution to our growing problem with plastic bags.

As if there weren't already lots of reasons to shop in our lovely and increasingly vibrant downtown, I discovered that if I purchase groceries at either Foodstuffs or MacMaster's Meats, I'll get my goodies in a compostable bag.

Once I have my groceries safely tucked away in cupboard or fridge, I can use the bag for my kitchen compost bucket and put it out later in my GreenCart.

Now, if we could just get the other major grocery stores to do this.

Monique L. Attinger,
Georgetown

choose only five of the many venues that were participating in the event!

Judging by the large number of people taking part in the festivities, it was a successful venture for our

Cat shelters hope to one day not be needed

Dear editor,

Regarding Christie and Sandra's recent experience with the little lost kitten (Letter: Be responsible and keep cats indoors), let me answer on behalf of one no-kill shelter.

We physically have "No room at the inn". These days no cat that has not been quarantined and tested for communicable diseases like feline leukemia or feline AIDS or FIP can be put into the general population of a shelter without compromising the health of all the other cats. If the quarantine room is full there just isn't physically the room to take in all the many cats and kittens that are abandoned or surrendered.

All of the shelters are run without government funding and rely on public donations to continue our work. We are all on a shoestring budget. It is not cheap to spay and neuter, test and feed and provide litter for these cats. We would dearly love to save all of them and it hurts when we have to turn away people—trust us it does. But until people learn to spay and

downtown merchants.

I hope that this "menu of venues" becomes a much-anticipated annual event!

Susan Detmers,
Georgetown

neuter and keep their cats indoors this will continue to be a problem of too many cats; not enough room.

I am sorry if these wonderful young ladies were surprised but that is the reality of shelters. Yes kill shelters have room because they make room. We don't because we don't want to end a life to take in another life.

Sadly this does lead to not being able to take in more cats that we can financially and physically take care of. This is not fair but until more people do what needs to be done it will continue to be the way it is.

I am very happy to see this kitten's owners were found and thank the young ladies for caring for her until then. I also acquired a kitten in this fashion, finding a stray and ended up keeping her as I had room at the time.

Let me end by saying all shelters hope that someday we will not be needed.

Debra Hayes,
Georgetown