

# Hey, Harper, don't take Edmonton for granted

## TRANSLATING MEN'S PERSONAL ADS - PART II

High-spirited. (Crazy, hyperactive, prone to tantrums.)

Likes to cuddle. (Insecure, overly dependent.)

Mature. (Until you get to know him.)

Open-minded. (Wants to sleep with your sister.)

Passionate. (Horny.)

Romantic. (Very horny.)

Spiritual. (Went to church once.)

Stable. (Occasional stalker, never arrested.)

Very Human. (Looks like Quasimodo.)

Wants soul mate. (Stalker.)

Young at heart. (Over 50.)

Youthful. (Over 50 and in major denial.)

### SLEEPY HOLLOW

A federal election on Oct. 14, 2008.

In this part of the country, one big yawn.

The only chance of an upset is in Edmonton Centre, where Liberal Jim Wachowich is popular, has been working hard and has history on his side. Former Liberal deputy

prime minister Anne McLellan held the riding through several elections.

Plus it's political insurance to elect one Liberal in Edmonton.

Just in case.

### THE TURN OF TIME

The first wave of Reform MPs, all elected in 1993, is riding off into the sunset - i.e. the retirements of Ken Epp in Edmon-

ton-Sherwood Park and John Williams in Edmonton-St. Albert.

The only ones left from the old Preston Manning party are Peter Goldring in Edmonton East and Rahim Jaffer in Strathcona, both elected in 1997. James Rajotte wasn't elected until 2000.

### DISILLUSIONMENT IN EDMONTON-SHERWOOD PARK

Burning ambition and internal party politics has made new Edmonton-Sherwood Park Conservative candidate Tim Uppal a possible target.

The party brass parachuted Uppal in from Edmonton-Mill Woods-Beaumont to avoid

any embarrassment of Uppal stealing back his old stompin' grounds from sitting MP Mike Lake.

The nomination meeting was clearly manipulated in Uppal's favour. Many in the local party association were furious. One of its stalwarts, Jimmy Ford, is running independently as the "true Conservative" against Uppal.

Will the backlash produce an upset? Possible, but not probable.

### RETURN OF RATHGEBER

Not as much excitement in Edmonton-St. Albert. Former city MLA Brent Rathgeber beat former MP Scott Thorkelson for the Conservative nomination in a squeaker of a nomination meeting last year. Months later, Thorkelson passed away from a heart attack at the age of 49. Rathgeber's a nice enough fellow, but he's not going to set the world on fire. The riding, however, is Fortress Conservative.

### PETER THE POPULIST

In Edmonton East, the lefties keep targeting Goldring, who they regard as an extreme right-wing blowhard. Never-say-die New Democrat Ray Martin is expected back in the ring again.

Martin's a very good guy,

but Goldring's hang-'em-high, let-'em-rot-in-jail stance finds great resonance in a riding where crime is a hot-but-ton issue.

**DIVIDE AND CONQUER**  
Likewise Rahim Jaffer in Strathcona.

Every election, the New Democrats and Liberals pour what little resources they have into pinkish Strathcona, allowing Jaffer to slip by their candidates as the first one past the post.

Every time!

Once again, New Democrats have star Linda Duncan running in Strathcona, and the Liberals have sent seriously past-her-expiry-date Claudette Roy into the fray.

Divide and conquer - worked through four elections so far for Rahim.

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So there ya go.

No change in the Edmonton area.

Conservatives will again sweep, with the possible exception of Liberal Wachowich taking back Edmonton Centre from Tory Laurie Hawn. And a wee chance of a surprise in Edmonton-Sherwood Park.

There's one big thing going for Wachowich.

I hear it, quietly murmured everywhere I go.

When former Edmonton Centre MP McLellan was the most powerful and only Alberta MP in the Liberal government, she wrangled more goodies out of Ottawa for this city (Edmonton Garrison, World Athletic Championships, on and on) than have this entire bunch of Conservatives.

Hmmmm ... unless cabinet minister Rona Ambrose and gang have a bunch of goodies to unleash in the next six weeks (mass transit, River Valley Alliance, Royal Alberta Museum, GO Basketball Centre, even a new arena), Liberal Wachowich could be elected as an indirect wake-up call.

Hey, Harper, don't take Edmonton for granted!

### EIGHT WEEKS TO THE AUCTION

Dear friends, a reminder that the *Sun Christmas Charity Auction* is but eight weeks away.

It will happen Oct. 28 to 30 in a special four-page section of the *Sun* and the *Sun Online*, with bids taken at [CampusAuctionMarket.com](http://CampusAuctionMarket.com).

Every year, the region rallies through this auction to support the Stollery Chil-

dren's Hospital, United Way, Christmas Bureau and Sign of Hope.

With your help, we hope to raise \$300,000, or \$75,000 for each of these outstanding agencies.

As auction producer, my begging bowl is out.

We'll looking for donations that will make attractive auction packages.

Our goal is to create 300 auction packages with an average value of \$1,000 each.

Derek Sadler at Precision Martial Arts in Castledowns is donating a one-year membership for an entire family.

Sylvano Bruno's Classic Painting has given a painting package, all-in, for four rooms.

We love you both!

If you or your company would like to help, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me at the numbers below.

P.S. Cash is cool. Sponsorship money is used to purchase parts of packages that aren't donated.

The Hicks on Six blog can be accessed at [blog.canoe.ca/hicksonsix](http://blog.canoe.ca/hicksonsix). Graham Hicks can be contacted at 780-468-0290 or [graham.hicks@sunmedia.ca](mailto:graham.hicks@sunmedia.ca)



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