

Comment & Opinions

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EDITORIAL

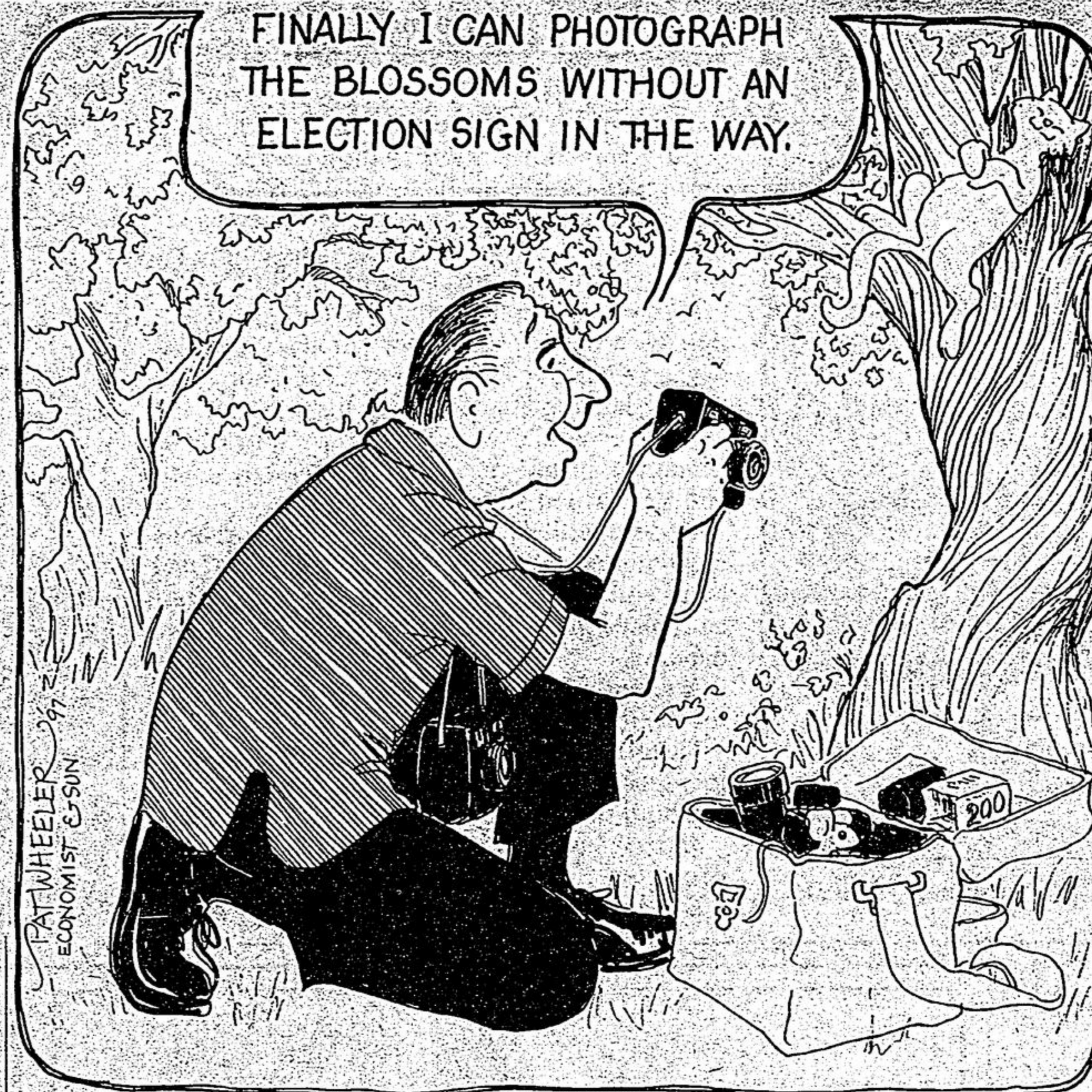
New face for a new federal riding

Bryon Wilfert is our new man in Ottawa. Whitchurch-Stouffville is not terribly familiar with this Richmond Hill town councillor, but we suspect we'll be getting to know him much better in the coming weeks.

Wilfert's work is just beginning, of course. He's part of a new Liberal majority government, but there are many wrongs to be righted in the eyes of the electorate. What happened in many cases across the country was that people voted for what they perceive as an innocuous government - one that is not nearly as oppressive as the Mulroney Tories, yet not as radical as Reform. But there was a strong message sent, as well: It was - we are giving you a second chance to get it right. Don't mess it up.

Wilfert will be asked to take a greater role from this part of the riding, where we have virtually been without representation since 1993. He has to learn there are specific issues that do not apply to the rest of the riding - Stouffville is, after all, special.

We wish the new MP the best in his endeavors. We also wish the other candidates well also. There was a good effort put forth by all. Congratulations.



People make Canada world's finest country

I looked out the window at the crack of dawn. Canada is still with me. Today is a good day.

I'll leave the autopsy of the country's 36th election to others. My mind's on seven local residents. They matter — they matter the most.

As part of *The Tribune's* Oak Ridges federal election coverage, I asked three couples and a student to follow the local and national campaigns week by week and through *The Tribune*, share their individual views with the readers.

The election, through the eye of the voter, is worthy of coverage.

I learned a lot from these people. They're what Canadians are all about. Each of the seven took his or her vote seriously. They care deeply about Canada and, after all is said and done, accept whatever democracy delivers. It's the nature of the people of this country.

The Hulshofs of Stouffville operate a second generation dairy farm in town. Paul and Thea have four kids. The Hulshofs and Canada have a lot in common — they work hard and work steady and they're honest.

When Paul and his Quebec-born

wife voted yesterday, it was an educated choice. Paul and Thea knew what the political parties stood for. The Hulshofs know the difference.

For the past month, I looked forward to Thursdays. At high noon, Paul Hulshof would come in from the fields, eat lunch in the farm house kitchen and as pre-arranged would chat with me. The talk was brief, to the point and about Canada.

Shelly and Glenn Hargraves both work full time, have three little ones and live in a two-bedroom apartment on Main Street, Stouffville. Shelly



Off the Record

Joan Ransberry

knows there's a link between poverty and education. Concerned that the kids will get caught on the poverty treadmill, the couple is determined to find a way to fund post secondary education for their kids.

I have a message for the Hargraves: Keep doing what you're doing. Since the children have you as parents and since they live in Canada, they'll be winners. Shelly Hargraves also wonders: When the day-to-day demands eats up most of both pay cheques, will they ever own a house? Shelly needs to be reminded that while a house is nice, a home is far more important.

Shelly and Glenn have made a loving home. Since they live in Canada, the future is promising.

John Lambersky, a Stouffville District Secondary School Grade 12 student, voted for the first time yesterday. It was not a coin toss. The 18 year old weighed the options. He looked at leadership, party stands and credibility of the local candidates. Lambersky is bright. Bright enough to know that he lives in a privileged country.

Ballantrae seniors Margaret and Kim Rogers keep a keen eye on Canada at election times and other times. The Rogers also know that their Canada is precious.

When I lay my head down tonight, I will take a moment and recognize that I share this country with very fine people. Paul and Thea Hulshof, Glenn and Shelly Hargraves, Kim and Margaret Rogers and John Lambersky are why Canada is the finest country in the world.

Why finances are so riveting to some

Don't you just hate it when you're at a really good bit in your book/newspaper/magazine and your spousal equivalent/partner/significant other comes out with something like "Good grief, that's incredible."

Although, strictly speaking, this does not require a reply, it is said with sufficient emphasis to indicate that a show of interest is expected. "Mmmm..." you murmur vaguely, hoping he will tire of the ruse and go on to peruse the latest health findings, according to which, statistically speaking, you should have died five years ago of some hitherto unsuspected carcinogen contained in kiwi fruit.

Being a privileged white male, however, he will persist until he has your undivided attention. With your forefinger positioned meaningfully on your place in the piece you are trying to read, you sigh mightily and look him in the eye. "What's incredible?" you ask, bowing to the inevitable.

It could be a war in the former Soviet Union, the state of the family holdings in Bre-X (just kidding, although sometimes, looking at my bank imbalance, it does look depressingly possible), Tiger Woods' brilliant manoeuvre



Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

on the links or the latest episode in Preston Manning's foot-in-the-mouth campaign for the hearts and minds of English (real) Canadians, as opposed to those appalling foreigners in La Belle Province.

Breathtaking news about mutual funds, GICs (what are GICs, by the way? - no, don't tell me) or RESPs could also be in the offing. Sometimes the revelation du jour goes like this. "We just made \$4,000 on our shares." To which the little woman replies, hopefully, "Great, just make me out a cheque and we can have steak instead of meatballs on Saturday night."

This is a mistake, because it leads to a long documentary on what actually happened and why it's all relative, because tomorrow, you can almost guarantee it, our shares will not so much fly as plummet and we will be about \$2,000 in the hole.

This, of course, is what makes finan-

cial planning so riveting to forward thinking people of the male persuasion.

Also - I hasten to add, so as not to offend anyone - large numbers of sensible, organized women, who think of the future in terms of the rest of their lives and not just the bit of next week they have to get through before temporary rescue arrives in the guise of their next pay cheque.

At the grand old age of L, however, I am a throwback to the dark ages of rampant political incorrectness, during which the fashion and life sections of the paper had it all over the business news for flighty females. "Good grief," I exclaim in dulcet, yet carrying tones, as Mr. Wallethead pores over a recent analysis of mutual funds. "That's incredible."

Because he is a much more considerate person than your correspondent, he responds immediately "What is?" he asks, without a trace of rancor. "Fergie claims she is as much a victim as any single mother. And just look at that totally tacky suit she's wearing." "Mmmm..." he replies, thoughtfully. "What's your view of Canada Savings Bonds?"

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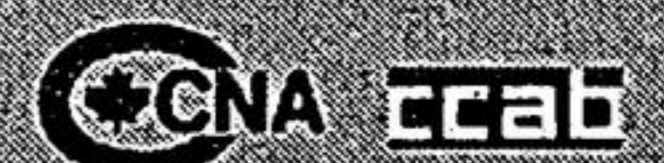
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