

# Comment

## The Canadian Champion

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## Not good for Dalton

Dalton McGuinty may be hard pressed to escape the political vortex swirling about Greg Sorbara.

When your go-to guy, your right-hand man, your finance minister resigns amid allegations of defrauding a company in a land deal, unproven allegation or not, there's a sort of knee-jerk reaction to call into question the premier's choice of candidates to control the province's purse strings.

It was hard to escape the imagery of the proverbial fox guarding the hen house following Tuesday's bombshell that the province's finance minister was stepping down amid a search warrant's allegation he and three others defrauded Royal Group Technologies.

To be fair, Sorbara has yet to be charged with any crime and the allegations within the search warrant

haven't yet passed the litmus test of a court of law. It must also be noted that Sorbara has consistently maintained he has done nothing wrong and termed his Tuesday night resignation the responsible thing to do pending the conclusion of the police investigation. Still, the timing of Sorbara's sudden departure — on the eve of his government's throne speech — isn't good for McGuinty.

Not since the federal sponsorship scandal — involving members of yet another Liberal government — has a leader been left looking so vulnerable.

While McGuinty is in no way tied to the RCMP investigation that named his finance minister in a search warrant of a family-owned business, should Sorbara be found guilty of any kind of financial wrongdoing, it could be the anchor that sinks the good ship Dalton.

## Our Readers Write

### Church's Thanksgiving message uncalled for

Dear Editor:

I'd like to address a question that was posed on the marquee sign at Graceway Baptist Church over the long weekend.

The sign read, 'Who does an atheist thank at Thanksgiving?' I was taken aback to see what was an apparent slight against atheists. Without going into a debate over the existence — or not — of God, I'd like to answer that question.

As an atheist, at Thanksgiving I thank:

- The farmers who work long and hard to produce the food that we take for granted;
- The labourers who help the

farmers, especially at harvest time;

- The butcher for preparing the turkey and other meat — without which many more of us would be vegetarians;

- The truck drivers for driving the produce to the grocery stores;

- All the people involved in the running of a grocery store — from the managers to the cashiers;

- My family members, who work so hard to earn the money to put food on the table.

- And last but not least, my mother-in-law, who gets up at the crack of dawn and spends all day preparing a wonderful meal so that we can come together and celebrate our

family with good food.

If I left anyone out who's involved in the process, I'm thankful for their hard work, too. So as you can see, atheists are indeed 'thankful' too — just for different reasons.

Thanksgiving isn't a religious holiday, so the sign put up at Graceway Baptist Church was, in my opinion, uncalled for and in poor taste. Use your sign to help Christians celebrate Thanksgiving in a way that's meaningful to Christians, not to take shots at others who have different beliefs.

Alison Kingelin  
Milton

E-mail all your letters to the editor to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com).

## Help us keep you informed — please contact us

There's a question we're often asked here at The Champion: "Why didn't you cover \_\_\_\_\_?"

The blank usually includes a description of an event, crime or notable happening, and the caller wants to know why it wasn't included in our coverage.

Sometimes, the answer is: "We didn't know about it."

Yes, we have our "sources" for finding out information, but what many of you — our readers — don't know is much of the time you're it!

Without the e-mails and phone calls we get from readers, we wouldn't be half as informed as we are about what goes on because we simply can't be everywhere at once.

I was reminded recently just how important reader input is, and there are several ways to make your voices heard, including what I described above, a simple phone call or e-mail to

let us know — beforehand, please — about an event or possible news story.

Each week, I go through my Arts and Entertainment and Community Page files to choose the stories for the next issues. Again, many of the ideas in those files are from readers who let me know in advance about something.

Have you ever wondered why your grandma's bungee jumping group hasn't been written about, or why reporters aren't calling you about that million-dollar painting your dog created? Once again, I think it's safe to assume we didn't know about it.

There's also our Dateline section, which posts events — at no charge — put on by non-profit groups. Turn to the Dateline section in this issue for more information about the submission process.

And there's plenty of opportunity for you to have your say via a letter to the editor. Did some-



with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

### Around town

thing you read in a column strike a chord? Do you want to respond to a story that was written? There's your forum.

News story ideas or tips, plus letters to the editor can be e-mailed to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com), while community and arts and entertainment ideas can be sent to me at [sthiesen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiesen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

One more thing. What many people don't

understand is the advertising and editorial departments of the paper operate separately.

When you buy an advertisement, you dictate what's included. But when you submit something to the editorial department, we, as journalists, have the privilege of deciding what's newsworthy and what isn't.

While we appreciate every suggestion, we can't always act on all of them because of time and space limitations. And some ideas just don't appeal to our readers as a whole.

Sometimes the answer to the abovementioned question isn't, "We didn't know about it," but "We chose not to include it."

So please, send in your ideas, comments and notifications. And then trust us, as professionals, to decide the fate of each one.

And hey, if you don't like our news judgment, you can always write us a letter to the editor and tell us why.