

The **SOUTH MARYSBURGH MIRROR** is published to present current, interesting, fun and frivolous information to the residents of the Township of South Marysburgh, and to those who wish they were. It is intended to entertain, and if in the process, it edifies, the editor apologizes. **EDITOR:** Bev Walker. To complain, explain, disclaim, inform, or advise; to contribute items for the paper, or for additional copies, please contact the above, at tel. **(613)476-6771**. This periodical is published regularly when there is something interesting to put into it. If nothing of interest is going on, you will know by its not being written about. **Opinions expressed are those of the editor, unless otherwise stated.**

An Election Eh!

There is a certain humour in all the election goings on. Signs put up near an opposition party supporter's holdings, disappearing before dawn. Reporters and commentators hanging onto and interpreting every word, nuance of speech and gesture of the candidates running for office, and interpreting same on the evening news or in the paper. It is a kind of voyeurism carried to extremes, where the honest observation of the eye is perverted by the bias of the observer.

It leaves the voters in a deluge of conflicting opinions, information and conclusions. And just when we think we have it all settled in our mind, there comes an opinion poll, and everything is knocked into a cocked hat.

The experts tell us: and remember that an "*expert is someone who knows more and more, about less and less*"; that this is how it is, or that is how its going to be. This intrusive media that is so much a part of our opinion making process, has replaced the political rally, which you attended in the company of your neighbours and friends, listened to the speeches, then over lemonade, discussed what was said and came to a conclusion. The media, TV, radio or print, has effectively eliminated the process of political discussion among friends and family, silencing discussion by feeding us TV and Radio debates, panel interpretations of events, commentaries by experts, to which we are passive information receptors.

This overkill of information and opinion has made us wary of exercising our own thinking processes and expertise, to the point where there is very real danger of our

being governed by the media, mainly television, and we no longer trust our own opinions and judgments.

Some quotations to bear in mind this election:

An honest politician is one who when he is bought will stay bought.

- Simon Cameron

The most successful politician is he who says what everyone is thinking in the loudest voice.

- quoted in Andrews Treasury of Humorous Quotations

Finality is not the language of politics.

- Benjamin Disraeli

Give me a firm place to stand, and I will move the earth.

-Archimedes (although this was said to apply to a law of Physics, it can also apply to the worth of individual action.)

And finally a quote from Robert Louis Stevenson:

These are my politics; to change what we can; to better what we can; but still to bear in mind that man is but a devil weakly fettered by some generous beliefs and impositions; and for no word however sounding, and no cause however just and pious, to relax the stricture of these bonds.

On September 6th, get out and vote. An unnecessary election this may have been, but the outcome will affect our lives for an indeterminate period of time, and I for one, want to have my say in the outcome.

- **the editor**