

Caledon Citizen

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Will 2007 be another multi-election year?

Everything seems to be pointing toward 2007 seeing Ontario voters trooping to the polls twice, with a federal election probably taking place in the spring and a provincial election following in October.

Granted, the federal election is still well short of being the proverbial "lead-pipe cinch," with Prime Minister Stephen Harper saying "I have no desire to fight another campaign."

However, the same interview showed that whether or not he wants one, the prime minister is gearing up for a vote.

After all, the government's single biggest concern must be the negative reaction to the position it has been taking on the environment and in particular the hostility found within the Quebec electorate.

The Liberals have picked a new leader in Stephane Dion, who not only had the Environment portfolio in the Martin government but made the environment his rallying call in the leadership campaign.

It's anyone's guess as to what party will emerge with the most seats in a spring election. Recent opinion polls suggesting that the Dion Liberals have a slight edge were highly suspect, since any party that has garnered all the public attention that accompanies a leadership convention will normally get a temporary boost in the polls.

One thing for sure is that the two leaders share little in common apart from having won their leadership roles against favoured competitors.

Harper is clearly the more eloquent of the two and there's little doubt that his command of French is seen as being better than is Dion's of English.

Another big difference is in their apparent leadership styles, with Harper being represented as something of a "control freak" who has little use for the Ottawa press corps, and Dion being portrayed as a team player who has managed to find roles for most, if not all, the seven other leadership candidates.

As we see it, the Conservatives' best hope of winning a majority lie in boosting support in Ontario and Quebec, and that will only be accomplished by convincing Central Canada that they have the best economic program; that their tax-cutting policies won't return the government to deficit bud-

geting; that strong leadership is best provided by a single leader rather than a "dream team," and that the party isn't being run by Big Oil.

On the other hand, the Liberals are going to have to sell Dion to Ontarians and Western Canadians while boosting his image in Quebec, where rightly or wrongly he is seen as too staunch a federalist.

Locally, the federal Liberals will have a tough row to hoe in trying to unseat David Tilson, who has been doing his best to keep his name in the news and following the lead of his Liberal predecessor, Murray Calder, in making a point of being on hand at all the important occasions in Dufferin and Caledon.

Turning to the provincial scene, our prediction is that next October's election will result in Ontario having something it hasn't had for nearly 20 years, a minority government.

Although it's hard to see the McGuinty Liberals keeping their majority in the wake of so many broken promises (albeit from promises that realistically couldn't and shouldn't have been kept), it's just as hard at this point to see either the Conservatives or New Democrats winning, either.

Locally, the perception is that whoever wins the Progressive Conservative nomination as candidate for the new Dufferin-Caledon riding will be a shoe-in come election time.

However, that's not necessarily going to be the case, particularly if the Green Party happens to field a strong candidate and the Liberals field a strong candidate who will be able to point to some real accomplishments by the McGuinty government.

As matters now stand, Dufferin and Caledon have seen precious little evidence that the Liberals have even noticed Dufferin-Caledon on the map. Indeed, they seem to have gone out of their way in snubbing the riding and its tens of thousands of commuters.

But that all might change if the government moved even one Crown agency into the riding while improving GO Transit service and widening Highway 10 between Caledon Village and Orangeville.

Then we might really have a horse race!

Be careful what you wish for...



Our Readers Write

No mail delivery for a week!

I had thought maybe we had seen the last of the letters to the editor surrounding Canada Post's incompetency and lack of customer service to the public after the long-talked-about change of address and problems with delivery regarding such. This was followed by the apparent deeming of sections of Torbram Road to be "unsafe" for mailbox delivery, followed by the setup of a decrepit old mail superbox at Torbram and King for the offending sections (which the wrong keys were delivered initially for and all the neighbours had to deliver one another's mail by hand).

I thought for sure that this would have to be the end to my headaches with Canada Post. I begrudgingly have been driving daily to pick up my mail at the boxes. While not happy about the situation at night and during peak traffic times, I realized I had to live with it.

December 29, however, my father and I stopped together to get our mail. It was my birthday and I anticipated some birthday cards. Lo and behold, the boxes had been pushed by someone into the ditch. My father and I made our way into the ditch and checked to see if mail had been delivered before the vandalism occurred, but there was no mail in either box for us. In fact, my lock was missing altogether and the hasp for my mailbox was now broken off. I called Canada Post as soon as I got home, inquiring as to where I might be able to locate my mail and to advise them that the mailboxes were in the ditch (although surely they already knew since the mail carrier should have already come and gone long before we happened upon things). Unsure what time Canada Post management gets to leave on Friday afternoons, I didn't receive a phone call back from them that day. I grumbled a bit to myself, but was sure I would receive a phone call Tuesday (after the long weekend) to

clear things up.

Tuesday came and went with no mail and return phone call, so I called again on Tuesday afternoon and left another message requesting to know how the matter of my mail delivery was going to be rectified.

Wednesday morning, my phone calls were finally returned, although I was unable to ascertain the gentleman's name. He wasn't particularly helpful and actually seemed to be a bit perturbed with me for asking why I hadn't received mail delivery as he pointed out that the mail carriers are strictly forbidden to deliver to boxes that don't have a lock. I pointed out to him that I no longer have a hasp or a lock and asked him to please send a new lock out. He said he'd take care of things. I asked again if I could expect mail delivery that day and he indicated that I would.

Went to check my mail Wednesday (Jan. 3) - what a surprise - still no mail, no hasp, no lock, no phone calls.

Left another message Thursday, indicating that it has now been a full week since I've had mail delivery and that I'm getting a little frustrated that no one returns my calls or is placing any importance on letting me know where a week's worth of my mail is.

As of Jan. 10 I did, in fact, receive my mail to my door, but with no guarantee that the mailbox would be fixed. Therefore, after waiting for more than a week for mail delivery, I will probably still have to go and pick up my mail from the post office until they fix my mailbox hasp as I was told. I got door delivery to "make up for" not receiving my mail since Dec. 28.

I have absolutely no idea why no one can return my phone calls and what the big problem is in restarting mail delivery to me. There are plenty of empty boxes that my mail could be delivered to. In addition, if

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