

Comment

The Canadian Champion

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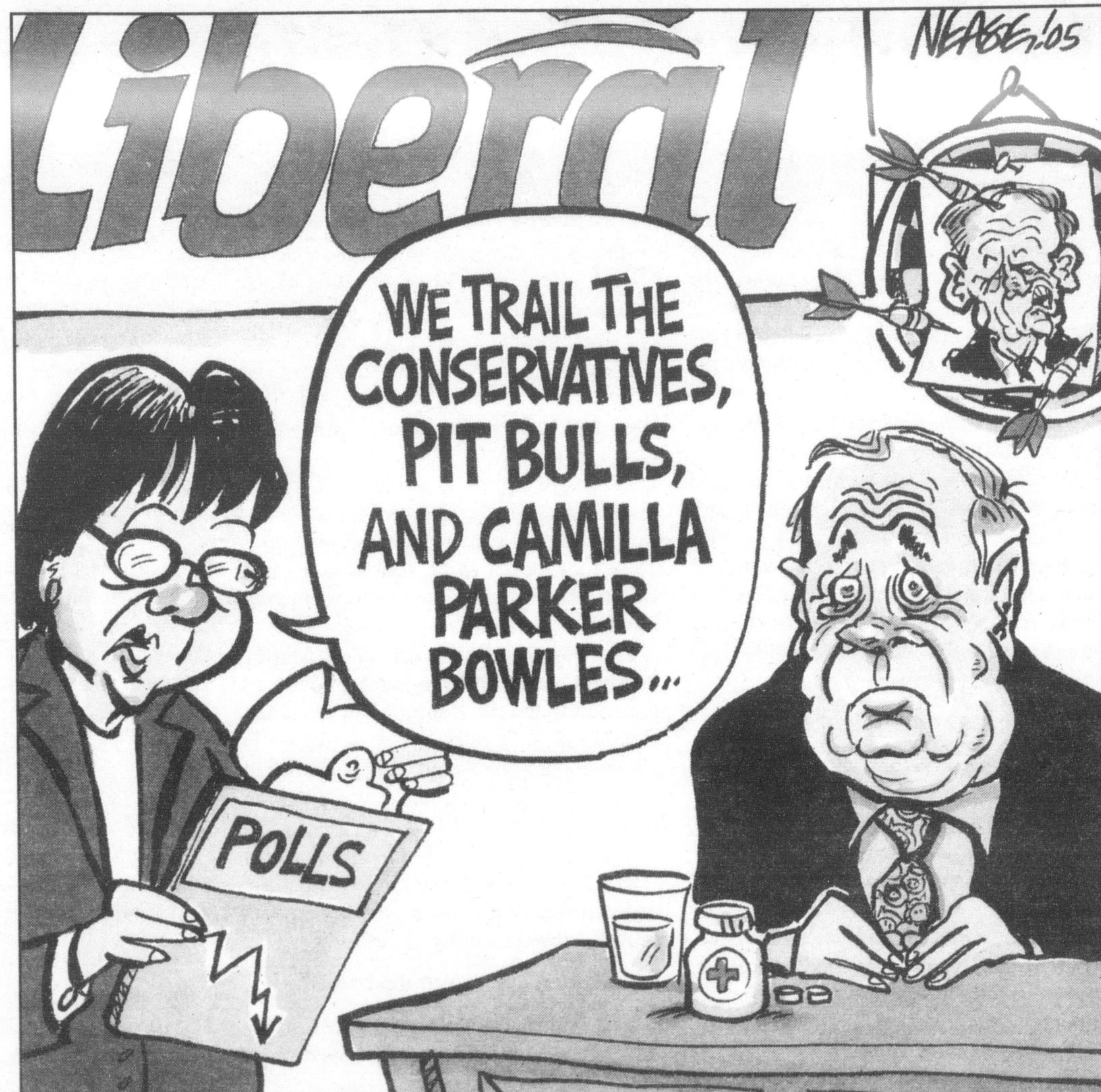
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Seize the moment?

In every politician there's a bit of a salesperson — an inner part of himself or herself that they can call on to sell a plan, sell an ideal or sell themselves to the voter.

For Conservative Party Leader Stephen Harper now is the time for him to sell himself — and his party — to the rest of the country. He needs to give Canadians the sense his party is a viable alternative to the scandal-plagued Liberals.

With testimony at the Gomery inquiry growing more damning to the Liberals each day, the time has never been better — or will likely ever be — for the Conservatives to convince Canadians, and primarily Ontario voters, that Harper's party isn't rife with loose cannons, red-necks and members of the lunatic fringe.

In the past two elections, the Conservatives have been unable to demonstrate they're the party of choice or a reasonable alternative.

Now, Adscam has handed the Tories a golden opportunity, one they won't likely see handed to them again on such a large platter.

While the stench of the sponsorship scandal is sure to stick more to former

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien since most of the alleged improprieties occurred under his watch, current Prime Minister Paul Martin can't escape unscathed. He was, after all, Chrétien's finance minister, the man who was supposed to know when, where and how taxpayers' money should have been spent.

Dubbed the PM-in-waiting while Chrétien spent years dithering about retiring (yes, dithering), Martin was seen as the second coming of Lester B. Pearson. However, since landing the top job he has often appeared remarkably unsure of himself and easily bullied (see Newfoundland on equalization payments and Alberta and Quebec on the 2004 health accord). On other occasions he comes across as stubbornly intransigent (re: refusing to even listen to fellow Liberal and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty's request for equalization cash). To top it off, he nearly snatched defeat from the jaws of certain victory in the last election.

With Adscam testimony causing the Liberal Party more damage each day, Martin often flummoxed and a shaky minority government in place, this is Harper's time to make political hay.

Our Readers Write

Fourth Line and Derry Road intersection isn't suitable for proposed development

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to Joey Henry's recent letter saying opposing the proposed apartment/townhouse development at Derry Road and Fourth Line is appalling.

Having moved to Milton from Toronto, I fully understand the importance of high density, affordable housing — not only in Toronto, but across the entire GTA, Milton included.

With this being said, it doesn't mean such developments need to happen right at Derry Road and Fourth Line.

Whether you're for or against the closing of Fourth Line and the left turn restrictions at the same inter-

section, one thing that has to be agreed upon is that it adds traffic to streets that were never intended to carry that type of overflow.

Getting around Milton from Hawthorne Village has become a problem.

Now a 218-unit apartment building and 550 townhouses are being proposed at this corner.

In those 768 dwellings, the vast majority of people will have at least one car, with many owning two. So now we're talking about adding well over 1,000 cars to this problem area.

My question is, where will all these cars go? In my opinion, any direct access they have to Derry

Road will be no safer than the access from Fourth Line. It will have to be labeled as unsafe, with thousands of extra trips on Clarke, Thompson and Trudeau and many other residential streets every day.

I believe the Town is creating problems where there should have been none in the first place. Had Fourth Line been dealt with properly from the point of planning and zoning, we wouldn't be having these discussions now.

High density housing may be needed in Milton, but put this proposed development somewhere that has the infrastructure to handle it.

Ric Jensen
McDuffe Crescent

Going to walk all night long in memory of 'Papa'

In just a couple short months, I'll be staying up all night — and walking for much of it — in the Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life that'll be held at the Milton Fair Grounds.

I'll admit, the thought of taking turns with my fellow co-workers walking or running around a track over the course of 12 hours sounded a bit daunting at first, but the more I learned about the event the more excited I became.

One thing that particularly caught my interest is the luminary ceremony, which is when candles placed in special bags around the track will be lit up.

While that may not sound especially exciting on its own, I personally like the fact that the names of cancer survivors or those who've lost their battle against the disease will be written on the bags the candles are in.

I'll be lighting one for my 'Papa' — a close

family friend and honorary grandfather I lost to cancer last year.

It's hard for me not to get teary-eyed thinking about him and the wonderful person he was. Since I lost both of my grandfathers at a young age, Papa was really the only 'grandfather' I ever knew.

In all my memories of him, he's wearing his trademark fedora... something I used to steal off his head as a little girl and wear, thinking I was pretty clever.

He had a great love of horses and continued his work at a horse farm just outside Orangeville almost until the day he died. It was what kept him going.

In recent years, my husband and I used to go over to visit with Papa and 'Gram' to play euchre — something so simple but something I truly miss.



The view from here

with MELANIE HENNESSEY

Papa was famous for putting it all on the line during these games and taking risks, much to the dismay of his partner Gram, but it always resulted in a few good laughs.

But, there's one memory that's stuck with me in particular. Sitting on Papa and Gram's front porch last summer on his 83rd birthday, he just started sobbing uncontrollably because he knew

the end was near for him.

I held his hand and rubbed his back, trying to comfort him. But what can you say to a person in his situation? I felt so helpless and sad, but willed myself not to cry in front of him.

It was that moment I knew I truly wanted to do something to help find a cure for cancer. The Relay For Life is going to raise money for research on all types of cancer and also help the Canadian Cancer Society provide information on cancer, risk reduction and treatment and support for those living with cancer and their family and friends.

Even if my legs get sore during the relay, which I'm sure they will, I know thinking of Papa and knowing that I'm helping others in the same situation will keep me going.

I can't think of a better reason to stay up all night.