



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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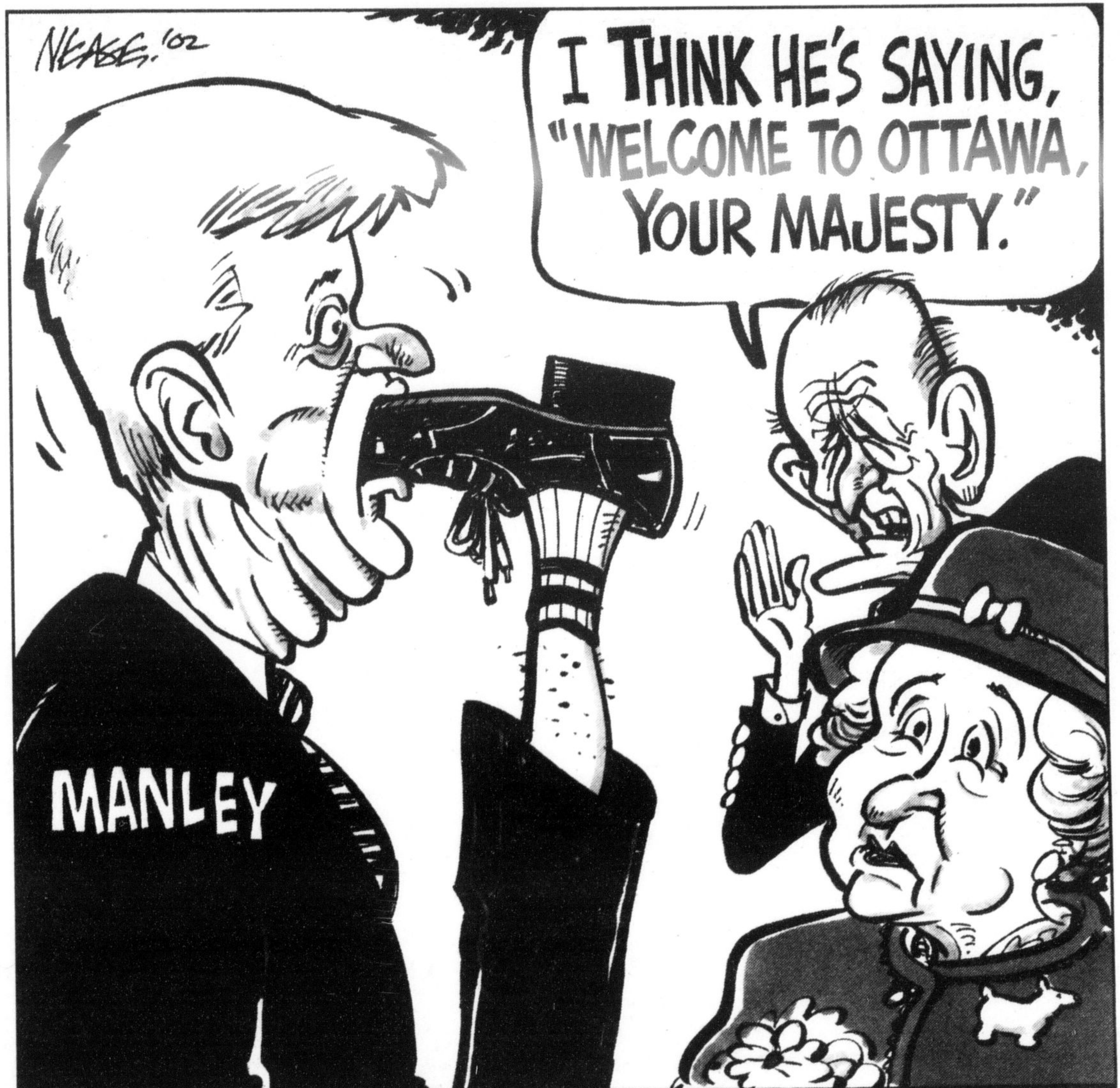
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Remarks by Manley were quite ill-timed

While Halton extended a warm and enthusiastic welcome to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip yesterday, we wish John Manley had demonstrated the same level of respect for Canada's Queen.

Unfortunately, the deputy prime minister decided now was as good a time as any to respond to questions from reporters about the relevancy of the monarchy.

Members of the Royal Family who have visited Canada have always stated how much they adore this country. So why did Mr. Manley decide to tell reporters that the head of state should be shown the door? What happened to good, old-fashioned manners or a little common courtesy?

Yes, Mr. Manley has since apologized for his ill-timed remarks, but this isn't the type of greeting we want to bestow upon Her Majesty.

The deputy prime minister, who probably regrets his royal blunder and the ensuing discussions, is supposed to be the Queen's official government escort when the jubilee tour wraps up in Ottawa. He and his wife are scheduled to welcome the Queen on Parliament Hill.

Halton and local dignitaries gave Queen Elizabeth II a reception fit for a queen in Oakville.

Now we hope Ottawa will follow suit.

OUR READERS WRITE

Son-in-law of deceased woman says recent movie shoot was an inconvenience for those at funeral

(The following letter was sent to the Town of Milton and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

A recent experience concerning a bereavement in our family has left me in a state of disbelief.

On September 23, our family was mourning the loss of my mother-in-law at the McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home at Main and Brown streets.

When we arrived at the funeral home for afternoon visitation we observed a production company in front of what was described as the former jail.

When we arrived just before 7 p.m. for evening visitation, the pro-

duction company appeared to be preparing for an action shot on the street immediately adjacent to the funeral home. Access to rear parking was blocked and we were asked to use parking across the street. This wasn't a problem until after parking when I tried to access the funeral home.

As I attempted to cross the street, some person from the production company approached me and suggested he had a permit and that I should wait. I wasn't in the mood for people to suggest that this permit was more important than me going to the funeral home to be with my family.

A policeman also suggested in a

loud voice that I would have to wait. I was mortified and shaken.

Has the Town of Milton become so desperate for funding that it would issue a permit that potentially inconveniences the patrons of a commercial business and in particular a funeral home?

What has happened to us as a society of caring and compassionate people? Have we lost complete respect for the sanctity of life and death, only maintaining regard for cash flow and balanced budgets?

I look forward to your response to this situation with a full explanation.

David Lyons
Cheltenham

There's a lot to be thankful for in this town of ours

Well, Thanksgiving weekend is upon us again folks.

So in keeping with tradition, I guess it's time to feast on some turkey, catch up with relatives and spend the next few days doing a whole lot of nothing.

Well, maybe there should be a little more to it than that. If we're to truly recognize the holiday for what it is, then giving thanks should of course be added to the list.

I personally have plenty to be thankful for — with family, friends, my health and a steady job as the obvious front-runners. But I'm also grateful for some things specific to Milton — and here's a few of them, in no particular order of importance:

- I'm grateful that despite its growing population, Milton remains a community where people still say hi to you on a street, or at least give a

friendly nod of recognition. Okay, so this isn't exactly a big deal, but I've seen the alternative during recent trips to Toronto and Mississauga and it's not especially pleasant.

- I'm grateful that Milton has more than its share of picturesque conservation areas that are ideal for those wishing to get away from it all. It's only been over the past year with ever-growing construction and subsequent traffic tie-ups that I began to appreciate having places to go where congestion is never a problem. I've only visited these places a few times, but can see myself going more and more as the community grows.

- I'm grateful that Milton has one of the highest coffee shops-per-capita ratio of any similar-sized community I've seen around — with more than a dozen shops, and at least one within a two-minute drive of anywhere in town. As somebody who does the occasional split shift and just gen-



with STEVE LeBLANC

Up
front

erally loves coffee, I say this number can never be high enough. Keep the java flowing!

- I'm grateful that Miltonians seem to take a genuine interest in just about every important issue that comes along — which is readily apparent through our letters to the editor section. I'll admit I've disagreed with many residents over the years and the occasional letter is a little too

intellectual for my liking, but Milton does take a stand and seems to generally keep itself informed about what's happening — certainly a good thing for me and my newsroom cohorts.

- I'm grateful that whether it be monetary donations like a recent \$1,000 shot in the arm to Milton District Hospital's obstetrics unit from Johnson Control or traditionally high turn-outs at blood donor clinics, Milton is a town that takes care of its own — time and time again.

And finally:

- I'm grateful that Milton will be among those communities that doesn't have a single alcohol-related injury or fatality over the holiday weekend.

I'm counting on all of you to help make this last one a reality. I'm really not asking for much here, just a little common sense.

Happy Thanksgiving, Milton!