

Comment

The Canadian Champion

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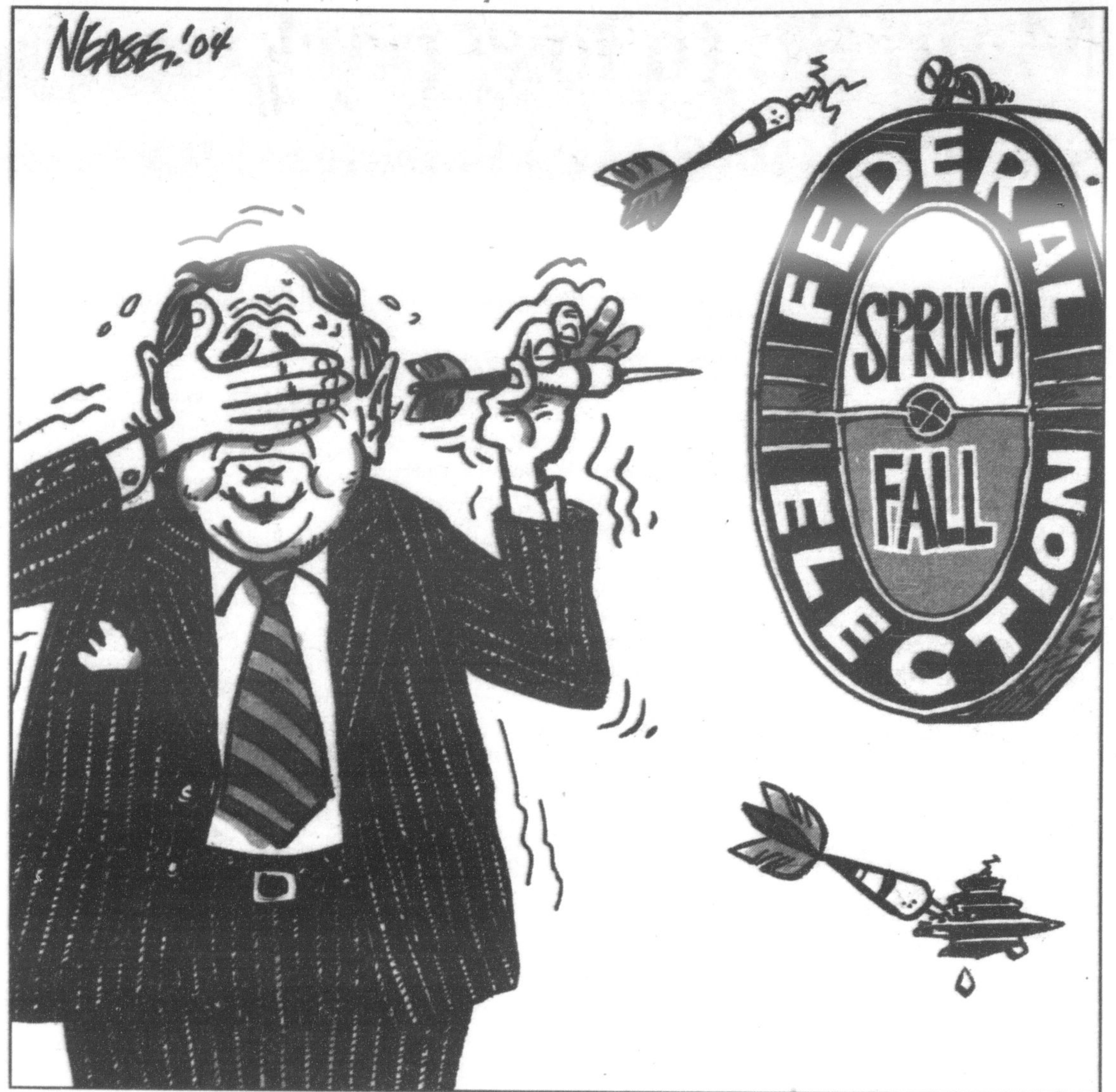
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Thoughts, prayers don't seem enough

Joseph Manchisi wasn't alone these past two weeks as he held his breath, hoping against hope remains found in Quebec weren't those of his son, 20-year-old Joseph.

Milton residents were doing the same. Although Mr. Manchisi said he knew logically he would soon receive the phone call confirming his worst fears, he couldn't help but hope for a miracle. Miltonians were hoping right along with him.

But that glimmer of hope was forever erased Wednesday when Mr. Manchisi was informed that DNA results had confirmed the remains were those of his son.

Although the hope of a happy ending has been squelched perma-

nently for the Manchisi family, we shouldn't stop praying for and thinking about them. On the contrary, now is when they need it most, however insufficient it may seem.

Mr. Manchisi has been a model of strength during this difficult time, making himself available to the media partially to protect his family — including his ex-wife, Joseph's mother — from having to do the same.

He's opened his heart to Miltonians, offering information when he had it and sharing his emotions when information was painfully absent.

Now, all we can offer in return is our sincere condolences, thoughts and prayers.

Our Readers Write

Kids Fishing Derby another great success thanks to community's support: volunteer

Dear Editor:

On April 24, more than 450 children aged 12 years old or younger took part in the second annual Kids Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Halton Sportsmen's Association and the Royal Canadian Legion's Milton branch.

The Mill Pond was shoulder to shoulder with local kids and their helpers — all trying to hook that big one.

Every registered fisherman received a coupon for a free hot dog or hamburger and a soft drink.

There were also tons of prizes for tagged fish, as well as continuous random draws from the registration list.

All of this was made possible by the outstanding work of my colleagues at the Halton Sportsmen's Association and their supportive sponsors.

We would like to extend a very special thanks to Milton's M&M Meat Shops and the Shimano Pro Staff for their outstanding support.

Also, sponsors Canadian Tire, Bomar Bargain Barn, Loblaw's,

Guns and Hooks, The Hardball Café, Sandra Stewart of Johnvince Foods, Carolyn Keyworth, Bentley's Water Service, Classic Coolers, Halton Regional Police Service, Home Cinema Video and D&S Signs deserve thanks for their contributions.

Last but not least, congratulations to six-year-old Jacob Wickware for catching the day's biggest trout — which stretched 15 inches long.

Bob Petrie
Halton Sportsmen's Association

E-mail your letters to the editor to miltoned@haltonsearch.com.

My 400-plus days here will stay with me forever

Those of you who have read my column know I'm not one to gush about things personal. I always felt this space gave me an opportunity once a month to get readers to think about their community and what it means to them. Then I got to thinking — it's my turn to tell you what I think of the community.

Many of you have let me into your world and it's only fair I let you into mine.

I'm switching gears because this will be the last time I write a column for The Champion.

On Monday, I will begin working at The Burlington Post, The Champion's sister paper.

As much of a cliché as it is — journalists don't use clichés, do they? — it's a bittersweet time for me.

Prior to coming to Milton, I had been an on-call reporter and freelancer with the Hamilton Spectator in 2002. Before that, I was with the

Cambridge Reporter for a little more than two years.

I bring these past ventures up because what I experienced at the other newspapers is what I experienced at The Champion, and then some — the feeling of family.

(You can gently wipe the tear from your eye now as my keyboard is already soaking.)

The people in Milton, be it the staff at the paper or the concerned residents and politicians who have graced my 16 months here have truly been unforgettable. I thank editor Karen Smith for giving me that opportunity.

This is what's great about being a journalist. We immerse ourselves, if only for a brief moment in time, into a particular issue or into someone's personal life.

My colleagues Stephanie Thiessen, Steve LeBlanc and Graham Paine are certainly perfect



The big picture

with JASON MISNER

examples of this. From Stephanie's sensitive approach to dealing with the Manchisi family to Steve's desire to bring local sport athletes to our attention to Graham's wonderful photos (I think of them as art). We all carry a little bit of the person or the story with us. It molds us, influences our perceptions of life — perhaps changing them for the better.

That has happened for me in Milton.

I say, with a completely honest heart, that Miltonians are possibly the most passionate, compassionate and sensitive bunch I've met. Many of them take a direct involvement in their local government or attend important, though sometimes stodgy, public meetings to better understand the world around you.

I commend that. It was a privilege to be part of it, if only as a nosy observer with a heavily-created notepad.

You may see my byline in the paper from time to time, but the memories I have made here will be forever constant.

As I have said to more than a few, Milton has the unique and enviable position of being able to chart its own destiny. My roughly 400-plus days here have helped me chart mine.

For that, I thank you all, and good luck.