

OPINION

Fasten seatbelts

It isn't taking long to get a sense of what kind of year we can expect 2009 will be.

Next week we will see the next phase of the parliamentary showdown in Ottawa and whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper can remain in power or if a Liberal-NDP-Bloc Québécois coalition will be anything more than a hammer held over the PM's head.

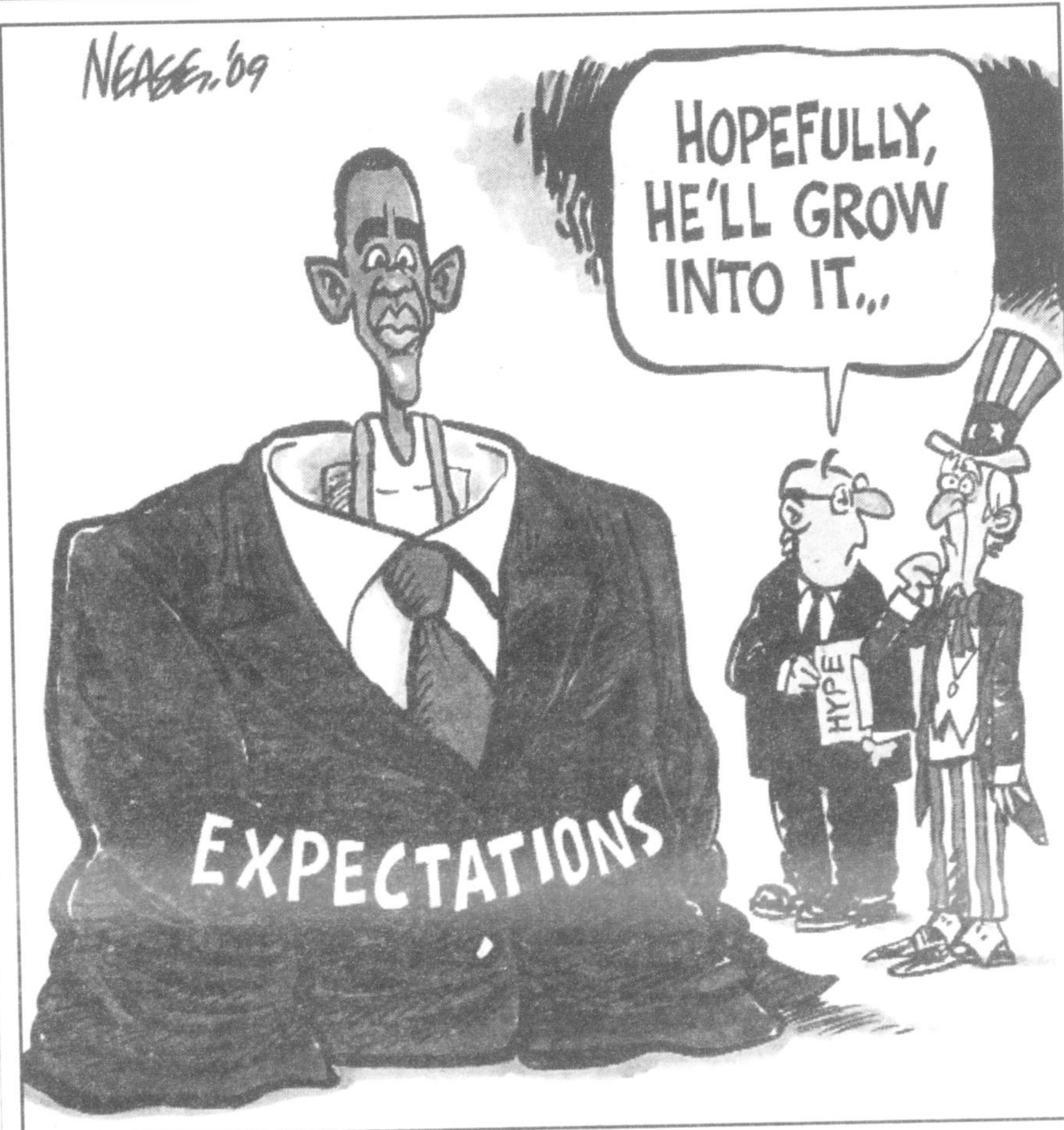
And very soon we will find out whether Harper and his Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, can put aside all the petty partisan politics and deliver a budget that offers up some real solutions to real problems facing Canadians and not a flimsy economic statement that offers precious little but a chance to gut the

opposition parties.

A significant change internationally has now taken place in Washington with Barack Obama moving into the White House, replacing George W. Bush. Obama brings with him a promise of change — something sorely needed following years of ineptitude from the Bush administration. Time will tell if and/or how his leadership will affect Canadians.

The economy is also already dominating the headlines, as it did in 2008, and within a few months we should all get a clear indication if 2009 will be as rocky as the year just past.

If we were to offer any advice to readers it would be this: Fasten your seatbelts.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Lots to be said about condo planning

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to address the story, 'Public meeting to address condo plan,' by Tim Foran in Friday's *Champion*.

I would like to clarify the statements Tim quoted me on as I believe they were incomplete.

When Tim asked what I thought about the proposed condo development, I said that I did hear about it but wasn't familiar with the details.

I did state my concern about traffic impact — already a problem at James Snow Parkway backing up the Main Street and Maple Avenue intersection and others close by — and that the

new development would add to this congestion. This comment wasn't mentioned in the article.

When Tim asked me what I thought of the Main and Maple condo, specifically addressing the look and orientation, I did say that the buildings look nicer than I expected them to look and the area seemed fairly quiet from where we are.

Tim asked me about the shadowing and closeness of the buildings. I replied that it wasn't as bad as it could have been.

I stated that the set back between the buildings and our property line was 4 to 7 metres in

the proposed plan, and once they were changed to 17 to 19 metres (as a result of our opposition) the effect wasn't as invasive to our property. I said that the shadowing wasn't as much of an issue for my property as a result of the changes and because I'm on the corner; but that my neighbours had different opinions.

Tim wrote: Sutherland won the right to build Maple Crossing in 2006 at the Ontario Municipal Board after the development was challenged by two local residents.

This statement leaves out the fact that counsel's original decision to deny the application and proposed zoning changes by Sutherland was supported by a huge public outcry from more than 200 residents who attended the information session and more than 400 who signed a petition opposing the zoning changes and other issues.

The plans that Sutherland brought to the Ontario Municipal Board and won with were considerably different from the original application as they complied with a number of residents' concerns and zoning regulations.

I think the article implies that I like the condos and down-plays my concerns about zoning set backs and traffic issues.

I would also like to add that I encourage everyone to become familiar with proposed changes to their environment and attend the public information sessions. Their voices will be heard by town council and planning staff.

CHRIS NIELSEN
MILTON

ANGELA MICHELI
MILTON

Milton's fast food service needs some improving as my orders often wrong

DEAR EDITOR:

How many complaints do area fast food restaurants have to receive before they start paying attention and giving customers their orders with accuracy?

In the past month or so, I can safely say that my orders have been wrong half of the time, and this isn't limited to one particular place — it's everywhere.

The most recent mistake was having onions on a hamburger when the slip attached to the box clearly said no onions.

Earlier in the week my bacon and egg breakfast sandwich had no bacon.

A couple of times recently someone at another place was too rushed to put whipped cream on my café mocha, but wasn't too busy

to charge me the extra 70 cents for it.

Frequently the machines dispensing hot chocolate pour out some watered-down version, but they continue to pour cup after cup.

Time after time the orders are wrong. Do they hope we're miles away before we figure it out?

The other night I drove back and had words with the manager. For my trouble I received a free dessert — which turned out to be the wrong flavour — and a cold dinner to drive back to.

Enough already. Please get our orders right because you seem to have no problems charging correctly.

The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

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Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

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Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

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