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P.O. Box 310
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LOG 1A0
705-458-4434
Fax: 905-729-2541
E-mail address
thescope@rogers.com
web site
www.innisfilscope.com

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Publishers:

BRUCE HAIRE
JOHN ARCHIBALD

Editorial

Managing Editor
BRUCE HAIRE

News Editor
Michelle Minnoch

Reporter
Richard Blanchard

**Advertising
Director of Sales**
JOHN ARCHIBALD

Sales Reps
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Politics in every corner

Comment

by Michelle Minnoch

The election for the new leader of the Liberal Party on Saturday night was certainly a surprise for most. While Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae had been the two most talked about candidates for the leadership position in recent months, it was former Environment Minister Stephane Dion who stole the show at the end of the evening, beating Ignatieff by almost 10%.

While I was torn about who I thought was best suited for the position, I also knew who I did not want the role; Ignatieff and Rae.

The highlight of the show for me was the rousing speech by Jean Chretien, who received the most applause when he mentioned how his government said no to the war in Iraq. While there are many who did not like his form of governing, I found his passion is inspiring, and his personal style appealing. I am one of those rare birds who actually miss this street fighter from Shawinigan on the political stage.

The Liberals now have another leader from Quebec and now have to pull the party up by their bootstraps and get in gear.

Of course, many media outlets are speaking of a spring election, and I am sure most Canadians do not want to go through that again so soon after the last go around.

Let Dion put in some time as the leader of the opposition. Let him show voters who he is and what he actually stands for before asking us to determine whether or not he is a good candidate to run this country.

Tonight is the inaugural meeting of the newly elected council. The meeting will be held in Stroud at the Banquet Hall in the Stroud Community Centre, starting at 7pm.

Members of the community are invited to come out while the council elects take their oath of office for their term for the next four years. While tonight's meeting is ceremonial, starting next week, the eight gentlemen and one lady the people voted to represent their concerns will be sitting in council chambers every week and will start to make crucial decisions over the next four years.

Congratulations to our MP, Peter Van Loan - he has been appointed Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Sport, as well as President of the Queen's Privy Council.

Food drive collection during parade

Dear editor,

Yujo Martial Arts students will be collecting food for the food bank as they walk beside their float in the Alcona Santa Claus Parade on Sunday, December 10th. The parade starts at 2pm.

Last year, we collected approximately 75 lbs. of food. We would like to

collect a lot more this year, but need your help. Together we can make a difference in our community.

Merry Christmas,
Heather and Jody Moon, and the students and families of Yujo.

Satisfied with re-count results

Dear editor,

I am satisfied and pleased the recount was conducted, through the process all candidates in

Ward 3 picked up additional votes, however the results remain unchanged. The record in Innisfil remains unblemished and democracy is first and

foremost an important aspect of this community.

Regards, Ken Simpson
Candidate Ward 3 Town of Innisfil.

Helping out our soldiers during holiday season

Dear editor,

As I was listening to one of our Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan talk to his family, he mentioned some of the special treats he missed from home. It was then announced that Canada Post would send parcels free of charge. I immediately thought, "What a great project for our schools."

Whether or not you agree with Canadian involvement in Afghanistan, they are still our

soldiers- men and women who will not enjoy the luxury of being with their loved ones during this holiday season.

Boxes must not exceed 30 kilos and some suggestions of treats or snacks are: sesame snacks, dried fruit mix, granola bars, any variety of nuts, hot chocolate, packs of special teas or coffee, chocolate bars, gum, crackers with peanut butter/cheese, small jars [plastic] of peanut butter, tooth brushes,

toothpaste or any similar articles. PLEASE- NO GLASS OR PERISHABLES

The address is :
CFBU Trenton,
15 Westwin Ave., Bldg 348, 8 Wing,
P.O. Box 5058,
Trenton, Ont. KOK3WO

Attention: "The Padre"
This is a great opportunity for you or your child to write a "Dear Soldier" letter or make a special

holiday card thanking them for their sacrifice and dedication.

It is my sincerest hope that you, your family, your school, your company, your church or your organization will participate in the true spirit of sharing.

Our soldiers will so appreciate this gesture.
Remembering Our Soldiers,
Elsie Formagie

What Planet do you come from?

Ontario's forestry sector has escaped virtually unscathed from a slowdown in the U.S. housing market because of provincial aid programs, Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay said in the legislature last week. He went on to say "Right now the American housing market has tanked, and quite frankly, Ontario has gotten off relatively scot-free from that."

Well quite frankly Minister Ramsay, what planet do you come from? Nothing could be further from the truth. This outrageous claim is totally misleading to Ontario's

voting majority in the South who unfortunately know very little about Northern Ontario's economy or the forest industry.

If they lived in the North they would see for themselves the devastating impact Minister Ramsay's decisions are having on the forest industry. Communities, workers and their families are not only suffering because of the U.S. housing market slowdown but because the current provincial aid programs and government policies run far short of what is needed to put the forest industry back on its feet.

In case you haven't

noticed Minister Ramsay, contrary to your claims, mills continue to fall like dominoes, communities are dying, hundreds of workers continue to lose their jobs adding to the many thousands already lost, families are being broken, they are losing their homes, while many are being forced into bankruptcy. All this is happening while you stand up in the legislative assembly to state that Ontario's forestry sector has escaped virtually unscathed.

When you hear a Minister of the Crown make such unfounded statements in an attempt to glorify his government less than a year

before the next election, it becomes quite evident that David Ramsay is not being honest or has completely lost touch with reality.

Misinforming the southern Ontario voting majority while disregarding tangible solutions put forward by the people, communities and industries directly involved demonstrates a total lack of respect and recognition for the people of Northern Ontario by the McQuinty government.

Northern communities and industries have contributed enormously to the lifestyle Ontario enjoys today. Northern issues are

very different from those in Southern Ontario. Less than 10% of the province's population lives in more than 80% of the land base. As a consequence, we are politically insignificant and have little or no influence in the decision making process. This is exactly what is destroying the economic and social fabric of Northern Ontario. Decisions and policies for the North should be made in the North.

Website www.thestronggroup.org
Al Simard
STRONG President

Correction and added information

Dr. Lia Jackson

The phone number printed in the November 29th edition of The Scope for Dr. Lia Jackson listed the incorrect area code. The correct phone number is (905) 729-0747.

The Scope apologizes for the error.

VE commemorative watch

Last week The Scope ran a story about a commemorative watch sold in Canada and the information regarding where the watch can be obtained was omitted. If you would like more information or to order the watch, go to www.timeisticking.ca or call Robin Devine at (416) 925-5520.