

Over the Back Fence  
For Friday September 12, 2008  
Approx 620 words

Imaginary election  
By Alva Wood

Alva Wood announced this week that she would be filing nomination papers as a candidate in the October federal election. In place of her usual column, the editor of this paper interviewed Ms. Wood about her intentions.

**Editor:** Could you tell our readers why you want to be elected as a Member of Parliament?

**Alva:** \$173,000 a year.

**Editor:** I beg your pardon?

**Alva:** That's what I understand MP's get now, including their tax-free expense allowance.

**Editor:** But you would also have expenses. You'd have to rent an apartment in Ottawa –

**Alva:** I have no intention of spending any time in Ottawa.

**Editor:** But surely that's the whole point of –

**Alva:** Nothing says you have to attend a certain proportion of the parliamentary sessions. I intend to attend none of them.

**Editor:** Won't your party require a certain level of attendance?

**Alva:** What party? I'm running as an independent. I'm my own party. I can set my own rules for party solidarity with myself. I'm automatically a majority in any caucus vote.

**Editor:** You claim you don't expect to get elected. Then why bother running?

**Alva:** Does that reasoning stop you from buying lottery tickets?

**Editor:** I'm supposed to be interviewing you, not you interviewing me.

**Alva:** Why not?

**Editor:** See? You're doing it again.

**Alva:** And you're acting like the rest of the mass media, telling me what I should be doing. Go back to asking questions.

**Editor:** Okay. What kind of example do you think you're setting by accepting an MP's salary but not going to Ottawa?

**Alva:** A very good example. No one will ever see me acting like an irresponsible five-year-old during Question Period.

**Editor:** What about a constituency office?

**Alva:** What about it?

**Editor:** Are you going to have one?

**Alva:** You should ask more precise questions if you expect to get anywhere in journalism.

**Editor:** Are you going to open a constituency office?

**Alva:** No comment.

**Editor:** Ah, now you're starting to sound more like a politician.

**Alva:** Was that a question?

**Editor:** Yes. I mean, no.

**Alva:** Humph! Now YOU'RE starting to sound like a politician.

**Editor:** How do you propose to serve the residents of this community if you get elected?

**Alva:** I take inspiration from Al Horning in Victoria. Keep my mouth shut, my head down, and stay out of sight.

**Editor:** What's the first thing you'll do if you should get elected after all?

**Alva:** Demand a recount.

**Editor:** Do you have any campaign promises you want to make?

**Alva:** Yes. If elected, I promise not to form the government of Canada. I promise to give one-tenth of my salary to charity. I promise not to answer my cell phone in the shower. I promise not to get caught drunk in Hawaii. I promise to drink only Okanagan wines. I promise not to break any promises.

**Editor:** And if you don't get elected?

**Alva:** Then all promises are null and void. Except the one about Okanagan wines.

**Editor:** Will you continue writing your column if elected?

**Alva:** Certainly. Being a member of parliament should provide a lot of new material to write about.

**Editor:** The people of this community think you invent most of the situations you write about in your column. With that kind of record, how do you expect them to trust you if you become their Member of Parliament?

**Alva:** They shouldn't trust me. They shouldn't trust any politicians. Election addles their brains. They can no longer recognize truth.

**Editor:** So, DO you invent your stories?

**Alva:** Of course. They're entirely a figment of my imagination. Just like this whole election. It's a fantasy of Stephen Harper's. It's no more real than you are, sonny. Poof! Go away.