

Voters down to wire in election

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Canadians give Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien the opportunity to carry on with his agenda struck three years ago.

"I just wish Chretien had kept his promise and gotten rid of the Goods and Service Tax (GST)," said Shelly. "That's a big one. He broke the GST promise."

Shelly's husband Glenn eliminated the Liberals early in the campaign. "I'm going to vote PC or Reform or leave the ballot blank. I find it all very disappointing that you have to vote for the best of the worst, rather than the best person for the job," said Glenn.

Canada's future is important to the young family. The Hargraves have three children; they both work full-time, live in a two-bedroom apartment and hope to be able to buy a home someday and

send the kids to university.

While dairy farmer Paul Hulsof and his wife Thea struggled with the responsibility, a decision has now been made.

"I'm going Liberal," said Paul. "We should let Chretien finish the job Chretien is getting the deficit under control. As for Charest, he'll certainly help with the the unity issue, but he has to get his team together before he takes over the country."

Paul rejected the Reform party. "I don't like (Reform leader Preston) Manning's nattering on. But, the Reform has some good

family values. As for the NDP, I don't like a socialist government."

Canada will be best served by the Liberals, said Thea Hulsof. "I'm with the Liberals."

Let Chretien lead for the next four years. Let him finish what he started."

Marking the ballot is not an easy task, first-time voter John Lambersky has found out. Early in the campaign, Lambersky rejected the Reform Party, the New Democrats and all fringe parties, narrowing the choices down to the Grits and the Tories.

Still Lambersky found himself

torn. He likes PC leader Jean Charest and he likes Liberal policies.

But, a decision was in order and it's been made. The 18-year-old is voting Liberal. "I figured Liberal is the safest bet. It enables us to continue on with our present course of improvements, both economically and otherwise," Lambersky said.

On Monday, Ballantrae senior Kim Rogers will vote for local Reform candidate Ed Sarafian. The Reform party appeals to English Canada, said Rogers.

"I'm tired of everyone catering to French Canada's side of

things," he said.

Kim is impressed with party leader Preston Manning. "Manning is down to earth. He's offering a solution to unity which the other parties are not offering," he said. Kim.

While Kim's wife Margaret prefers to keep her vote secret, she's complimentary towards the Reform Party. "Manning is reflecting what a great many Canadians feel — that there should be equality for all of Canada and Canadians. This is not hate of Quebec or anyone. Actually, this is democracy," said Margaret.



SHELLY HARGRAVES



PAUL HULSHOF



MARGARET ROGERS



JOHN LAMBERSKY

History comes alive for students in Heritage Week

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

As an explorer, Jacques Cartier was tragically hip.

Played by Hafeez Ladha, a sixth grader from Armadale Public School, he was all honeyed words and hit songs.

The ambitious Cartier kidnaps

some Iroquois and sails the St. Lawrence River. Then he digs up a big heap of what he believes is gold.

His response in the Armadale recap of history? Cartier and crew perform "I Feel Good" by James Brown.

And why not? Like other student skits last week at the Markham

Museum, it took the facts of history and turned them into entertainment.

More than 6,000 children and teens visited the Heritage Fair, hearing stories, seeing folk dances and listening to songs — all of them expressing, in some way, what it means to be Canadian.

Children from Summitview Pub-

lic School's bell choir rang out O Canada — a difficult arrangement they started learning in September — in a church building on the grounds.

The bell-ringing girls in Grades 6, 7 and 8 played two more songs Thursday before 50 members of the school's senior choir crowded onto the small stage.

"It was a tight squeeze but we managed," said choir leader Julia Topping.

As eighth graders from Armadale told their stories of parents born in 17 different countries, they also mimed the sadness, the humiliations, and the triumphs they experienced in a new country, Canada.

"We are the children of immigrants. We thank our parents for their choices," Naveen Raina, 13, said at the end of the short play.

"We are Canada's future," the cast gathered on stage behind him declared.

Matthew Yeung, 11, another pupil at the Markham school, had his big moment when he stole a strange rectangular captain's hat from sleeping Christopher Khan, 12, who was portraying cranky west coast explorer George Vancouver.

"Now's my chance! I'll fool

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everyone by making them think I am the captain!" he cried gleefully before his character is killed by an imaginary arrow.

In the church nearby, Ashley-Rose Edlin, 11, had some trouble keeping the shoulder piece of her pioneer costume attached during Vive le Canadienne.

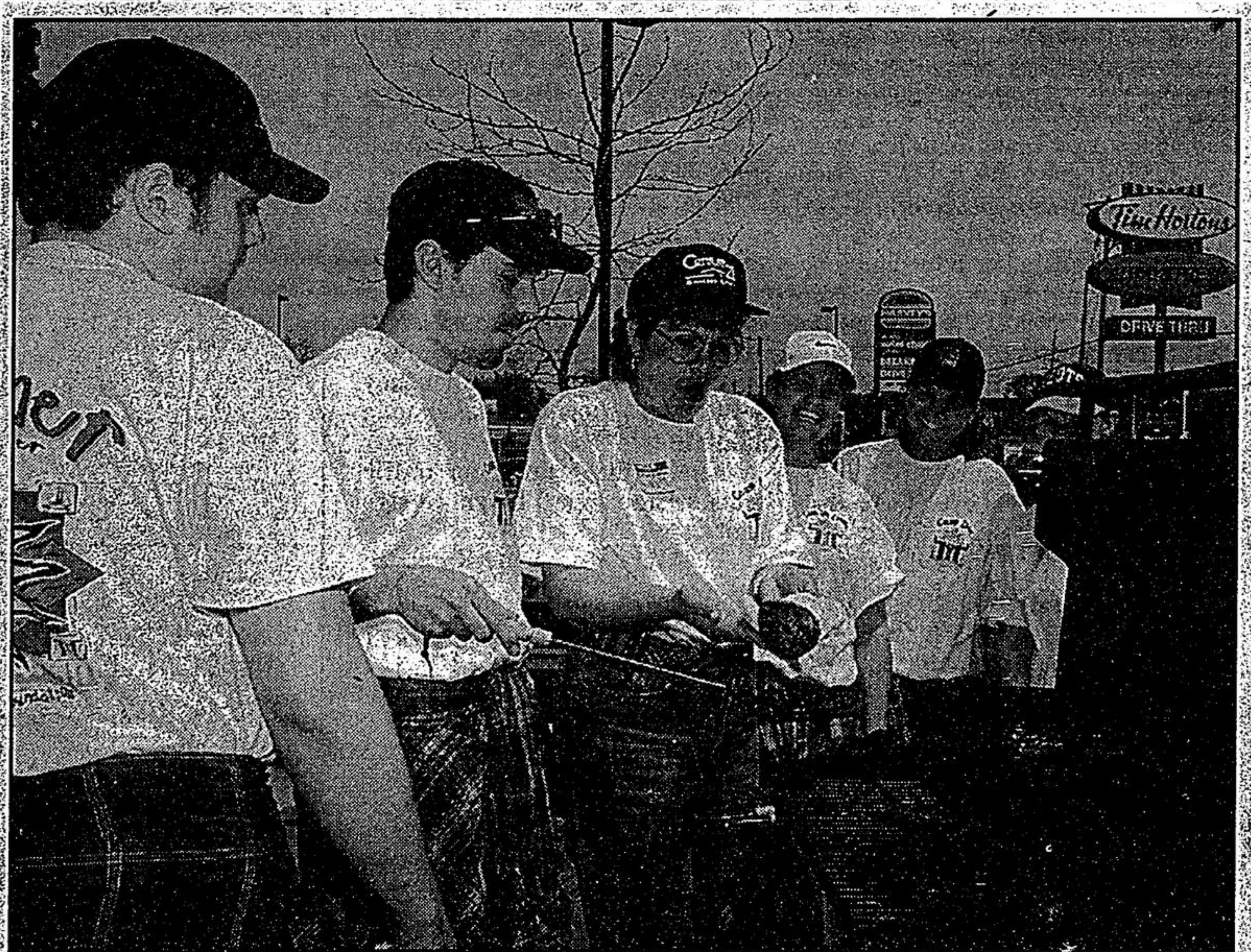
"The bow came undone," said fifth grader, who kept dancing.

Her fellow students also performed Ise the B'y That Builds the Boat, and Land of the Silver Birch, while Spencer MacEachern, 11, kept the beat on a xylophone.

Stuart Scott Public School student Jordan Fast, 14, of Newmarket and Newmarket actor David Morse both took the stage as that hard-drinking father of Confederation, John A. Macdonald.

"I was born in another country as well," Morse-as-Macdonald confided to a packed tent of students Thursday before urging them to stand up for Canada and its values.

"I hope you're just not leaving it up to the politicians like me. If you do, you're in trouble."



SERVICE WITH A SMILE: Stouffville Tim Horton's employee Josh Mitchell, manager Dave Jones and employee's mom Liz Frazer are cheered on at the donut store's barbecue yesterday by employees Kirster Fraser, Morgan Horwood and Mary Lynn Thomas. It was a special fundraising day with the proceeds from every cup of coffee sold supporting a summer camp program for underprivileged children.

Photo by LORI EMMERSON

The cookies have been cast

The final results of the Stouffville cookie election are in. If the New Democrat candidate was a chocolate chip biscuit, she'd be the next MP in town.

The Heritage Deli and Ice Cream Parlour and *The Tribune* hosted an election bake-off, with each party represented by a cookie. The NDP won over the Conservatives with a small margin with 583 cookies sold, compared to 537 PC macadamia nuts bought.

The Reform cookie, a peanut butter chocolate, placed third with a tally of 380.

And fourth in the tasty race was the Liberal cookie with 267 oatmeal raisin cookies cast.

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