

The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 875 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 3Z3

(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*

Wendy McNab *Advertising Director*

Karen Smith *Editor*

Charlene Hall *Circulation Manager*

Teri Casas *Office Manager*

Tim Coles *Production Manager*

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

CCAB Audited

RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY



Ontario Community Newspapers Association



Canadian Community Newspapers Association

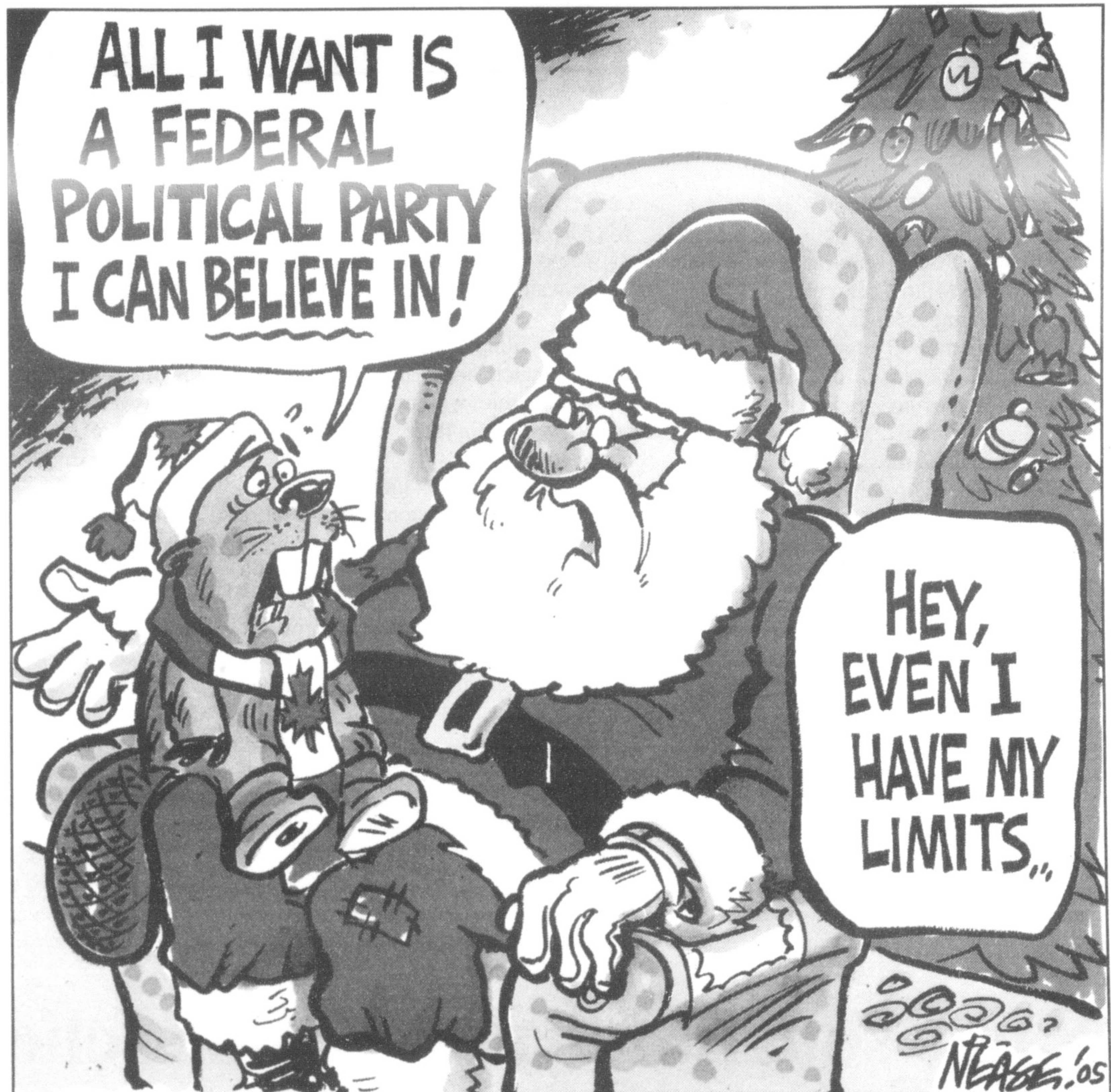


Suburban Newspapers of America

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION IS A PROUD MEDIA SPONSOR FOR:



The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product



Have a happy holiday

With only a few days remaining before most of us settle into holiday mode, we would like to take this opportunity to offer Milton residents our heartfelt wish for a happy and safe celebration shared with family and friends.

We would especially like to offer our deepest thanks to all the residents who generously contributed to The Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund, which, at press time, was up to \$19,898.68.

Each year we wonder if residents might be growing weary of being asked to help the less fortunate and, every year, residents demonstrate to us that the level of caring in this town has virtually no limit.

We would also like to extend a holiday greeting to the many other agencies and organizations that help Milton residents in their time of need.

We hope the spirit of the season has resulted in an abundance of donations to help keep these vital services operating through the holidays and well into 2006.

We would be remiss not to mention that some agencies such as the Salvation Army

find this time of year a particular challenge because much of their donor base is caught up in the excitement of the holidays. We all should remember that the homeless, the hungry and others who are struggling just to survive another day don't get a holiday from their personal plight.

To all the emergency services personnel — including paramedics, firefighters, police officers and hospital staff — who are at the ready should any of us require their assistance, we hope the holidays remain as uneventful as possible.

And we hope that local candidates in the upcoming January 23 federal election might absorb some of the holiday goodwill and see their way beyond the easy route of insulting and degrading their opponents as they try to earn a seat in Ottawa. We would prefer to see them take the road less travelled — the one that leads to issues that actually directly impact every Canadian, such as the future of accessible health care in our great nation.

Once again, to all our readers, we offer our warmest wishes for the holidays.

Our Readers Write

MP's view on sponsorship scandal questionable

Dear Editor:

In a federal election campaign story in the December 6 Champion, MP Gary Carr said that he's proud of Paul Martin's handling of the sponsorship scandal, stating, "He didn't sweep it under the rug."

What neither Mr. Carr nor Mr. Martin have ever credibly addressed, in my opinion, is just what the prime minister was doing during the years when millions of taxpayers' dollars were being squandered in Quebec?

Throughout the scandal, Mr. Martin was Canada's finance minister. He held the most powerful position in the cabinet, where he was ultimately responsible for virtually all government spending.

As a longstanding MP from

Quebec, Mr. Martin spent years engaged in a not-so-behind-the-scenes campaign to replace Jean Chrétien.

To think that during this time Mr. Martin was unaware of the activities of the Liberal party in Quebec strains all credibility.

If he was unaware of what was going on, it could only have been through willful blindness or utter incompetence. These are hardly the traits a nation looks for in a leader.

Mr. Carr also talks about opposition politicians pursuing their own personal agendas because their own "political interests are more important." However, I believe it's Mr. Martin who's the master of placing his political interests above all else.

Witness the first two weeks of

this election campaign, where Mr. Martin has proposed a ban on handguns — which are already restricted in Canada to the point of being virtually impossible to acquire — and blasted the United States for failing to sign the Kyoto Accord, despite the fact that Canada hasn't implemented a plan to reach its own Kyoto targets and most non-partisan commentators give the U.S. stronger marks than Canada for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

As this election campaign unfolds over the next few weeks, perhaps Mr. Carr should be wary about throwing stones out of the Liberals' glass house.

Daryl Baswick
First Line

Ode to Joyce: a fond farewell to a great leader

While Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline's announcement last week that she won't be seeking re-election next year left her fellow council members and colleagues with long faces, I'll admit it got to me a bit too.

Although we're supposed to remain impartial on the news that we cover, sometimes you just can't help but be affected by what you're reporting.

As a Halton resident, I felt saddened at the thought of Joyce not being my representative anymore. I don't think we could've asked for a better ambassador than her.

No matter what the issue — whether it's keeping other municipalities' waste out of Halton's landfill or the Region's budget — Joyce has always staunchly defended the best interests of the residents she represents.

I also have great respect for the way Joyce han-

dles the media. She ensures that she gives me the time I need for interviews and is particularly quick to return a call when I'm on deadline.

She made a lasting impression on me at one of the first events I covered as a regional council reporter — an open house on Halton's strategic plan.

Going to the event, I was nervous, and hoped that all the details of the plan would be fairly comprehensive.

But I had questions, and Joyce more than answered them. She took the time to speak with me at length about the strategic plan, its history and its fine details. Mixed into that were also her trademark glowing remarks about what makes the plan so great.

Another thing that's always impressed me is since day one, Joyce has always remembered my name. I can only imagine the thousands of people



The view from here

with MELANIE HENNESSEY

the busy woman must know, and I suspect she makes a point of keeping track of everyone's names that she meets.

I think that speaks to what Milton Councillor Barry Lee pointed out about Joyce in an interview last week — she pays attention to every single resident in the region, whether they're in the rural or urban area.

A co-worker mentioned something to me that also sets Joyce apart from the crowd — in her entire time as chairman, she's received little to no public criticism from residents or her colleagues, which is highly unusual for an elected person.

I think this speaks volumes to the great amount of respect everyone has for her and what she stands for.

"Respectful and classy" were the words Halton CAO Brent Marshall used to describe the fashion in which Joyce announced her decision not to seek re-election.

By giving a good 11 months' notice, she has given her successor ample time to prepare for the huge undertaking of being the next regional chairman.

So, farewell Joyce. You'll truly be missed by colleagues, residents and members of the media.