

COMMENT

Election race begins

Ontario's unofficial election race began in earnest last week with the return of MPs to Queen's Park after their summer break.

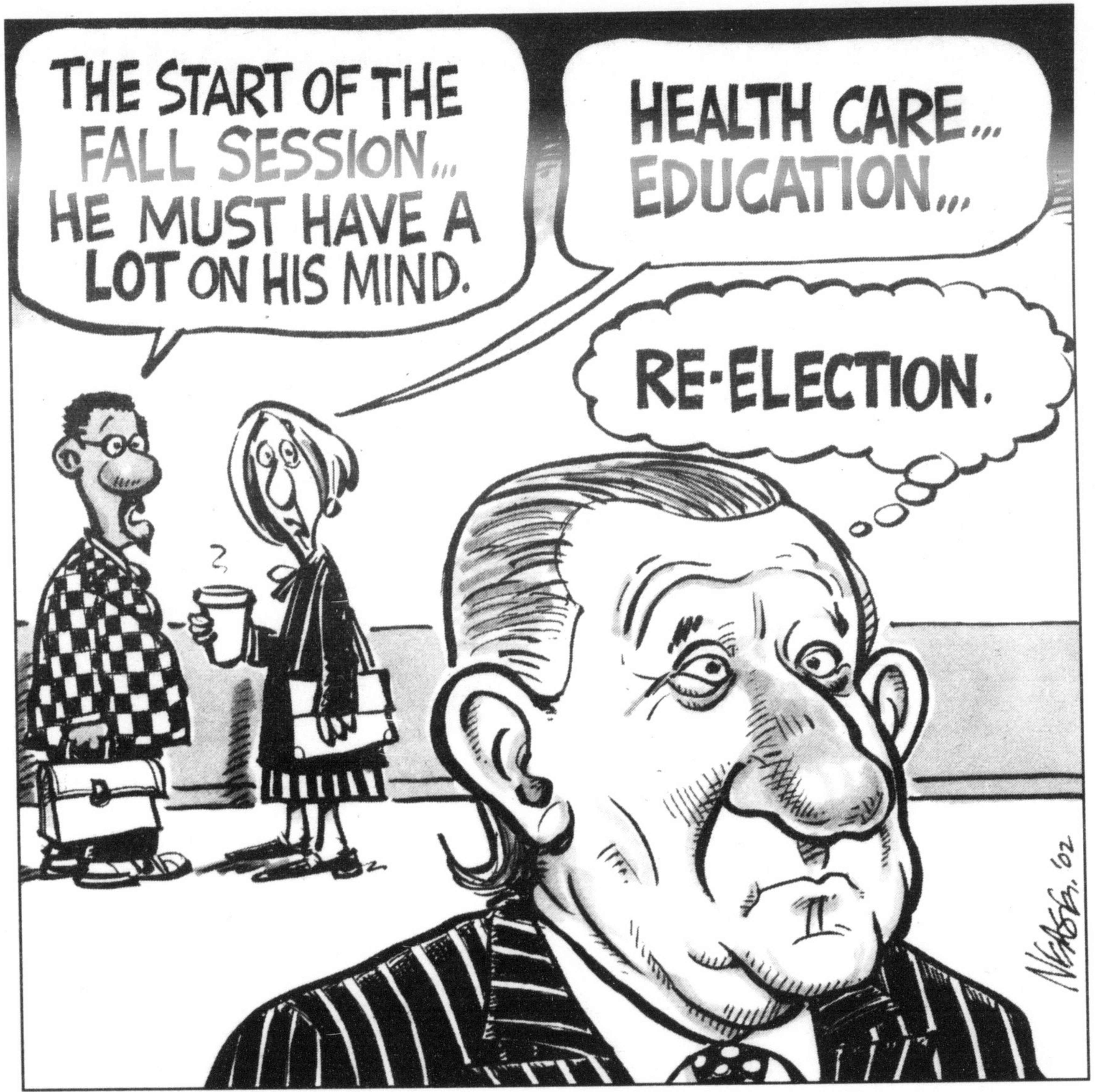
With an election likely to be held before next summer, the selling of the three main parties (we're stretching it including the NDP here) — and their leaders — will heat up during the coming months.

For Premier Ernie Eves and the Tories, the task is simple: Continue to show the public the Tories are still the best money managers of the three parties but are kinder and gentler than they were under Mike Harris. Mr. Eves, to his credit, has pulled his party into a virtual dead heat with the Liberals in the latest polls after earlier surveys showed the Tories fading fast from the political radar. Mr. Eves, who also has a higher approval rating than Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty, can take comfort in the fact 59 per cent of those polled said the Eves' government was on the "right track."

However, with threatened teachers' strikes, soaring hydro prices and an ailing health care system, the Eves' government is in both the public's and opposition's cross hairs.

How the Tories deal with this fall's report on the education funding formula and other problems will play a large role in their fortunes come election time. For McGuinty and the Liberals, it's crucial they offer palpable alternatives to Tory policies and not vague promises. And McGuinty must sell himself as premier material, something he failed to do even when the public's distaste for the Tories was at its peak.

The prize is up for grabs — may the best man (and party) win.



OUR READERS WRITE

Halton Agricultural Society offers its appreciation to everybody who helped make fall fair so successful

Dear Editor:

Once again the Milton Fall Fair was a great success.

The members of the Halton Agricultural Society extend their appreciation to our families, neighbours, associated agricultural organization, generous sponsors and friends for all their help during this fantastic event.

A special mention is extended to Eden Park and the Oakbridge Equestrian

Centre, which kindly organized and operated the Hunter Horse Show Sunday.

We would also like to thank The Champion for its time and effort in promoting and covering the 2002 Milton Fall Fair.

Now in our 149th year, we would once again like to extend appreciation to Milton for a wonderful fall fair.

The Halton Agricultural Society

Dufferin Aggregates' quarry expansion bid should be rejected, reader urges premier

(The following letter was addressed to Ontario Premier Ernie Eves and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

I want to express my strong objection to the application by Dufferin Aggregates for a quarry expansion.

The Niagara Escarpment is a United Nations designated world biosphere reserve.

Drivers travelling along Hwy. 401 see signs promoting 'Escarpment Country', and see

what appears to be forest blanketing the escarpment as they pass Milton.

Unfortunately, these trees are a thin curtain surrounding open quarry pits that have devastated the unique natural features of the escarpment.

An array of technical and scientific considerations convincingly argues against quarry expansion.

Undisputed outcomes include the destruction of wetlands and sensitive areas that are home to rare and threatened animal and plant life; and negative effects on under-

ground water tables.

The escarpment is a unique and irreplaceable feature, a world recognized jewel of southern Ontario topography.

Quarry expansion will irrevocably destroy it.

I therefore urge that this application be considered in all its merits in a manner that allows those affected to participate properly, and that the application be denied on its merits.

David J. Williams
Georgetown

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Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
Jill Davis Editor-in-Chief
Karen Smith Editor
Wendy McNab Advertising Manager
Steve Crozier Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager
Tim Coles Production Manager

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Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters.

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included. E-mail letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com or fax them to (905) 878-4943.

Pud

by Steve Nease

