

OPINION

Ugly politics

Proposed ousting of Turner by own association disturbing

No matter how you feel about Garth Turner, the recent attempt — by a faction of Conservative Party members who oppose same-sex marriage — to oust the outspoken Halton MP exposes a disturbingly ugly side of Canadian politics.

Like an episode of Survivor, some party members Turner described as members of the “religious right” were apparently prepared to cut him loose despite the fact he had delivered the Conservative Party of Canada a much-needed seat in Ottawa last January.

Last week came news from Turner that a move was afoot to challenge his candidacy for the local riding next month. Fortunately for him, the leading candidate to oppose his securing the riding's candidacy has since publicly stated that there isn't enough time to mount a successful challenge.

Turner suspects his stance on the current law regarding same-sex marriage is at the core of the attempted overthrow from within his own party. Prior to the election, he publicly stated his support of a traditional definition of marriage, adding that he couldn't see overturning the recent legalization of same-sex marriage without “a very good reason.”

Harper's pre-election promise to overturn same-sex marriage by putting it to another vote may explain why Turner is suddenly considered expendable by those who most want to put an end to same-sex marriage. However, Turner's position on the issue likely isn't the only thing that has been eating away at some party faithful.

Almost as soon as his January 23 victory was confirmed, the outspoken MP began to describe a sort of maverick role he would likely have in Ottawa — predicting he wouldn't be embraced by Harper.

Since then he has created controversy for his party by opposing Harper's ban of the media from military funeral services for Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan and, more recently, criticizing the use of taxpayers' money to rescue dual-citizenship Canadians from Lebanon. He has been consistent in speaking his mind — even when it goes against the party line.

Still, Turner was the riding association's candidate of choice and received 44 per cent support from riding voters.

Although the MP accurately predicted his approach at times wouldn't be popular within the party, it's unlikely even he could have seen a challenge coming so soon.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltoneid@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Blood donations appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of Canadian Blood Services, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Milton donor clinic on August 17 when we collected an impressive 131 units.

Since every unit of blood can be used to help save or improve the lives of up to three people, your donations could help as many as 393 people.

A special thank-you goes out to those at the Milton Sports Centre,

along with all of the many volunteers who helped make the day a success, and of course to all of those who came out to donate. Thank you for being everyday heroes.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at our next clinic on September 21 at the Milton Sports Centre.

**MARISSA D'ONOFRIO,
RECRUITMENT CO-ORDINATOR
CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES**

Aroundtown

Coffee shops in town perk up those dreaded mornings

It never fails. Milli-seconds after I open my eyes for the first time each morning, the thought that runs through my mind is “coffee.” It's too early at that point for a fully-formed thought, but that word alone is enough to bring a smile to my sleepy face.

And so begins my day.

You know, with all the new development around town, there are many uncertainties. People dispute whether the economic benefits are worth the risk of losing the small-town feel. But at least there'll be more coffee shops and cafés, of which there can never be too many.

Though it's obvious Tim Hortons has an almost cult-like following in Milton, as it does in the rest of Canada, I'm partial to flavoured coffees and can't wait to get my hands on a Bavarian chocolate or maple cream cup o' java each morning.

A passion for caffeine is a common bond that our editorial department shares. Blood runs thicker than water, but does it run thicker than coffee? That I'm not so sure about.

Up until just over a year ago, myself and the two other reporters at The Champion made a daily trek to the Espresso Yourself Caffé on Main Street for our fix. The announcement we were moving to Thompson and Main was met with a bewildering thought.

Who would fill the coffee void?

They say nothing compares to your first love, and that's true. Espresso Yourself will always hold a special spot in our hearts, and we return whenever we're in the area.

But they also say change is good, and coffee-wise, that's been true. I've been forced to

branch out and spread my wings.

I've learned that Triple Tease at Main and Ontario streets brews a mean banana hazelnut.

And just the other day I visited A Country Mile's new location at Main and Commercial streets and discovered there's now an indoor and outdoor café, complete with music and fresh flowers.

For a special occasion sort of place, Café Deda at Derry Road and Trudeau Drive offers a quiet atmosphere and is particularly cozy in the winter with its glowing fireplace.

I'm sure there are many more notable coffee destinations around town that I've yet to discover. One thing's certain — I'm definitely enjoying the thrill of the hunt.



Stephanie Thiessen

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