

# The Liberal

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## Provincial Elections

Nominations have been held by three political parties in the Riding of York North and the campaign is now under way. On June 11 some sixty thousand electors will be entitled to go to the polling booths in the various subdivisions and by their votes decide who will represent this constituency in the next Legislature.

We are proud to live in a democracy, and should show our appreciation by taking a keen interest in the campaign, and voting on election day. Everyone young and old has a stake in the country's future and a responsibility to practice good citizenship by exercising the franchise.

The calibre of the candidates nominated is assurance the campaign will be conducted on a high level and we hope it will be keenly contested but free from bitterness. The age in which we live calls for calm and reasoned consideration of the issues and there is no place for blind partisanship.

The party system has given Canada good government, and in the working of our democratic system the existence of live and active political parties is necessary. Without the activity of political parties our democratic system as we know it today would fail to function. It is a sign of good citizenship to take an active interest in the political party of your choice, and men and women who give leadership in our political parties, in the polling subdivision and riding organizations are rendering a very worthwhile and necessary public service. All honour to the men and women who do the unglamorous foot-work in the subdivisions and keep our political parties alive and active.

Major A. A. MacKenzie who has represented this riding in the Legislature since 1945 has been renominated as the Conservative candidate. "Lex" as he is popularly known has been a conscientious and devoted representative, easy to approach and always willing to help a constituent. Member of an honored York County family he is a man of high principles and integrity and deservedly popular with the people. Many who want to vote against the Frost government will find it difficult to vote against Lex MacKenzie. In him his party has a truly strong candidate.

Challenging the sitting member as the candidate of the Liberal party is a

well-known and popular local citizen Donald G. Plaxton. Youth, vigor and ability are among his many qualifications and he is indeed a worthy candidate. Mr. Plaxton bears a name well known in the professional, business and public life of the county. He has demonstrated his ability for public service in the municipal field, having served as deputy-reeve of Richmond Hill, and a member of York County Council. Many in this district who want to vote for the Frost government will find it difficult to vote against a home-town candidate of such promise and ability.

In recent elections in this riding the C.C.F. has not been a serious contender, but there are many new voters this time and the extent of their candidate's support will in large measure depend on his appeal as the campaign progresses. The C.C.F. candidate is Stanley Hall of Newmarket, and while we know little about him we have every reason to believe he will join with the other contestants in conducting a constructive and clean campaign.

Political campaigning is hard work. It makes tremendous demands on the candidates and their workers who are all too few. We extend to all candidates and their supporters our sincere best wishes for a pleasant and a rewarding campaign. We believe all have an earnest desire to serve their day and generation, and make this great Province of Ontario a better place in which to live. We believe all are sincere in advocating their particular policies which they believe will make for better government in this province. All can't win, but all will have served well the cause of good democratic government.

We urge every citizen to take an active interest in the campaign. If you make yourself known to your favorite candidate we know you will be welcomed as a worker. There is ample opportunity and need for more active workers in every political party. Don't sit back and find fault with political parties and politicians; get to work in the political party of your choice and help make it better.

The provincial election campaign is an opportunity for every citizen to take a hand in making sure we have the best possible government in Ontario for the next five years.



## Facts and Faith

A Weekly Comment On Christian Life And Action  
 — By Calvin H. Chambers —

### THE MEANING OF THE ASCENSION

Last week, Christians throughout the world remembered the ascension of Jesus. This event took place in the ministry of our Lord, forty days after His triumphant resurrection. In our Apostles Creed, Christians confess their faith in this mighty event, and give thanks that Christ is now "ascended up on high".

Quite naturally we ask, "What does it all mean?" There are lessons to be learned from the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ, but what can we learn from such a statement as we read in the Gospels, "So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God". (Mark 16:19).

The message of the ascension is meant to gladden our hearts and to challenge us to Christian action. The most fundamental thing we learn, is that Christ is our Exalted Lord. Scripture can only speak of the ascension of Jesus in "picture" language, for human speech is quite inadequate to describe His exaltation in Heaven. In the book of Revelation, John is given a vision of Christ exalted in heaven, but remember it is a vision. He sees the Lamb that was slain, receiving honour, majesty, dominion and power. Having completed the work of redemption He now returns to reign as Lord of all.

When Queen Elizabeth was crowned in Westminster Abbey, a commentator said that it was a spectacle of such grandeur, that he wept for joy. Another said that it was so magnificent that in no way could he have anticipated it. If this was the reaction of men to an earthly coronation, how could we ever describe the exaltation of Jesus. We simply believe it. From His heavenly throne we believe that He exercises the place of supreme power.

We need this assurance today, because we live, as men have always lived, in a world where principalities and powers war for the allegiance of men. The threat of world communism to our democratic way of life is a most serious threat. The secularism of our society threatens to undermine and destroy the foundations of our Christian faith. When we are tempted to despair and give up hope, we need to realize that Christ is Lord of all. He is not defeated by the plans of "mice and men". He is in perfect control.

How suggestive are the words of Mark, "he sat down" on the right hand of God. A person who is sitting, is usually relaxed and unperturbed. This is true of our Exalted Lord. He reigns in perfect peace. He sits as one who is assured of the final outcome of victory. He seeks to fill our own hearts and minds with the certainty of His own triumph. The Christian is the most optimistic person in the world. He believes that God will have the last say, and that no power in the end will be able to resist His will.

Our duty now is to yield to the Lordship of this Exalted Saviour. When Queen Victoria went to hear Handel's Messiah, she had been taught that it was improper for royalty to rise during the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus. But as the singers lifted their voices to shout in melodious harmony, "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth," she could hardly remain seated. Finally, when the chorus broke forth in the climax proclaiming Christ, "King of Kings, and Lord of lords," the young Queen suddenly stood, with bowed head, as if to offer her crown to her King.

Christ is Lord. The Christian is called to live under the control of His Lordship, and to promote the extension of His Kingdom, until all the kingdoms of this world shall yield to His control.

## Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

Would you recognize this animal if you saw him? He can stand up like a ground hog on his pink webbed hind feet, which are small in comparison with his 16 to 30 pounds weight. His front paws are delicate "hands" with which he picks up his (strictly vegetarian) tid-bits. He ranges in color from blue-black to champagne, with golds and browns included. He loves the water. His ears and eyes are small, his whiskers are many and long, his two yellow front teeth are more like a squirrel's than anything.

Do you need any more clues? There's his tail. It's not like any tail I ever saw before. Slung out behind like an elongated pale carrot about one and a half to two feet in length it is one of his features that keeps him from being an attractive animal . . . on first sight, I hasten to say as those who love this fellow quickly and earnestly point out that one comes to love every point of this unusual and gentle animal.

Well, he's a nutria. Nests of baby rabbits have been mistaken for the young of escaped nutria. I myself saw a dead field mouse that was "captured" as an escaped nutria. Muskrats have even been taken for them. They are to say the least unfamiliar.

Nutria are pretty new to this country, at least the mutations are. It is only five years ago that Mrs. K. Seymour (then Mrs. Thompson) brought the mutations from Germany. These first 23 animals were the Greenland Exotic and Champagne. Shortly after she brought in the Greenland Blue-blacks and the Steel-blues. For two years the happy little animals were attractions at the sportsmen's show in Toronto.

Perhaps we ought to say that the mutations are new. The dark brown original from South America is estimated to be a species two million years old! He certainly has the odd characteristics of some of the animals that we associate with isolated Australia and New Zealand . . . for instance the mammary glands run down either side of the female's back and she feeds her young as she coasts lazily down a stream, a floating cafeteria! But to return to the originals. In Canada a Dr. Partik in Quebec imported some of the brown to experiment with in 1923, but did not develop mutations as far as I could learn. It was in Germany that the first development of mutations began shortly after the first World War, and Mrs. Charlotte Brunt was breeding brown nutria in King at least twelve years ago. Mrs. Seymour had been in chinchilla and considered nutria as another line, and although she only knew of the browns she went to Germany to inquire about colours because that country was known to be very clever with furs.

So now we have three of the farms near Richmond Hill, and others at King, Newmarket, Bradford and Woodbridge. I talked to Mrs. Norman Epworth, whose 180-animal Colonial ranch on Hillview Ave., was bought from Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. William May of Mayfair ranch . . . she is secretary to the "association" . . . and to Mr. James Tinkler whose ranch is at Yongehurst. I even was allowed to wear the fabulously light and soft champagne cape that is the second garment so far made up in Canada, and I was shown all through the pens where the intelligent little things at once recognized the voice of a stranger and scurried into their nesting boxes, that to my layman's eye resembled nothing so much as a whitewashed brick barbecue . . . After I learned to keep my tongue still we became better acquainted, but long guard hairs and most whiskery whiskers together with the unprepossessing eyes and curved yellow teeth did not make it love at first sight on my side, and apparently my appearance was equally unappealing to them. No they did not even look as if they wanted to bite me . . . they only wanted to get away and hide.

Until recently the overflow from the well provided a tiny stream for them to play in, but that is dried up at the moment, and of course the Epworths hope it will "come back" for the animals will romp in it all day long.

They are a good family animal. The father stays with his wife and children, which run an average of five. Although they do not reach full growth until 18 months, nearly all have their first litter by a year old (and like all young the three month old ones were so much more attractive than the old ones). The gestation period is 128 days so it's very good going to get five litters in just over two years, sometimes a female will go a whole year without breeding.

However they are very hardy and although they are prone to pneumonia from draughts they are otherwise disease resistant. They are very light feeders and obligingly can be fed once or twice a day and their diet of carrots, lettuce, celery, hay, whole grains, will keep their feed costs down to about one to one and a half cents a day. For a treat a piece of cold boiled potato is relished like candy.

So far we haven't made the most of our animals as they have in Europe. There the skin of the tail is used in expensive buttons (looks a little like alligator), the meat is a delicacy second to none, and served as ragon-dine, and in New York even sells for \$3.20 for a 12 oz. can! Costume jewelry can be made from the ivory and when it's all over there's still the fur. While the cape ran about \$2,000 and a full length coat would be \$2800 to \$3000 even though so soft and light it is extremely durable, but the price per pelt is not yet established.

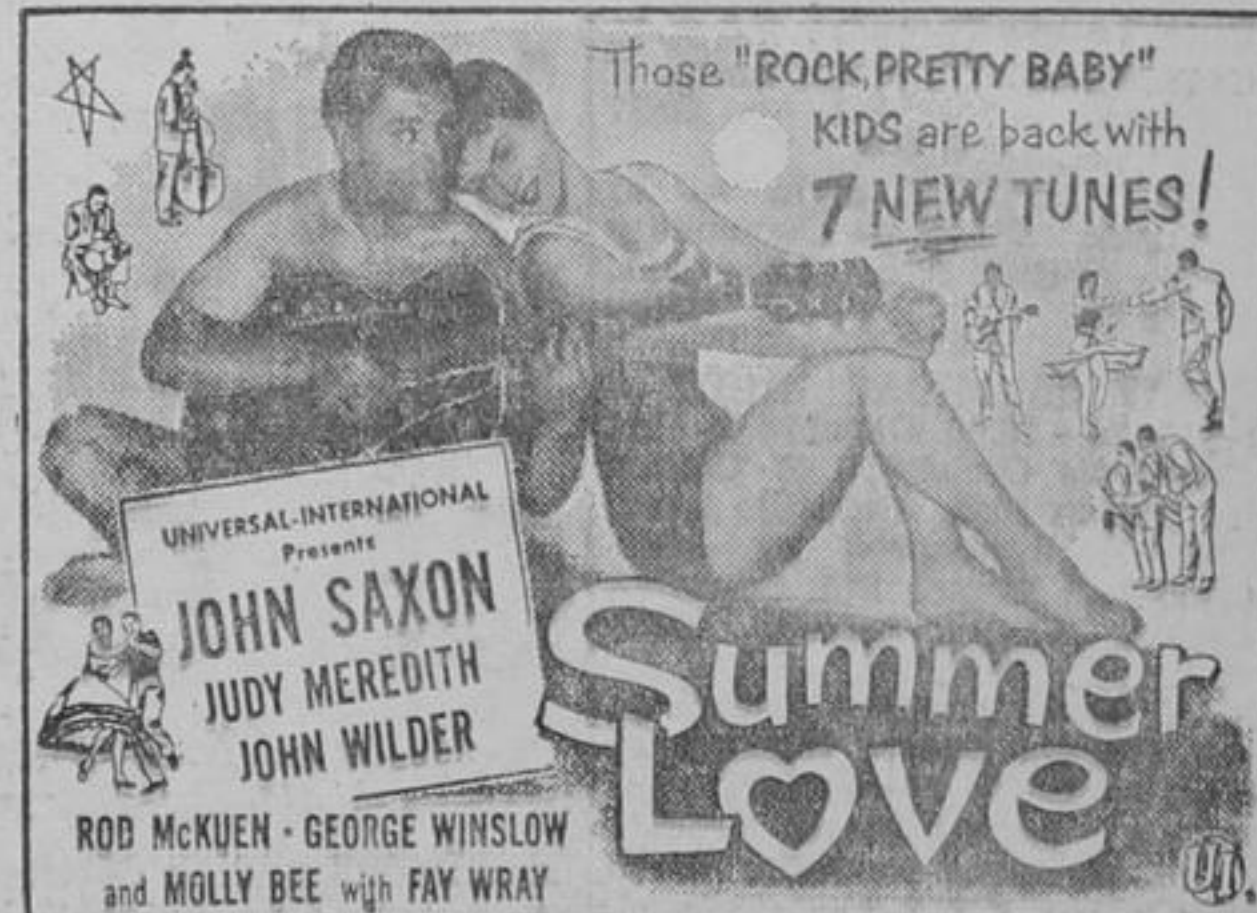
In July 1957, the Nutria Breeders Association was formed and by the end of the year there were 34 members. Now it has grown to 105 members of which Mr. Walter Whale of Alma, Ontario, is the president and four of the ten directors in Canada live in or around Richmond Hill . . . Mrs. Epworth, Mrs. Brunt and Mrs. Seymour being the other three (Mrs. May is secretary.) They are starting a bulletin for exchanging information etc. and have formed the association to keep the standards high to teach breeders which colours are best, how to care for their animals as well as to market the pelts.

If it weren't for their tails and their whiskers, I think I could even come to love the little things myself.

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