

## Stouffville Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

#### Fighting Alliance members failing to be effective opposition

When will we see a day that we aren't inundated with the soap opera playing out on Parliament Hill?

Do members of the Canadian Alliance, those disgruntled with the qualities of leader Stockwell Day and those who continue to show him unwavering loyalty, not recognize their family feud threatens to toss the entire movement into serious disrepute?

Day, for many reasons, has failed to demonstrate even the faintest glimmer of leadership material.

His dogged determination to find others to blame for his missteps only heightens the lack of leadership credibility.

He is, most assuredly, a laughingstock. And many Canadians — 52 per cent according to a poll released earlier this week — believe he should quit.

Day should resign, both as a matter of personal principle and in response to the serious and grounded criticism of his suitability to hold such an office. But it appears he has no intention of doing so.

And so, his party, both rebels and stalwarts, should remember what their first priority is in Ottawa.

They're not there to forge a new pretend party, with the same right-wing ideology and principles as the Canadian Alliance.

They're not there to criticize the Preston Manning faithful people such as Deb Grey, who are critical of or uncomfortable with the new leader's abilities.

The Canadian Alliance caucus members must remember they are the Official Opposition and unless they come together, based on their common beliefs, and work toward making the Liberal government accountable, they are not doing their jobs.

They selected their leader, Stockwell Day may not have been the right choice, but if they allow the entire party to collapse as a result of internal fighting, they leave Canadians little alternative in the next election but to find a better, more trustworthy party to place in opposition.

Deal with the leadership issue in the appropriate place, at the appropriate time. Deal with the nation's true issues now.

# OPINION



Tracy Kibble

#### Businesses, agencies and governments can save our lakes

The call of a Canada goose in the early morning hours is not unusual at our house.

My children are often awakened by the honking of these graceful birds as they fish for food in the rippling clear water close to our docks.

Tuesday morning, however, there was such a commotion, we sprang from our beds to spot a goose on the back lawn — obviously in a dither. She was looking out toward the lake and, boy, was she making a fuss.

Honking all the while, it became apparent our goose was calling out to her mate, who then appeared from the sky. He swooped to the shore, waddled over our rocky breaker wall and on to the lawn.

What happened next was comical and sweet.

With an outstretched, crooked neck he chased her around the yard, both of them cajoling loudly. He'd catch her, bite her back and then she'd turn and chase him with outstretched wings.

Finally, the happy couple flew a few feet, landed in the water with a heavy splash and began to search for breakfast.

Ahh, the sounds and sights of nature. I don't know much about birds, but I thought perhaps we had inadvertently witnessed a flirtatious moment between two mating geese.

My thoughts drifted to the environment and about the health of Lake Simcoe. I remembered how, last year, my neighbours to the south end in Cook's Bay were buried in rotting, smelly weeds, algae and green sludge.

Weeds grow because Lake Simcoe is loaded with phosphorus, a chemical found in plants and fertilizer.

While phosphorus is a natural chemical in the lake, suburban growth and agricultural spraying is adding far too much, officials say.

Georgina Mayor Jeff Holec, a board member on the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and the Greater Toronto Services Board countryside and environment committee, echoes these statements.

"Urban storm run-off is the fastest increasing source of phosphorus," Holec said.

Holec said many government agencies and ministries are making the lake's health a big priority this year — its condition is paramount to a successful economy, he said.

One of the commitments this year, said Holec, is to operate a water treatment plant in the Holland Marsh area to prevent harmful sprays, manure and other pollutants from entering the lake.

With co-operation from business, governments and agencies, Lake Simcoe can be saved.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### No limit to what Liberal party will tolerate from its MPs

Perhaps controversial MP Tom Wappel is spending too much time with some former Liberal MPs in the issuing of poison pen letters to constituents and colleagues alike.

When it comes to elected members, it seems there is no limit to what the Liberal Party will tolerate without a reprimand.

I can think of a few current and former MPs, all Liberals, who have tried to claim the title of class clown.

Some of these people could be tied for top spot in the 'relegated-to-the-junk-heap' category. But I'm sure all would agree that Mr. Wappel gets the nod simply because he remains, unlike many of the others, as a member of Parliament for everyone to see.

MARK STRAIT  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

#### More action needed to solve Stouffville Main Street problems

Re: Grocery stores on the move, Tribune, May 10.

I have lived in Stouffville for 17 years. When I arrived there was more life in the downtown core than there is now.

We're told to shop in town. Where? If you want to buy crafts, wallpaper or something at a drugstore, fine. But there are no ladies, men's or children's clothing stores. Not even a

shoe store.

No one living near downtown is going to walk three kilometres to the Swiss Chalet or Harvey's or the proposed new site for the A&P. You need to drive to all these locations.

I wish members of the Whitchurch-Stouffville planning committee would go to Port Perry and see why that town's stores prosper. These are the types of retail operations we need on Main Street, for people to browse and spend money. We need a movie theatre and a large arcade. It would create jobs and parents wouldn't have to drive to Markham.

I think the planning committee or whoever is planning the downtown core should do something instead of just talking. The future is here and now.

CELINA DAVIES  
STOUFFVILLE

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