

VOTE '99: Taking a lighter look at issues during the provincial election

Defying fashion tradition

If you were thinking of using the 'clothes-make-the-man' method of determining who gets your vote on June 3, think again.

The candidates are proving as tough to pin down to a definitive, predictable, electable dress code as they are when it comes to determining where they stand on the issues.

GREAT IDEA

I had this great idea to rate the party leaders and the York Region candidates based on the way they dressed.

Sure it's shallow, but someone has to do it.

I'd planned on rating the Tory candidates, for instance, on the cut of their pin stripe suits, conservative blue ties, Florsheim shoes and short haircuts.

Tory women candidates would be evaluated on the same basis. Except, of course, for the shoes.

In each riding here — Markham, Oak Ridges, Thornhill, Vaughan-King-Aurora and York North — I could advise you if the Tories measured up, or if you should support a Liberal, NDP, Family Coalition or Green Party candidate, whoever proved to be sartorially superior.

Liberal hopefuls would get the nod if they wore their Italian



Roy Green

suits, red ties, sandals and fashionably long hair with panache, making them the most attractive vote-seekers in their ridings.

I was even prepared to recommend you vote for one of Howard Hampton's NDP candidates — as long as their work boots were polished and their blue collars clean.

I'd be checking that Green candidates were wearing clothes that had been recycled at least three times and that Family Coalition contenders were suitably garbed in Gingham dresses for the ladies and maybe overalls and nerdy bow ties for the men.

Simple, right?

Well, that was the plan anyway. Except that the candidates in York Region are defying tradition. Look at Markham's Dave Tsubouchi — a Tory cabinet minister, for heaven's sake.

He's wearing jogging clothes and runners.

And when we sent a photographer to capture the five NDP candidates in York ridings, he came back with a photo of four guys: Nathan Rotman, Michael Seaward, Steve Saysell and Chris Moise and one gal, Janice Hagan, all dressed to the nines and looking suspiciously like Liberals. Maybe even Tories.

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OK, if the area candidates won't play ball, what about the party leaders?

When I tuned in to Tuesday's TV debate I discovered that the three leaders were all wearing the same suit, a sort of blueish, greyish boring thing.

Point is, I'm unable to recommend any candidates anywhere based purely on wardrobe.

Which means, I'm afraid, that we're back to the issues thing.

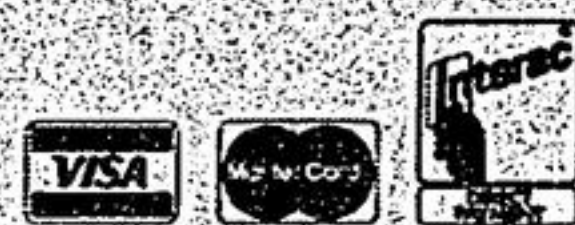


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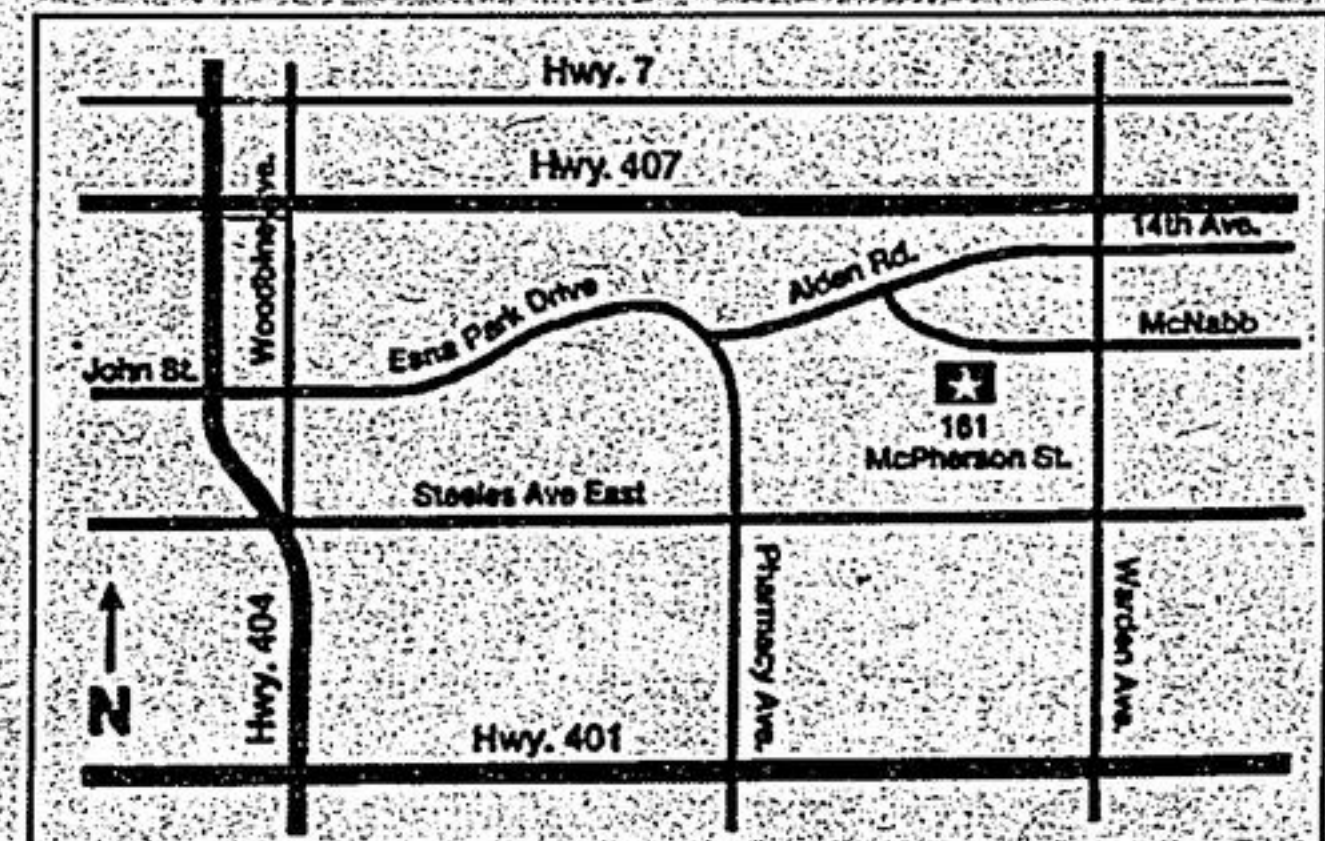
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