

Benoit may editorial have over stayed his welcome as MP



Roger Holmes

Local political party constituency meetings are usually one of the most boring events a person can imagine. The agenda and the results are often decided long before the meeting simply to make sure someone will stand up and serve on the board. Not so in Leon Benoit's riding.

Conservatives in the Vegreville-Wainwright constituency who met in Viking last week were in a bad mood.

Leon asked at the meeting to re-elect the same old board members who he felt support him.

Fifty-three (53) people ran for election on the 30-member board.

The meeting elected 28 new members to the board. The results of the election were a very clear rejection of Leon's request for the same board.

While no one spoke directly against Leon at the meeting one has to wonder at the past-tense remarks that were heard such as, "Leon leaves a legacy of honesty and integrity." This comment was made at the same meeting Benoit re-affirmed that he wants to run again has to make you wonder if the party members see him as their man of the future.

Another telling incident is the fact that constituency president John Pioker of Hardisty was not re-elected and Leon's son Gabriel also was not re-elected.

This looks like a big slap in the face to the long-term MP, who wants to be an even longer-term MP.

One wonders where this frustration is coming from. After all Leon did better in the last election than ever before.

Perhaps the conservatives in this area are mad about the Harper government flip flops.

Perhaps they are mad about being lied to regarding fixed election dates.

Perhaps they mad about this government's broken promise never to run a deficit.

Perhaps they mad about the government decision to cut and run in Afghanistan in 2011.

Perhaps they mad about an MP who is on record in the beginning that MP's should have limited terms wanting to keep on having his term extended.

Perhaps they are just mad.

Mad at the world they were trying to change and found that when they got into power they could not change it instantly.

Mad because everyone else in this country does not agree with their drastic short-sighted views.

Mad and frustrated that they can't bully their way across Canada.

Perhaps they are panicked by the win of the liberal Obama in the U.S. and feel they missed their chance to run a government just like George Bush.

Who knows? Chances are they don't know themselves what they are mad about and are just going to take it out on Leon because they can.

It will be interesting to see how this little drama plays out right here in the heart of conservative central Alberta.

Perhaps, just perhaps, we are seeing the beginning of the end of the ultra right wing conservative stranglehold on the west. When they start to eat their own MPs it might be a sign they have come to the bottom of their shallow thought processes on how to run a country.

Leon started this job as an honest farmer. He turned into a politician and for that he just might not be forgiven.



LA MONTAGNE '09
www.cartoonink.com

UNLESS HE TRIES TO SCREW US OVER.

Over the Edge

take my money, please



Rodney Oracheski

In the last 10 years, the federal government has handed out \$27 billion to the country's provinces and territories via a slew of trusts used specifically for the purpose.

These trusts are used to earmark the funds for specific areas of use, housing for example. Money drawn from that trust is to be used only for that purpose.

In her December report to Parliament, delayed because of the decision to pro-rogue Parliament, Auditor General Sheila Fraser revealed that there's never really been any sort of oversight on the use of those funds.

Money, once drawn from the trusts, disappears into provincial and territorial coffers. Ottawa has no say in how it's spent and the provinces and territories have no legal obligation to spend it in the way it's intended.

We'll conveniently ignore moral obligations for the moment. They rarely get involved in politics in any case.

How has this been deemed functional

for a decade as we burn through \$27 billion with no way to tell if it was spent in the appropriate areas?

Equally disappointing was the discovery of conflicts of interest in the awarding of contracts, specifically three instances of companies who won contracts and were involved in setting the requirements for those contracts to begin with.

It should be a no-brainer that money assigned to specific projects and purposes should be spent on those things alone.

Then again, look at the U.S. where General Motors and Chrysler LLC, recent recipients of \$14 billion in bailout money from the government, are going to use at least some of those funds to continue to oppose advanced emissions laws.

They received money because they weren't building the kind of cars today's market demands and instead of turning their business around, they're spending millions to prevent having to do that.

The whole thing is like a bad Rodney Dangerfield joke - take my money, please.

THE WAINWRIGHT
EDGE



star
PRESS INC.

the future of newspapers

Circulation 8,451 • Canada Post Agr.#08533
Phone 842-4465 • Fax 842-2760 • website: www.starnews.ca
Published by Star News Inc., 414 - 10 St., Wainwright, AB T9W 1P5

Roger Holmes Publisher roger@starpress.ca	Kelly Clemmer Editor-in-Chief kelly@starnews.ca	Patrick Moroz Sales Manager patrick@starnews.ca	Sandy Olejnik Office/Finance Manager sandy@starnews.ca	Terry Hunka Composition Manager terry@starnews.ca
Rod Oracheski Sports Editor rod@starnews.ca	Peter Holmes Webmaster peter_h@starnews.ca	Sherry Schatz Sales & Promotions sherry@starnews.ca	Vivian Reichstein Accounts Receivable vivian@starnews.ca	Carrie Baumgartner Graphic Design carrie@starnews.ca
Daphne Mitchell Reporter daphne@starnews.ca	Bellinda Kennedy Reception classifieds@starnews.ca	Eileen Quinn Reception classifieds@starnews.ca	Simon Harrison Accounts Payable simon_h@starnews.ca	Max Gilchuk Graphic Design/Web Data Control max@starnews.ca

Roger Holmes President roger@starpress.ca	Paul Dewling Head Pressman	Brad Tarrant Head Pressman	Garry Hafenbrak Head Pressman	Glen Greenwood Transport Manager	Charlie Walker Driver
Heather Beane Customer Service heather@starpress.ca	Glen Cunningham First Pressman	Tony Boyd Second Pressman	Dennis Rollo First Pressman	Bill Munter Driver	Gaetanne St. Amand Custodian & Driver
Terry St. Amand Production Supervisor & Maintenance Tech terry_st@starpress.ca	Wayne Gosse First Pressman	Bryan Garrett Second Pressman	Aaron Lavallee Second Pressman	Gary Leece Driver	Janice Temple Bindery Supervisor
Joel Craig Utility/Maintenance	Kirke Miller Entry Level Pressman	Rory MacDonald Entry Level Pressman	Justin Fetterley Entry Level Pressman	Robert Unsworth Driver	Nola Ford Bindery
				Josephine Laderoute Bindery	Kelvin Weaver Bindery
				Robert Noble Bindery	Delia Todd Bindery
				Chantel Todd Bindery	

LETTERS POLICY:

The Wainwright EDGE welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be signed and a phone number included so the writer's identity can be verified. The Wainwright EDGE reserves the right to edit letters for legal considerations, taste, and brevity.

Please mail, e-mail, or drop off your comments to:

Letter to the Editor
414 - 10 Street, Wainwright, AB T9W 1P5
Phone: (780) 842-4465 Fax: (780) 842-2760
E-mail: editor@starnews.ca

The letters appearing in today's paper have been edited for length and other considerations. Please try to keep your letters under 300 words to ensure your letter to the Editor appears as close to its original form as possible. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send us comments on the important issues of the day in our community. Keep your input coming.