

THE OAKVILLE BEAVER

Ian Oliver, *Publisher*
 Neil Oliver, *Associate Publisher*
 Norman Alexander, *Editor*
 Kelly Montague, *Advertising Director*
 Steve Crozier, *Circulation Director*
 Teri Casas, *Office Manager*
 Mark Dills, *Production Manager*
 Riziero Vertolli, *Photography Director*

Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alton Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, Collingwood/Mesauga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Farnborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Action Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetangushine Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Claughton Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Unionville Tribune, Forever Young, City of York Guardian

467 Speers Rd., Oakville Ont. L6K 3S4 (905) 845-3824 Fax: 337-5567

RECOGNIZED FOR
EXCELLENCE BY:



Ontario Community
Newspapers
Association



Canadian Community
Newspapers
Association

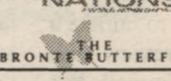
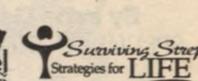


Suburban
Newspapers
of America

THE OAKVILLE BEAVER IS PROUD OFFICIAL MEDIA SPONSOR FOR:



O.T.M.H.
CHARITABLE CORPORATION
Preparing for Tomorrow's Health Care



The
Oakville Awards
FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Editorials

The right fight

The Canadian Alliance Party brought its leadership roadshow to Oakville Thursday and judging from the presentations, the three main hopefuls have staked out their positions. But the question remains whether voters from across the country will support the fledgling party.

When the Reform Party dissolved to remake itself under the Alliance banner, it hoped to attract dissident federal Progressive Conservative supporters. In this it has been successful. Ontario Municipal Affairs Minister Tony Clement was moderator for the debate and just one of countless provincial Tories throwing in their lot with Alliance...more particularly, with leadership candidate and former Queen's Park backroom boy, Tom Long.

But the session Thursday brought out the weaknesses in the candidates and by association, the party. Only Alberta Cabinet minister Stockwell Day can speak French with any degree of clarity, which means he has a distinct advantage over Preston Manning and the rest. And it's this capacity in French that could be the deciding factor in whether or not staunch PC loyalists throw in their lot with Alliance when a federal election is held.

Notwithstanding that Quebec has become Death Valley for the Tories following the Mulroney years, the language issue may be the only hope for Alliance to break through there and later in Atlantic Canada. It won't be an easy sell in either area.

Manning is fighting for his political life, Day's views may be a bit too parochial for a sophisticated electorate and Tom Long has no public persona, nor has he held an elected political position.

Does the phrase 'role the dice', ring a bell?



Travel opens minds of the young

It was 5:45 a.m. He had already been up for an hour — showered, dressed, eaten breakfast — and was ready and raring to go. The morning that he had been so eagerly awaiting, for what seemed like forever, had finally arrived.

Fidgety with excitement, he busied himself trying to light a fire under me. "Come on," he said, "I'm going to be late." As patiently as possible, considering the time of day and the fact that I did not yet have any caffeine coursing through my veins, I reminded him that he did not have to be at the school for another half-hour. "Yeah, but the earlier I

get there, the better seat I'll get on the bus. The guys who are late are going to have to sit beside the teacher!" Heaven forbid.

So, I chauffeured him to the school and, sure enough, there was already a score of early birds lined up to lay claim to the best seats on the bus. Hopping out of the van, we recovered his luggage from the back and then, with an inaudible thanks for driving him, with barely a goodbye and nary a glance back, he left me standing staring at his departing back. I shared a gushy goodbye with myself, got all emotional on my own. Not wanting to embarrass him in front of his friends, I



ANDY JUNIPER

silently said, "See you in four days! Take care! Be good! Have fun! Try and leave bits of Quebec City standing!" And then I sped off in search of a coffee.

Ahhh, the end-of-the-year, Grade 8 Excursion to some far-off exotic destination. At schools across Ontario, it's become a ritu-

al, a rite of passage, a final fling students share with their classmates before graduation. Assuredly, the trip will be educational, exciting, and the source of many, many memories. About the only rite of passage from my day that could possibly compare would be slow dancing for the full, eight glorious minutes of *Hey Jude* with my neighbour, Debbie Wilson. While that dance was no junket to Quebec City, it was educational and exciting.

Seriously, back in my day, we did not have Grade 8 Excursions to far-off exotic destinations. If memory serves me, nearing the end of the year, our hometown

teacher who, as luck would have it, moonlighted as a pig farmer, piled us onto a rickety old bus and personally drove us out of town to a nearby artificial insemination centre for swine. Wow! What a treat. Talk about fulfilling a fantasy. En route, this teacher drove the bus, carved the manure out from under his fingernails with a pencil, and enlightened us in what he called, "the ways of the pig..."

As parents, we know just how fortunate the kids of today are; how many opportunities they are afforded; how many gift horses (with wide open mouths) trot their way. Less than one month ago, our son was hanging out on a beach in South Carolina. Today, he's visiting the Plains of Abraham for a "battlefield workshop," followed by a lunch at Portofino Bistro! And, in one month, he'll be boarding an airplane to Ireland for three weeks with his grandparents.

As parents, we harbour our fond memories of trips to the artificial insemination centre for swine and, at the same time, we try to offer our kids the world. At 6 a.m. the other day, as I finally mugged my first coffee, I found myself hoping that my son knows just how lucky he is, and how much we'll miss him when he's away...

Pud

By Steve Nease

