







## West Carleton Review

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### TWO-HORSE OPEN SLEIGH



Photo by John Carter

Ken Carroll and his team of Casey and Cody gave sleigh rides around the Carp Fairgrounds and ball diamonds at Saturday's Carp Snow Days. The rides proved a big hit with the sleigh full for almost every ride over three hours. Carroll says the activity is enjoyed by his horses and is good for them. With the rides beng so popular, Carroll is working on finding a location in the Carp area so he can offer regular sleigh rides on winter weekends. For more on Carp Snow Days, see Pages 36 and 37.

# Politically active

Landowners recuiting rural candidates, but not in WC

JOHN CARTER

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Landowners groups are running candidates in several municipalities around Ontario, but don't expect the Carleton Landowners Association to challenge Eli Eli-Chantiry in West Carleton-

"Running for Ottawa council is a much different than running for a rural council," said Ontario Landowners Association (OLA) president and West Carleton resident Jack MacLaren. "It's big government hore."

Besides, "Eli would be a pretty hard to beat," he said.

The Landowners are also interested in building on the success of getting former OLA president Randy Hillier elected to the Ontario Legislature.

MacLaren said he might be interested in the Conservative nomination in Carleton-Mississippi Mills once MPP Norm Sterling steps down. However, Sterling has indicated he will run again in the next election, he said.

In the West Carleton-March Ward election to Ottawa council, the Landowners unsuccessfully backed a candidate in the past, but did not do so last time.

At this point, the group isn't intending to run a candidate for the Oct. 25 election, but if circumstances change so could that position, said MacLaren. "We're watching and looking at the situation carefully."

He said if a candidate arises that the Landowners feel they can support, they will. "We're not shy about being politically involved," he said.

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### Dunrobin Olympian to compete in biathlon relay this Friday

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Dunrobin's own Olympian will be in the spotlight this Friday, Feb. 26.

Robin Clegg will compete in the men's biathlon relay, which is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. Vancouver time (2:30 p.m. Dunrobin time) at the Whistler Olympic Park.

While Canada is ranked 19th

in the world in the biathlon relay, Clegg has been quoted as saying a top-five finish is not out of the question if all goes right.

The 32-year-old Clegg has been competing in biathlons since 1995. He is a member of the Chelsea Nordic Club.

He competed in the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City and the 2006 Games in Turin.

Clegg has indicated he plans to retire after Friday's race.

### Landowners seeking candidates

#### Continued from front

MacLaren said West Carleton-March candidate Alex Aronec has met with the Landowners to exchange views. "We encouraged him to get the issues on the table during the campaign."

However, the Carleton Landowners are focusing on improving the lot of rural people within Ottawa and working on a rural alliance. Ottawa council is unlikely to ask for de-amalgamation, which is necessary for the province to consider such a possibility, he noted. "To happen, you need the political will, both provincially and at the municipal level," he said.

Outside the city boundaries,

Outside the city boundaries, some landowners associations "are trying a different tact," said MacLaren. And that includes recruiting sympathetic candidates and getting them elected to municipal councils.

The Lanark Landowners Association (LLA) has been particularly active in that effort, seeking candidates in all eight municipalities in the county

"By running candidates in locations as across the (Lanark) county, we intend to raise the level of debate and identify those incumbents who need support and challenge those who are satisfied with the status quo," said LLA president Jeff Bogaerts,

There has been no similar push in Renfrew County, with the Landowners groups tending to focus on provincial issues.

When Bob Runciman was appointed to the Senate, the Landowners supported Shawn Carmichael as his replacement.

Carmichael faced two strong candidates and lost to former Runciman staffer Steve Clark, who is trying to get elected in a March 4 by-election.

MacLaren has been touted as a replacement for Sterling, who turned 68 last week. "If Norm decided to step down, we (landowners) might be interested in supporting a candidate," he said. "I can't say ... it hasn't been discussed."

He said the Landowners are interested in provincial elections because many of the issues they focus on are under provincial jurisdiction. However, it's the



JACK MacLAREN

municipal political arena that is closest to the people, he said.

MacLaren suggested that municipal councils and mayors probably wield more influence and authority than many of them think. "If they flex their muscles ... they can get things done," he said. "There are some instances when they can say no to the province."

MacLaren said that municipal councils also need to lead the fight against provincial overkill in protecting things such as Blanding turtles and wild ginseng. Much of the legislation created in Toronto doesn't take the needs of rural Ontario into account, he said.

The endangered species legislation is costing jobs, particularly in the forest industry, he added. Yet when it was applied to the Terry Fox Drive project in the city, it was overturned by a Conservative Cabinet minister.

MacLaren said the biggest political divide in Canada is not Liberal-Conservative but urban-rural. "It's a question of fairness... and when it (rules) are applied to rural areas and not the cities, it's not fair. Too often rural people are being bullied ... the Landowners want councils

to stand up against that."

MacLaren said rural representatives should demand rural residents be treated with more respect. "And even better, be given more clout."





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