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Malbouef:

Grass roots want a merger

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Any merger between federal conservative parties will take time to formulate, if it occurs at all.

According to Rick Malbouef, Reform Party candidate in Halton on June 2, the stumbling block seems to be the party brass of both Reform and the Progressive Conservatives. In fact, the continued leadership of Jean Charest could ultimately keep the parties apart, Mr. Malbouef said.

"A merger is wanted at the grass roots level, the problem is the upper echelon," he said. "It might be forced on the leadership of both parties."

Mr. Malbouef said that with a majority Liberal government there is no immediate pressure to effect a merger. He suggested it would likely take a year before there would be any serious overtures to join the two parties.

And both "may have to swallow a bit of pride and do what's best for the conservative agenda," he said. "However, with Mr. Charest staying on I can't see it."

Mr. Malbouef said in some ridings, particularly in Ontario, local Reform and Progressive Conservative associations tried to nominate the same person. Both parties came out strongly against the practice.

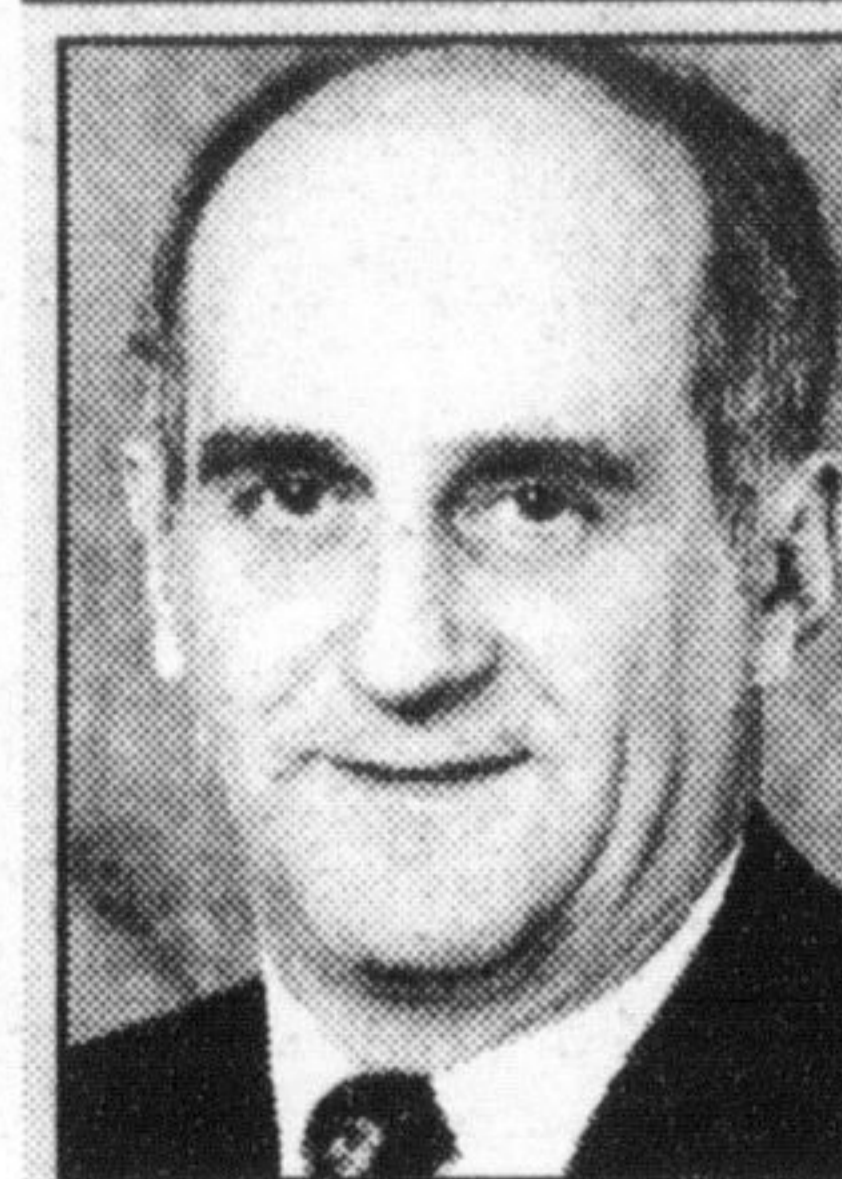
Offer on the table

According to Mr. Malbouef, Reform Party leader Preston Manning has held out an offer of merger and key Progressive Conservatives, such as Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and Ontario premier Mike Harris, have indicated support.

Halton Progressive Conservative candidate Ralph Scholtens generally agreed with Mr. Malbouef.

He said if 10 to 15 Ontario ridings had both the Reform Party and Progressive Conservatives nominate the same candidate, the national leadership "could not ignore" the grassroots position.

Mr. Scholtens said he would continue to be involved with the PC Party. He said a one-year waiting period to see how Reformers fare as official opposition is reasonable.



"It might be forced on the leadership of both parties."
.....
RICK MALBOEUF

"If Reform does not perform then any merger idea would be a different thing," Mr. Scholtens said. "I considered them the opposition in the last parliament and they did a terrible job. If this Stornoway thing is any indication they are going to have a rough ride."

Mr. Scholtens was referring to Mr. Manning's decision to move into the house provided for the leader of the opposition. For several years he had vocally shunned the idea as a waste of taxpayers' money.

Hair today to be gone tomorrow for good cause

It's a fuzz buzz.

Local members of the Halton Regional Police Service as well as firefighters and ambulance personnel will have their hair shorn to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society Saturday.


Currently 80 members are collecting pledges to aid in the fundraising. Donations can be made at police stations prior to the event.

Activities are planned and everyone is welcome to the event at Regional Police Headquarters located at 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville. Local barbers have volunteered to assist in the cutting, scheduled for around 3:30 p.m.


Saturday, July 5th

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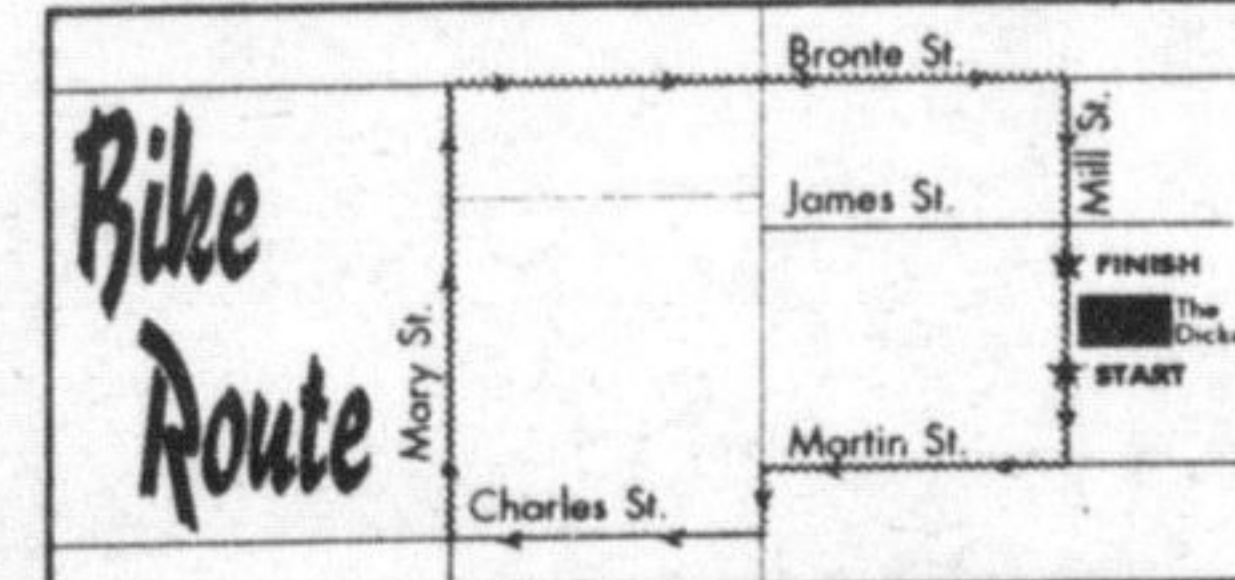
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• Dicken's Restaurant	Roger Mason	878-6680
• Gordon Foods	Lisa MacNeil	(905) 564-3300 ext. 3785
• Harrop Restaurant & Gallery	Dianne Houston	878-8161
• Charlie Fitzwhiskey's	Garfield Allen	878-6697
• Spokes & Slopes	Matt Burger	876-7676
• Re/Max	Gary Thomas	878-7777
• Waltzing Weasel	Tracey Jamieson	878-8366
• Belamy's Market/Store Grill	Gavin McKnight	876-1186
• Ontario Auto Collision Carstar	Marilyn Reck	875-4477

For information on participation to sponsor a participant please call the team captain listed above.

If you wish to join a bike as an individual Ontario Auto Collision Carstar is looking for riders. To book another bike call Helena Donaldson or Debbie Ferguson at 875-3237.

9:30 am to 2:00 pm



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