

NOVA SCOTIA

Putting it on the map

HISTORY BOOKS will tell you that the Cabot Trail—the 298 km of highway that snakes along Cape Breton Island's jagged terrain—is named after John Cabot, who landed in Canada in 1497. What they don't say, however, is that the Venetian explorer's real name was Giovanni Caboto. This irks Michael Tibollo, president of the National Congress of Italian-Canadians. So much so that the Toronto lawyer is proposing an "o" be added to the end of the trail's name on signs and maps.

The thought of changing the name to Caboto Trail—renaming part of the trail came up as a motion in the House of Commons last year but died when the election was called—has spiralled into a cross-provincial spat of sorts. "I'm getting all these negative 'You Upper Canadian,' and 'How dare someone from your part of the country...' comments," says Tibollo. "I never intended to create a rift between Nova Scotia and Ontario."



Tibollo says a name change would simply highlight the bond between Cape Breton and Italy, and be a potential boost for the island's tourism-dependent economy. But Norman MacDonald, president of the Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association, says there's "overwhelming opposition" to the idea.

"I don't think changing the name would bring more Italian tourists," he says. "We're very much in favour of heritage discovery trips, but I can see no positive benefits to changing the name."

Tibollo—who was told by David Wilson, the Nova

Scotian minister of communities, culture and heritage, that local MPs would have to be consulted on the issue—insists that he's received positive feedback from many Cape Bretoners. Still, he's disappointed in the overall reaction. "As much as we call ourselves a multicultural society, we have a situation where there are some people very set in their ways of looking at things." **LYNDSIE BOURGON**

HEALTH CARE

UNIVERSAL SUPPORT FROM THE DONALD

WHEN DONALD TRUMP published *The America We Deserve*, a political manifesto of sorts in 2000, the business tycoon outlined a very un-Republican policy agenda, including much praise for how Canada deals with the sick. "We must have universal health care," wrote Trump. "I'm a conservative on most issues but a liberal on this one. We should not hear so many stories of families ruined by health care expenses." He continued, "Doctors might be paid less than they are now, as is the case in Canada, but they would be able to treat more patients because of the reduction in their paperwork."

Along with the book, the host of *Celebrity*

Apprentice, who now tops some polls as the leading Republican candidate for 2012, has made untold statements over the past decade that could discredit his bid, including frank critiques of George W. Bush and the Iraq war. He even donated to Barack Obama's campaign. But he's since made a political about-face. He's taken up the birther cause, questioning Obama's U.S. citizenship, backed the invasion of Iraq, and has reversed his stance on abortion—Trump is now pro-life.

So does The Donald still love Canadian-style universal health care? After all, he made his stance pretty clear back then: "The Canadian plan also helps Canadians live longer and healthier than Americans," he wrote. "There are fewer medical lawsuits, less loss of labour to sickness, and lower costs to companies paying for the medical care of their employees." Speaking to a crowd of Tea Partiers a couple weeks ago in Boca Raton, Fla., Trump said he'd "fight to get rid of Obamacare, which is a total disaster." Though he didn't say it, perhaps he has a made-in-Canada alternative in mind. **STEPHANIE FINDLAY**

CAPITAL DIARY

Mitchel Raphael on speaking of candidates and 'expiry dates'

Mind if we update that Jaffer sign?

Conservative candidate Ryan Hastman is running against NDP incumbent Linda Duncan in what used to be Rahim Jaffer's riding of Edmonton-Strathcona. While going door-to-door, Hastman campaigners came across one house displaying a Jaffer sign. When they politely offered to "update" it, the homeowner said, "Sure. I'll take two." Hastman has been knocking on doors since he got the nomination in 2009. In the early days, people would be confused when he appeared at their door, asking him, "Is there an election?" Before he got the nomination, Hastman was with the PMO, and before that he worked for Stockwell Day, whose advice to him was to get a good pair of running shoes and to stand on the side of the road the day after the election with a big "thank you" sign. While going door-to-door, Hastman met a senior with a walker, who after he was given a Conservative brochure with pictures of all the opposition leaders, snapped: "The Layton is using a cane for effect." Hastman told the man that, in fact, the NDP leader had recently had hip surgery.

Hastman's campaign office is next door to a place that offers hot air balloon rides while Duncan's is in what used to be an animal rehabilitation clinic with an underwater treadmill. NDP supporter Phyllis Harlton bakes the office a "cookie of the day." One of the most popular ones has Rolo in the middle of it.

Both Conservative and NDP campaigns acknowledge that the Liberals in this riding are putting in minimal effort. Duncan says the Liberals are in fact supporting her because they know she can win again (she was even a fundraiser for her hosted by Liberals). There is a Liberal candidate though: it's 20-year-old Matthew Sinclair, a university student who missed the riding debates because he had exams.