

Canadians hungry for leadership

I've never been this exhausted, or this exhilarated. It's only been a week and already I'm overwhelmed by the response from Canadians concerned about our health and our environment.

Even in winter, travelling across Canada is an inspiring experience. Our country is so vast and our peoples so varied, one wonders what holds it all together. Weather and geography may provide some of the glue, but much more than that, I think there is a common set of values that Canadians hold dear.

Those values include a strong desire to take care of our collective home, a desire to be a collaborative player in the international community, and an openness to new ideas and innovations.

One thing has been abundantly clear: Canadians, at least those who I have spoken to, are more than ready for change. They want to make environmentally responsible choices, but are frustrated by the lack of options and the lack of support from their elected leaders.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, I heard stories of families split apart by the tar sands. Those left at home are grateful for the incomes their loved ones are able to send, but they are torn by concerns about the inherent unsustainability of the industry, and what its continued development will mean for global warming and for future generations. And many would rather be "back home."

In New Brunswick, people told me they were worried

Science Matters



By David Suzuki

about their province being too heavily tied to a single corporation that is expanding fossil fuel development. While we still need fossil fuels, local concerns centered around a lack of economic diversity and a continued reliance on raw resources. Those concerns were echoed in forestry practices, with many people saying that logging was continuing at an unsustainable pace, and that monocultured tree plantations were replacing diverse forests.

In Nova Scotia, I was grateful to be able to spend some time with renowned biologist Ransom Myers, whose work on the depletion of the planet's fish stocks sounded a warning to the world. And in Prince Edward Island, we felt the pride of a province that has a plan to be entirely powered by green energy.

At each stop, I've been asked which political party I support. And my answer is always the same – none. My tour is certainly political, in that the biggest sticking

point towards environmental progress in this country lies in our elected leaders, especially at a federal level. But it is strictly non-partisan.

Environmental sustainability should not be a partisan issue. We all need clean air, water and fertile soil. We all need jobs and a sustainable economy that does not deplete the natural services we all ultimately depend on for our health and survival. And now that all parties are responding to the polls and talking green, maybe we can actually get some strong legislation without any party paying a price for it.

And what I hear from Canadians is frustration that environmental progress has been bogged down by partisan fighting. Ultimately, it doesn't matter whether we have a minority or majority government, headed by the Conservatives, the Liberals, the NDP or the Greens. What matters is that we start taking serious steps towards improving Canada's environmental progress. Serious steps, not just party rhetoric.

I write this as we pull into beautiful Montreal at sunset. Quebec has been an inspiration, with more ideas and solutions here than anywhere yet. To beat global warming and put Canada back on track, we need to learn from those solutions and let them be the glue that binds this country together.

Find out more about the "If YOU were Prime Minister..." tour at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Ban on hunting and trapping...?

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no intention to do so.

Hunts for food

Stark said he hunts on his own property providing food for his family. Hunting and trapping should not be lumped together, he says, noting he supports a ban on paw-hold and conibear traps.

Stark contends that city and rural cultures are clashing as the population grows in rural settings and people must use common sense and follow the laws on the books. He added that it is the dog owners' responsibility to protect their pets and gave tips on how to release a pet from a trap, "which in theory is great but it may be a problem in reality."

Ferrotte said his organization, the Fur Managers Federation, represents 6,000

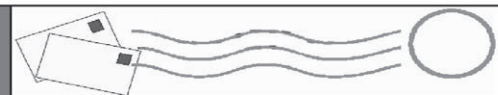
trappers and the Fish and Wildlife Act governs their activities. A trapper must attend fur management and harvesting training to obtain a licence. He added that the fur trade brought \$190,146 to the Guelph, Cambridge and Niagara Region in 2005-2006, which represents \$625 per trapper for that year. He pointed out that a by-law is not necessary to prevent trapping on township land, because landowners can refuse permission, noting also that landowners are entitled to protect their property by destroying animals.

Levenson said that is the mindset that must change, saying, "It is also the animals' habitat and rather than destroy them, measures need to be taken to prevent the conflict in the first place."



PRAISE & PIZZA: Superior Glove Works employee Peggy Brown is served a slice by Tony Geng, one of the owners, during a party thrown by the bosses on Friday to thank staff for the hard work and dedication that earned the Acton company Business of the Year award from the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce. — Frances Niblock

Letters



Please return the rings

To the editor,

It is with regret that we need to advise the citizens of our community that The Salvation Army Acton Thrift Store has been the victim of a theft. We were in the process of running a silent auction and on Thursday morning, February 8, 2007, three gold rings were taken out of the display case and removed unlawfully from the store.

We are appealing to the person responsible for the theft, to return the stolen items. Whatever motivated you to steal from a religious charity, no lasting personal satisfaction or gratification will overcome your sense of guilt.

Perhaps you are unaware that The Salva-

tion Army offers its services and ministry to all members of our community. One of the ways we are able to do that is with monies raised through public donations at the Thrift Store. We provide citizens with a place to recycle their excess items and in turn a place for others to obtain items at reasonable price.

We appeal to your conscience to rethink your negative actions and to do the right thing. The rings can be brought back anonymously to the Thrift Store from where they were stolen or you can mail them to us at P.O. Box 359, Acton Ontario, L7J 2M4.

*The Salvation Army Thrift Store,
120 Mill Street East, Acton.*

Expanded ActiVan appreciated

To the editor,

It was with great interest that I read the article in February 8 New Tanner on the Expanded ActiVan Services.

We have long waited for the fruition of this less restrictive ridership so let me assure you that the change is well received by myself and many other seniors.

I thank Rick Bonnette our Mayor, all councillors of the Town of Halton Hills and Ted Tyler Transport for their involvement in supporting this much needed service.

*Yours truly,
Arline Coultrup,
Acton.*

School bus, pick-up collide

A collision between a school bus and a Dodge pick-up at the intersection of the Fifth Line and Side Road 27 in Erin on Thursday, Feb 8 at about 4:02p.m. sent four people to hospital with minor injuries.

The collision occurred when a 2001 Dodge pick-up, travelling south on the Fifth Line, pulled out from a stop sign into the path of a 2004 Ford school bus travelling west on Side Road 27. Wellington OPP officers responded to the collision as well as firefighters from

the Hillsburgh brigade and paramedics.

School bus driver, Brian Kennedy, 70 of Erin, and two passengers, Katie Lemon 13, of Erin Township and Mark Vagg, 16, of Orton, were transported to Headwaters Hospital in Orangeville and treated for minor injuries

and released.

Dodge pick-up driver, Andrew Christenson, 33, of Bruce Mines, Ontario, was also transported to Headwaters Hospital in Orangeville and treated for minor injuries and released. He faces a charge of Failing to Yield to Traffic on a Through Highway.

Wellington O.P.P. Report



Drinking driver

Saturday, Feb. 10, at 11:14p.m., Wellington O.P.P. officers investigated the driver of a 2002 Ford Explorer on the Erin - Halton Town Line Road in Ballinafad. The driver had been drinking. He was administered a roadside screening device test and failed.

A 35-year-old Erin man was arrested and faces a charge of Driving with More than 80 mgs. He is scheduled to appear in Guelph Court on March 19th, 2007 to answer to the charge.

Fatal collision

A tractor-trailer driver died and three others were injured as the result of a collision on Wellington Rd. 16 at Line 12 in West Luther Twp., north of Damascus on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 3:56p.m. Police said a 1997 Toyota Corolla travelling west on Line 12 failed to stop for a stop sign at Wellington Rd. 16 and struck a southbound 1994 Freightliner tractor-trailer.

Both vehicles ended in the ditch rolled over. The tractor-trailer driver, Jamie Culp, 24, of West Luther was partially ejected and died at the scene. His passenger, Brad Culp, 19, was taken to Mt. Forest hospital, treated, and released. The Toyota driver, Chris Broun, 19, of Paris, and passenger, Graham Gillmore, 17, of St. George, were taken to hospital, treated, and released.

Police noted that this was another fatal collision where failing to wear a seatbelt was a factor.

Speeder of the Week

Sgt. Rick Weiler, conducting speed enforcement on Hwy 6 in Nichol Twp. near Fergus, spotted a 1997 Cavalier travelling at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was recorded at 131km/h in a posted 80km/h zone.