

Editorials

Information-honestly, openly and freely shared-
is the hallmark of democracy

Bilingual Ont.?

LAST WEEK, Progressive Conservative leader Brian Mulroney said that if he becomes prime minister after the Sept. 4 federal election, he will urge Premier William Davis to declare Ontario officially bilingual.

New Brunswick, which has had a Progressive Conservative government for the last 13 years and whose francophone population nearly equals its anglophone population in numbers, is the only province which is officially bilingual.

Premier Davis is often under pressure "to set an example" for the rest of the country by declaring the most populous province, with its sizeable francophone population, bilingual.

Mulroney's urging comes with the acknowledgement (shared by others including former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau) that Ontario's progress in providing services in French for its francophone minority is worthy of praise.

Mulroney and others are free to advise Davis on entrenchment of French rights at the provincial level but it is clear that the government of Ontario will make up its own mind in the matter.

There is something to be said for the argument Davis has espoused on several occasions that he will not take an action on language at this time that could be received in some quarters of the province with some amount of antagonism. Ontario is overwhelmingly anglophone. And, good or bad, there is some anglophone hostility to what is perceived as French being rammed down people's throat.

It is also unlikely that Quebec Premier Rene Levesque's mind on language matters would be changed by a declaration by Ontario that it would become officially bilingual. This has been advanced as an argument in favour of Ontario bilingualism. An argument whose justification lies in reasoning that it would be not particularly forceful. And, Davis's stand on the language question can hardly be interpreted as obstinance.

Too early to call

WITH THE FEDERAL election less than a month away the battle of the election signs has started to heat up in the riding of Simcoe North.

Incumbent Doug Lewis (Tories) and his team got off the mark early, however Al Martin's (Grits) "mod squad" seemed to be out in full force over this past weekend tacking up signs.

A drive through this part of the riding would give one the feeling that Lewis has Midland in his back pocket while Penetanguishene, Port McNicoll, etc seem to be leaning towards Martin.

But signs aren't everything in a federal election.

It's the machinery that is harnessed to get out the vote that counts and at this point in Simcoe North it is still too early to pick an overall winner.

Phar Lap — an exciting sports biography

Movies about animals are usually very appealing to moviegoers, especially when the main character is a horse. A new movie from Australia called **Phar Lap** is no exception to the rule. This film also takes on some added resonance because it is based on a true story. Phar Lap became Australia's most famous racehorse, and it became something of a national celebrity during the depression years.

Phar Lap begins in 1928 when a crusty old horse trainer purchases a colt for an American businessman who lives in Australia. The businessman is upset when he sees the horse, because it doesn't look like much. He tells

Harry the trainer that he wants his money back. But Harry is convinced that this horse can be trained to become a winner, so he works out a deal with the American to keep the horse.

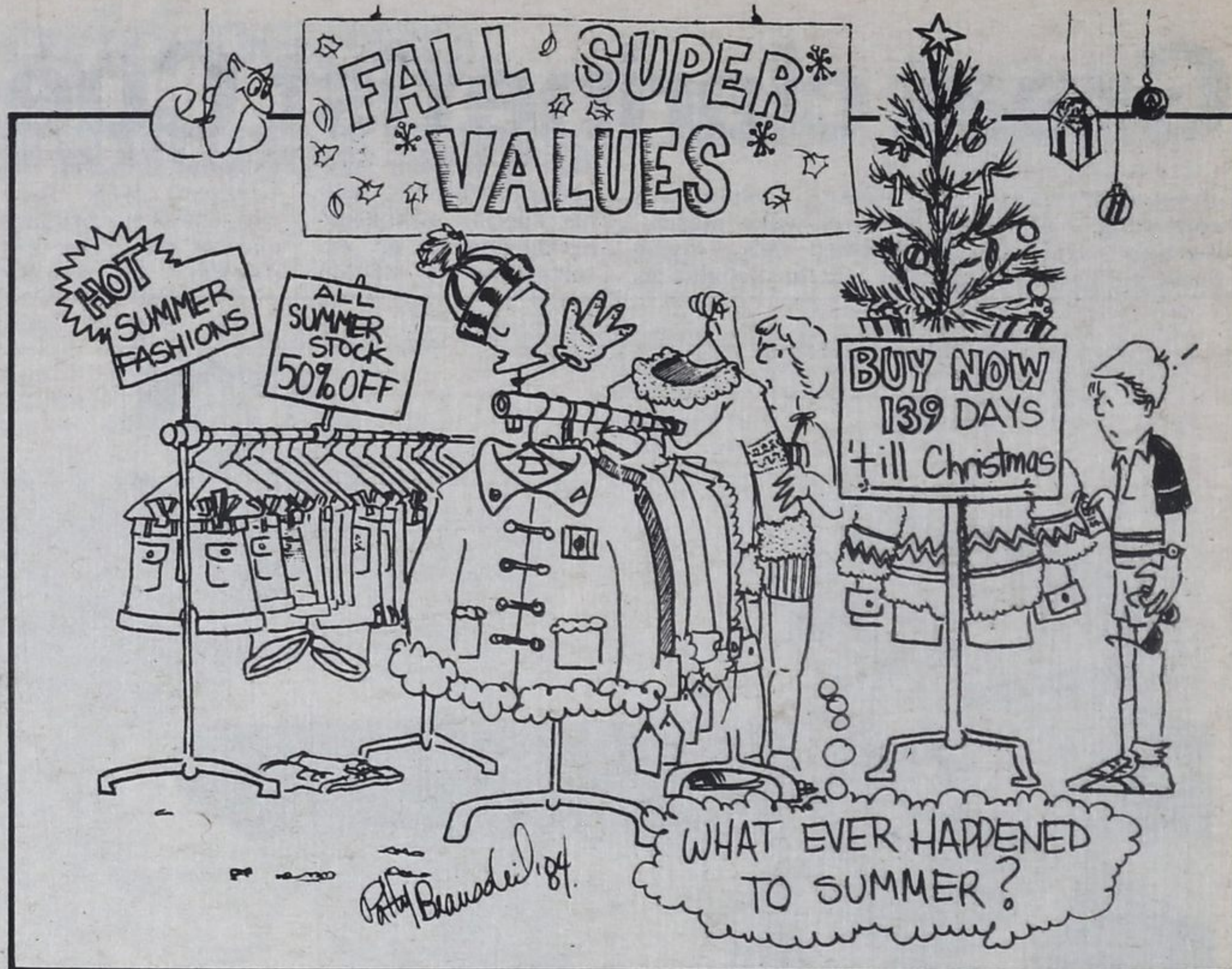
A stableboy named Tommy takes to the horse and looks after the animal's caring and feeding. When he complains to Harry that the older man is overworking the horse, Harry fires the boy, but then he hires him back when he realizes that Tommy is the only person the horse responds to.

The horse is nicknamed Phar Lap, and after much intensive training, Harry and Tommy's faith is rewarded when the

animal wins its first big race. By this time, the American businessman is impressed and he takes a sudden interest in Phar Lap. Since Harry has not finished paying him off for the horse, he still has a share in him.

Phar Lap continues to win race after race, culminating in winning the Melbourne Cup. This is much to the delight of Harry, Tommy and Dave the businessman, but the racing establishment is upset that this unprepossessing animal who is not a thoroughbred keeps winning with such ease.

The story then becomes more ominous as they insist that Phar Lap be heavily weighted in future races. Phar



She is disgusted

Dear Editor:

I am disgusted by all the Conservative election signs which have been put up on the highways and roads around Elmvalle. These roadways are public property, and the signs are just visual pollution for motorists.

In past elections, there has been an understanding among the three parties of the Simcoe South riding that signs would be put up only on private property. As far as I can see, neither of the other parties has broken this agreement, nor

do they intend to.

I voiced my objection to the Conservative campaign headquarters over a week ago, and I know of others who have done the same. We asked for the signs to be removed, but they are still up.

Surely the Conservatives have enough supporters that they can put their signs on private property.

Yours truly,
Katy Austin
Elmvalle

Cash in on this idea

Dear Editor:

Just a word about the Penetang fishing derby held during the month of July.

I think the Rotary Club of Penetanguishene, along with the press, the town, and dealers who handled tickets, donated prizes, and worked hard to make the derby a success, deserve a round of applause.

While no one managed to bag a prize fish, it was still a lot of fun, and when I say no one, I'm including myself.

The derby brought thousands of dollars worth of business to the merchants of Penetang and surrounding areas and I'm sure they'd welcome more of the same.

I've just read in your newspaper that the prize money for a tagged fish now drops to \$100. This small amount will not cause much of a stir with our local fishermen, or with our neighbours. Seeing as the Rotary Club did not have to shell out the big prize money, how about leaving the bounty on the four tagged fish at \$1,000 and set a deadline of Nov. 1, 1984?

We have a long cold winter ahead and our local merchants, especially bait dealers, sports stores, restaurants, etc. would welcome any extra business we can muster up. Fishermen do spend money, and the more, the better.

Art Gage,
Midland.

Black Creek hosting Crier Festival

Cries of "oyez, oyez, oyez" will echo throughout Black Creek Pioneer Village on Sunday, Aug. 12 at 2

p.m. when a regional "cry-off" will take place at the Town Hall to select the best town crier in the

Metropolitan Toronto Area.

Nordair, in co-operation with the Ontario Bicentennial

Advisory Commission and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, is sponsoring the Town Crier Festival in honour of Ontario's Bicentennial. Each Ontario municipality enters their best local crier in one of eight Regional Festivals across the province.

The local village crier first appeared in 1784 in Ontario. Forerunner of today's media, he announced the king's proclamations, local news, special events and, when necessary, a call to arms. This colourful tradition continued well into the 19th century.

Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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