

SEEING STARS
Read our review of Bob Dylan's concert and our preview of Elton John's upcoming gig. TODAY C1

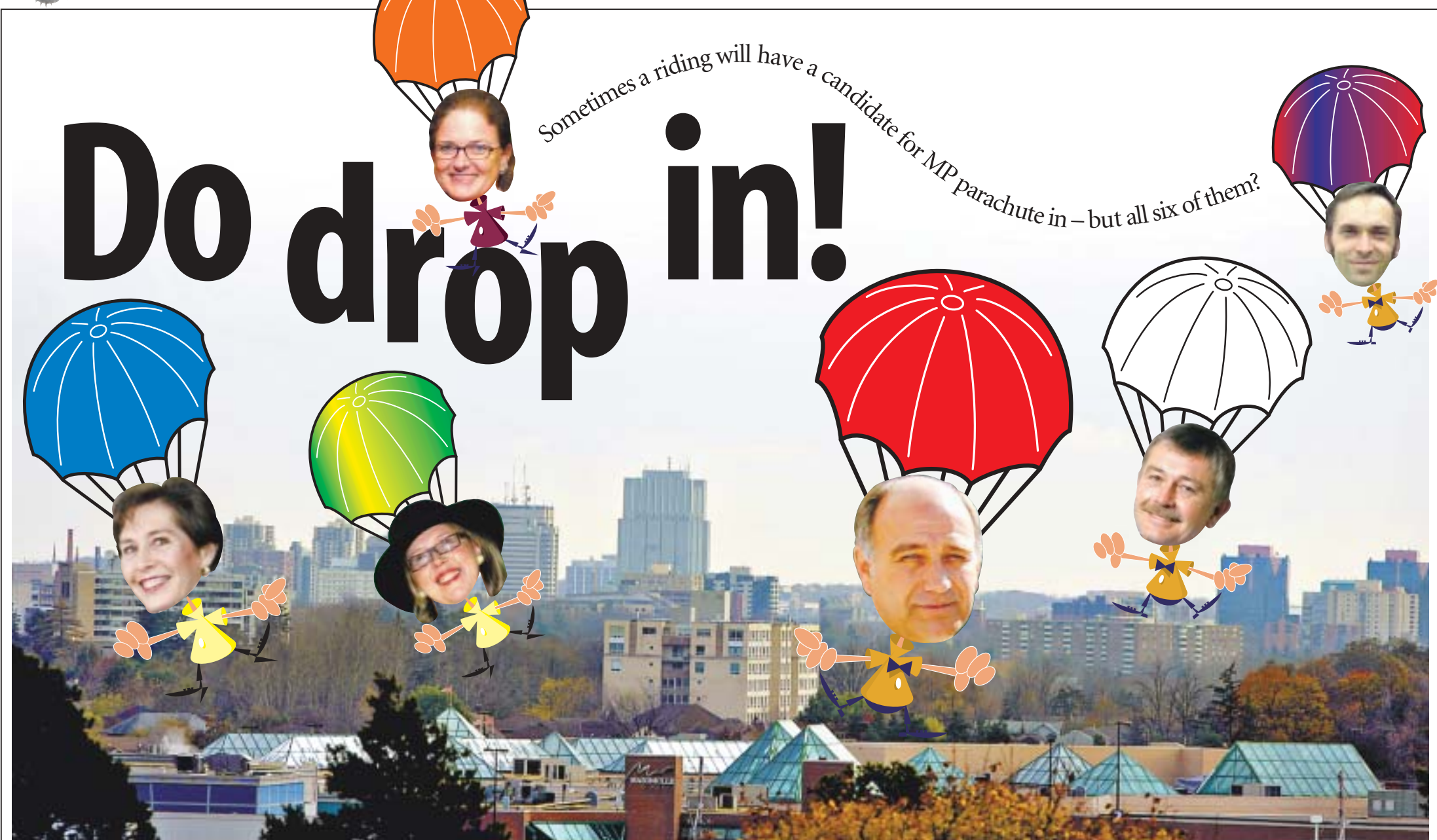


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The London Free Press

Partly sunny, High 5° Low 0° Details on Page B2 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2006 www.lfpress.com section A



Dianne Haskett, left, Elizabeth May, Megan Walker, Glen Pearson, Robert Ede and Steve Hunter Free Press photo illustration with photo by DEREK RUTTAN The London Free Press

London-North-Centre candidates don't want to be seen as outsiders

BYELECTION BATTLE



Cabinet minister visits: John Baird goes to bat for Dianne Haskett. Page A10

BY CHIP MARTIN
Free Press Politics Reporter

The Parachute Club is landing in London-North-Centre.

Not one of the six candidates in the Nov. 27 federal byelection lives in the riding, yet none think of themselves as so-called parachute candi-

dates floating — or being dropped — in from outside.

There's no rule that a candidate for the House of Commons must live in the riding, but it's almost unheard of for an entire field of wannabe MPs to be made up of outsiders.

And candidates, including those in LNC, often bristle at

the parachute label because it smacks of opportunism.

"My residency is now London, Canada," said Conservative candidate Dianne Haskett, who beetled back to London from Washington, D.C., just days before winning the Tory nomination.

"I'm back home," said the former two-term London

mayor, insisting it's "a total misnomer" and "bogus" to call her a parachute candidate.

"Surely we want Londoners who have gained experience in other places to come back home," she said, referring to her political work during her six years in Washington.

Liberal candidate Glen Pearson, who lives just outside the riding, said he considers his Tory rival a parachute candidate because she's been away from the city for six years. "The riding has changed a lot since Dianne was mayor."

See PARACHUTE Page A10

Arrests end manhunt after farm shootings



SUSAN BRADNAM The London Free Press

Leigh and Jenny Allossery were shot at their home.

One suspect is related to the farm couple.

BY PATRICK MALONEY
Free Press Reporter

CHATHAM — Hours after a middle-aged couple was shot at a nearby farmhouse yesterday, a police manhunt ended in charges against three people, one a family member.

The three — police never explained the family link — were each charged with two counts of attempted murder following a so-called "high-risk takedown" in Chatham.

The Free Press has learned the victims are Leigh and Jenny Allossery, who live at the farmhouse in Louisville and were shot with a shotgun.

"They're doing OK," a woman at a relative's nearby home said of the couple.

Peaceful even by rural standards, Louisville — where police were called to the home on unpaved Fuller Road, in an area between Chatham and Thamesville — was in shock.

See SHOOTINGS Page A4

INSIDE

A NASTY TURN

With only nine days until election day, mayoral candidate Joe Fontana takes a swipe at rival Anne Marie DeCicco-Best, accusing her of lacking the heart to help seniors. Page B1

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A FREE PRESS SERIES

'I can tell them there is hope'

BY JENNIFER O'BRIEN
Free Press Reporter

Not long ago, the topic wouldn't turn many heads.

But nearly 400 people — so many that latecomers couldn't find a seat — turned out yesterday to talk about cultural diversity at a conference.

"For a long time, we were focused on what type of needs (immigrants) have, but now we are saying, 'Let's look into those communities to find the leadership they can bring to us,'" said Helen Connell, executive director of the United Way, the conference's sponsor.

In a recent interview, Cross Cultural Learner Centre director Mary Williamson said a spike in interest in multi-culturalism is sweeping the city.

"It's finally become the flavour of the week," she said. "There was a time — only about six years ago — when (a

colleague) and I would say 'Let's call a meeting about immigrants,' and we would be the only two who showed up. Now, you get a roomful."

The conference aimed to create awareness about benefits new Canadians bring to London's workforce as the city faces a population decline and labour force shortage.

"Our labour force will stop growing without immigration," said 3M Canada's Phyllis Retty. "I don't think we can stress that enough."

Nana Tirolese, who teaches English as a second language, came seeking hope for her students.

"Our students feel there is a barrier and that their education and experience is not seen as relevant. With all the people here, I can tell them there is obviously hope."

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They come dreaming of heaven. Too often dreams dissolve into depression for London refugees who find themselves cut off in a new world.

Part 2 of The Free Press series
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