

Whose head do you want to bite off? It's neck and neck

You have two chores while you vote: chew the head off a politician or sing like Stompin' Tom.

More than 2,000 Canadians are having fun with a Markham-designed election poll and a Stouffville-written song.

Response to Markham's Say What Communications' gingerbread poll, complete with its accompanying song suggests Monday's election could be a tight three-way race.

Of the 2,000-plus gingerbread voters, 40 per cent support Liberal Paul Martin, 30 per cent back Conservative Stephen Harper, 27 per cent favour New Democrat Jack Layton, while three per cent pick Bloc Gilles Duceppe.

The gingerbread poll, launched before Christmas, has caught the attention of the media across the country.

"It's been everywhere from national newspapers and television in Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton and Sudbury," said Say What Communications founder Grant Ivens.

With the help of Stouffville's A&P, Mr. Ivens baked up the special poll.

Meanwhile, as a tribute to Stompin' Tom



Connors, the Slime Dogs, a 10-piece Stouffville band, wrote the lyrics to The Good Old Voting Game.

Mr. Ivens, his wife and two daughters are members of the Slime Dogs.

The gingerbread poll will remain open until election day Jan. 23.

Canadians can vote and nibble on the four federal political party leaders by visiting www.saywhat.com

Mr. Ivens reminds everyone to tap their foot when singing The Good Old Voting Game. It goes like this,

"Hello out there, we're on the air, its election day real soon,

Oh what despair, it's hardly fair to vote for these buffoons,

They hurl insults, without results, it all seems so inane,

Then Harper shouts you're corrupt, get out and Martin goes insane."

—Joan Ransberry

Green gets to know Markham

Markham-Unionville Green Party candidate Wesley Weese doesn't believe absence makes the heart grow fonder.

A candid candidate, the 56-year-old Belleville journalist, musician and farm resident admits he was "parachuted" in when no locals came forward.

Rather than go through the motions by long distance or commuting the 100 kms, Mr. Weese committed to campaigning on the ground full time.

"I've spent the better part of the campaign in the riding," the rookie politician said. "The people have been very friendly, except for a few grouches. My daughter lives 15 minutes away and I stay there. I'm new at this game and I've learned a lot."

Mr. Weese is realistic about his role and chances in what has been a Liberal stronghold since 2000.

"The Green Party isn't going to form the next government, obviously," he said. "My job is like being a motivational speaker, telling people about our party, creating awareness about Green as a movement. I'm also here to form an EDA (electoral district office)."

Will he return when the next election is called?

"I would love to, but I doubt that'll happen," he said. "I've already run into many local people who said they'd run."

—Chris Traber

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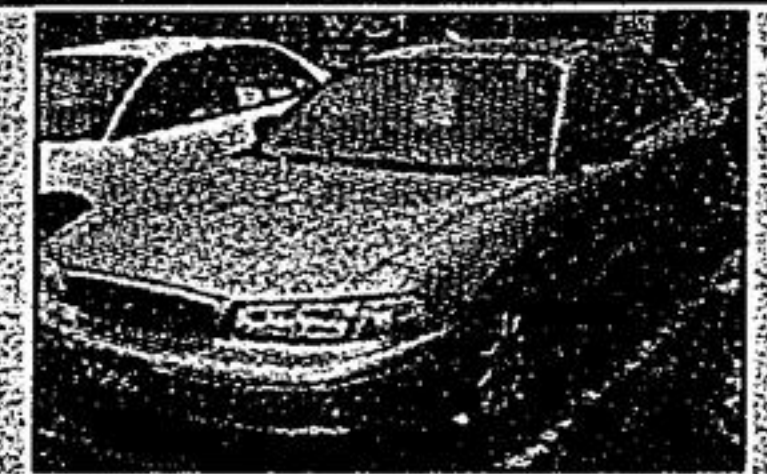
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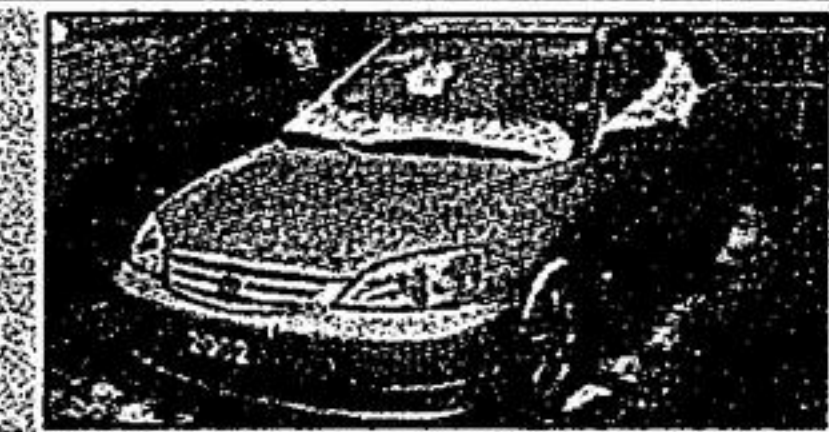
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