» PM not out of woods yet: Ignatieff

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"It's quite a contradiction. You can't say you're concerned about spending not happening and then vote against giving the government the parliamentary authority to spend money."

NDP Leader Jack Layton scoffed at Harper's line.

"They can't have it both ways. They're saying all this money has gone out, but now they're saying this money won't go out if there's an election — which is it?"

Ignatieff later said that Harper had taken a "couple of millimetre steps," but "we're not out of the woods yet."

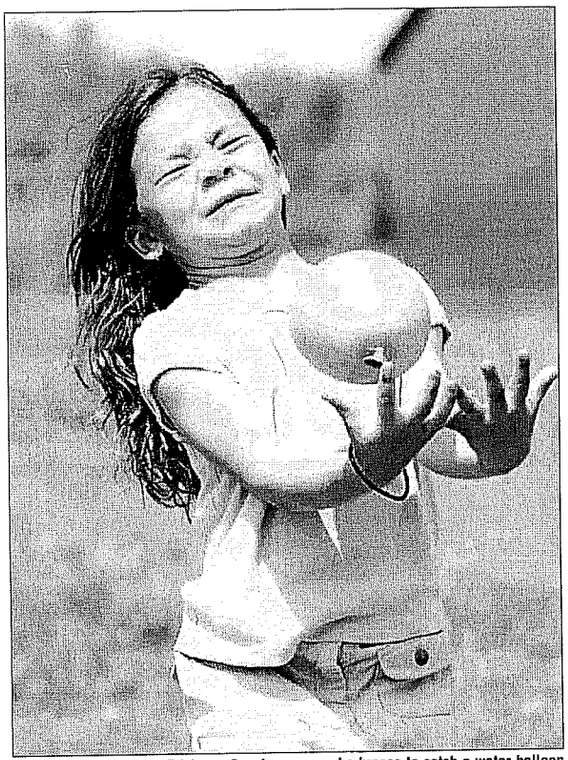
No party in the Commons wants an election. The Conservatives are declining in the polls, the Liberals are cash-strapped, the NDP are trying to regain ground they've lost since last fall and the Bloc Québécois are also on shifting ground in their home province.

The public doesn't want one either. A Harris-Decima poll Monday pegged the number at 78 per cent opposed.

Pollster Nik Nanos, of Nanos Research, calls it a "game of poker where everyone's bluffing, but nobody's holding anything."

Nanos said Ignatieff made an impressive strategic play — exploiting perceived Harper weaknesses of transparency, accountability and intractability.

» The Canadian Press



Grade 1 student Jordyn Erickson, 6, grimaces as she braces to catch a water balloon while playing the balloon toss game at Douglas Elementary School on Monday afternoon. Children took part in outdoor activities yesterday as part of their reward for showing positive behaviour, including environmental stewardship. *(Tim Smith/Brandon Sun)*

Children rewarded for thinking green

BY JILLIAN AUSTIN

DOUGLAS — Douglas Elementary has provided all of its 93 students as well as its staff with stainless steel water bottles as a way to "think green."

It's part of the K-8 school's aim to reduce the amount of plastic bottles ending up in the landfill.

"I think learning about the environment should start with the young ones," kindergarten teacher Trina Hayter said.

"One way to help out is by using those three R's: reduce, reuse and recycle."

The children took part in an assembly and outdoor activities yesterday where everything from soccer balls to gummy bears were given out to kids who had shown positive behaviour.

"Red Hawk cards are given out when kids are caught doing something good," Hayter said, which could include teamwork and being environmentally friendly.

Grade 8 student Shelby Walkowski designed a banner with the slogan "Give a Hoot — Don't Pollute" surrounded by handprints of all students and staff.

"It's something the whole school could get involved with," she said.

"It's just a little reminder ... to care and respect the earth."

Back in March, Walkowski along with five other students took part in a "Water for All" conference in Brandon, which was hosted by the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation.

The main focus was to engage students in discussion of global water issues.

Walkowski said she was surprised to learn that there are some dangers when it comes to plastic — not only environmentally, but healthwise as well.

"It's not too healthy, so we decided we would invest some of our (school's) money to buy these water bottles," she said.

"It's better for our health and the environment."

Studies keep popping up that link toxic chemicals to polycarbonate water bottles as well as bottles sitting in hot cars.

As well, cities across the country are seeing millions of plastic water bottles end up in the landfill.

Principal Jason Cline said using stainless steel water bottles is just one small way to make a difference.

If we can reduce the amount of plastic thrown out by our students and staff, he said, that's 100 bottles saved from the landfill.

Teachers hope the children will bring their knowledge home and use it in their day-to-day lives.

"It's important for these kids to educate their families, their parents and the Douglas community as a whole," Hayter said.

» jauslin@brandonsun.com

» Drought deserves disaster funding, farmer says

Continued from Page A1

"Here we are sitting for the past two years with (weather) as dry as its ever been since the 1930s and the government turns around and, those guys in the north are hurting and they get 70 bucks and we don't even get an honourable mention."

Nearly everyday for the past two years, Downey said he and other producers in the region have been hauling water to their pastures because the dugouts — a haven for cattle during the warm summer months — are bone dry.

"(Hauling water is) an added expense but it's more the time," he said. "Most people don't need one more job."

Downey too feels that a drought is as worthy of disaster relief as a flood.

"I think people have to realize that the farmers, we're not whining — the government announces a program for a disaster and this very much qualifies as a disaster."

Manitoba Agriculture's director of policy analysis, Mike Lesiuk, said AgriRecovery's framework was specifically created to help waterlogged farmers. Those producers dealing with drought conditions can currently apply for crop insurance or to AgriStability.

Producers in the southwest were included in AgriRecovery's Manitoba Forage Assistance Program from its inception in 2008, said MAFRI assistant policy analyst Lorne Martin.

The program was created to assist producers with the transport of feed or livestock during flooded or drought conditions.

"There are two programs that Interlake and Westlake have that the southwest does not," Martin said. "The criteria is basically one-disaster related. So it's hard to say that we have an AgriRecovery framework that covers flooding and a drought."

Instead of simultaneously creating an AgriRecovery framework for flood and drought, Martin said MAFRI is now talking with the federal government in order to create an assistance plan for livestock producers who are praying for a long, heavy rain.

"We expect (the federal government's) final report back soon," Martin said.

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LUCKY NUMBERS

PICK 3: 3, 9, 6
EXTRA: 5, 7, 2, 3, 1, 7, 9

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TOMORROW IS:
SCHOOL DAY 4, RECYCLING DAY 5

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PASSINGS

- ALDERSON, Mandiana (Mandy)
- PEDLOW, Mervyn James
- SALLOWS, Gary Arthur (Art)
- SCOTT, Norma Beth

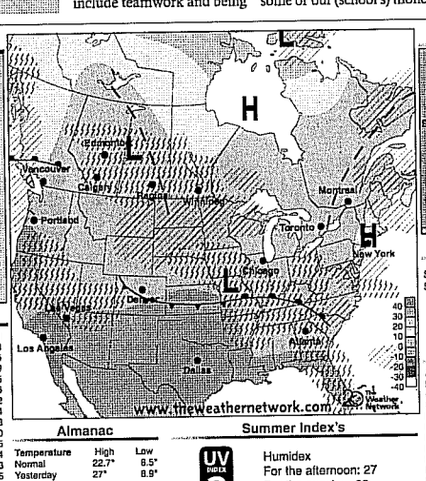
Western Manitoba Forecast

TODAY	TONIGHT	TOMORROW
Variably cloudy in the morning with chance of thundershowers developing in the afternoon (pop 60%). High 24.	Thundershowers (pop 70%). Low 16.	Variably cloudy (pop 40%). High 23. Low 15.

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Chance of thundershowers (pop 80%). High 25. Low 15.	Cloudy with showers (pop 60%). High 23. Low 14.	Mainly sunny. High 25. Low 11.

Canada Today

Calgary	tshowers	22/10	Prince Rupert	rain	14/11
Charlottetown	sunny	19/11	Quebec City	p.cloudy	23/13
Churchill	p.cloudy	9/2	Regina	tshowers	26/15
Edmonton	tshowers	22/13	Saint John	m.sunny	20/9
Estevan	tshowers	23/16	Saskatoon	sunny	31/15
Dauphin	p.cloudy	27/15	St. John's	sunny	15/6
Dryden	showers	27/15	Sudbury	sunny	24/12
Fredericton	sunny	23/13	Swift Current	showers	28/14
Halifax	p.cloudy	19/8	Thompson	showers	22/13
Kapuskasing	sunny	28/15	Thunder Bay	m.sunny	23/10
Lethbridge	tshowers	23/11	Toronto	sunny	23/15
Moncton	sunny	23/11	Vancouver	p.cloudy	19/14
Montreal	p.cloudy	24/16	Victoria	p.cloudy	18/13
North Bay	sunny	23/12	Whitehorse	rain	11/5
Ottawa	p.cloudy	24/14	Windsor	p.cloudy	26/19
Prince Albert	sunny	29/16	Winnipeg	tshowers	26/16
Prince George	p.cloudy	21/10	Yellowknife	p.cloudy	20/8



Almanac

Temperature	High	Low
Normal	22.7°	8.5°
Yesterday	27°	8.9°

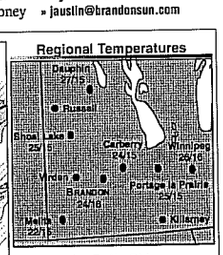
Precipitation
Today's Normals 2.3mm
Yesterday 0 mm

Summer Index's

UV INDEX 3

Humidex
For the afternoon: 27
For the evening: 23

Regional Temperatures



The Daily Skies

Sunrise: 5:30 a.m. Sunset: 9:50 p.m.
Moonrise: 1:34 a.m. Moonset: 2:46 p.m.

June 22 | June 29 | July 7 | July 15

The World

Acapulco	sunny	33/25	p.cloudy	34/28
Boston	showers	15/11	sunny	21/13
Cancun	tstorms	29/26	tshowers	29/26
Chicago	showers	23/17	tshowers	26/17
Dallas	sunny	39/24	p.cloudy	36/25
Denver	p.cloudy	27/13	p.cloudy	30/13
Los Angeles	showers	20/16	p.cloudy	21/17
Miami	tstorms	31/25	tstorms	30/25
Montego B	p.cloudy	32/25	tshowers	32/25
New York	p.cloudy	21/14	p.cloudy	22/15
Phoenix	p.cloudy	37/25	p.cloudy	38/26
Washington	showers	23/16	showers	22/18

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DID YOU KNOW...

• United Way invested in parenting and support programs to help over 1500 families increase their capacity to create healthy relationships and to build hope for their future.

• One in six children in Canada are considered at risk because they arrive at school less prepared and with lower literacy levels than their classmates.

• In times of need, 30-40 food helpers are provided per day to individuals and families in need.

United Way
www.brandonuw.ca