

# EDITORIAL

## Jack MacLaren's audacious bid

It's an exciting time to be a politico in West Carleton. We have two formidable, talented and experienced individuals vying for the nomination of the Progressive Conservative party in Carleton-Mississippi Mills.

Considering the Tories almost always win in this riding, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say this is the real race for who will be the next Member of provincial Parliament.

Once the initial shock wears off - the very big shock that anyone would even consider challenging incumbent Norm Sterling, who has brought such success to the party - the race will start in earnest.

Jack MacLaren was wise to announce early and make his intentions known, thus letting the initial resistance that naturally arises out of respect and loyalty to Sterling to subside. But make no mistake, MacLaren also has a strong network of supporters. And he speaks convincingly on topics he feels passionate about: land rights, raising prosperity in Ontario's rural areas, issues surrounding freedom and the environment.

Perhaps MacLaren's strongest trait is his audacity. To take on a Titan in Sterling takes... well, it's a family paper. Suffice to say he is doing his part to improve the Progressive Conservative party by introducing competition and choice, and he is doing democracy a great service for the same.

Our hat is off to you, Mr. MacLaren.

## BUSINESS DOESN'T MIRROR WEATHER



Photo by Derek Dunn

Siclo Old Fashioned Stuff owner Claudette Brisson, on Dunrobin Road near Buckham's Bay, said her first winter in business was a success, but that with the snow gone she'll need more and better stuff to lure customers in. The store will go through a name change soon, to Antiques at the Barn.

### West Carleton Review

Established in 1980

Printed in Renfrew, Ontario every Thursday by



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Delivered free to every home the Kinburn, Dunrobin, Woodlawn, Fitzroy Harbour, Carp and surrounding areas.

For any distribution inquiries or for the delivery of a missed paper please call District Service Representative local 613-432-3655 ext. 31 1-800-884-9195 ext. 31



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Candidate would limit terms for councillors

To the editor:

One thing I have believed in, and which was in fact the first position I identified post announcing my candidacy for councillor for Ward 5, was to limit my term in that role to at most two, four-year terms within any 12 years (three term period.) I stand by this policy for myself and will bring it to council to get it approved. I would also encourage other candidates in the Ottawa 2010 municipal election to embrace this concept of forced change.

I love politics, and always have. My desire is to have a career in politics but not be a career politician. Whether one calls it complacency or stagnancy, I firmly believe that staying in any elected position, regardless of what it is for a prolonged period of time leads to isolation from, and complacency with, one's constituents and their issues. In light of this, I have decided that I will run for only one term. My goal is to implement changes, hopefully on a long term or strategic level during this period in office. The following term, I plan to pursue a post graduate degree. Saying that I would run again in eight years would be irresponsible. If I do not get elected in 2010, I plan on doing the post graduate program in the next four years. Would I run

in 2014, I would say yes now but that is a long time horizon to make a firm decision.

Running for office does take a big commitment, both time wise and personally. To serve Ward 5, their councillor must be dedicated to the job on a full time basis and have a good understanding of Ward 5's role in the overall City of Ottawa. I find that council seems to have selective memory and that this city, our city, is also the capital of this country. I feel that it is important to get elected, make your mark and then move aside for the next person to do the same.

I fully embrace the concept of, and the voters demand for municipal election reform in the City of Ottawa. It is an idea that is proven and in place in various locations in North America. New York and Philadelphia both have this system for increased council turnover successfully implemented. I think it is time to show that Ottawa can be progressive and a good example for the rest of the province, country and yes, the world.

Change begins here.

**Alexander Aronec**  
Ward 5 election candidate