



CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Harper's cabinet mixes new faces with old

BY MATTHEW LITTLE
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

TORONTO—Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced his new cabinet Wednesday, keeping many old hands in their previous posts but bringing new faces to his front line as well as including three rookie MPs.

“It represents the right mix of experience and new blood.”

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER ON HIS NEW CABINET

Jim Flaherty will remain in Finance, while John Baird will move into Lawrence Cannon's old job as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Tony Clement moves from Minister of Industry to President of the Treasury Board and Minister for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario. Peter Van Loan takes Baird's old job as Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

Jason Kenney, thought to be a prospect for Foreign Affairs, remains in Immigration, where his work has been credited with the Tory breakthrough in urban and suburban ridings, particularly in Ontario.

Three newcomers to the House of Commons also found themselves in cabinet.

Former Bay Street investment banker Joe Oliver, who took Liberal Joe Volpe's Eglinton-Lawrence Toronto riding, will get an immediate seat at cabinet as Minister of Natural Resources.

PLEASE SEE HARPER ON A2



JOHN STILLWELL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Queen Elizabeth II is introduced to guests by provost John Hegarty in the Long Room during a tour of Trinity College in Dublin on May 17. The queen laid a wreath in Dublin's Garden of Remembrance to remember the victims of Ireland's struggle for independence from Britain in a landmark gesture on the first visit of a British monarch to the Irish Republic.

Queen's visit heralds start of new era in British-Irish relations

Security high and streets empty but visit goes off without incident

BY MARTIN MURPHY
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

DUBLIN—After a 100 years of struggle and tensions between Ireland and Britain, a new chapter in history unfolded May 17 when Queen Elizabeth II arrived in Dublin, commencing a long overdue state visit to her country's closest neighbour.

The last royal visit to Ireland was by King George V in 1911 when Ireland was still under British rule.

The queen's four-day visit has prompted the biggest security

operation ever mounted by the Irish State, with approximately 10,000 Gardaí (police) and members of Ireland's Defence Force on duty.

On her first day of the visit, in a hugely symbolic gesture, Queen Elizabeth commemorated Irish freedom fighters who fought against the British.

Irish police have been on high alert for the past week with fears of dissident reprisals.

The streets of Dublin were like a ghost town Tuesday, as many stayed away to avoid the delays and restrictions expected due to security measures.

Security officials discovered a bomb on a bus outside of Dublin Monday night, which was safely detonated by security forces Tuesday

to be a threat, AP reported.

The lack of crowd activity on the streets of Dublin could also be interpreted as a sign of indifference to the visit, which may be true for some. However, many are just hoping the visit will pass without incident and thus put some closure on the tumultuous chapter of Anglo-Irish relations.

Commemoration
On her first day of the visit, in a hugely symbolic gesture, Queen Elizabeth commemorated Irish freedom fighters who fought against the British, placing a wreath during a ceremony in Dublin's Garden of Remembrance.

PLEASE SEE QUEEN ON A4

Alberta wildfires leave thousands displaced

BY JUSTINA REICHEL
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

It is an agonizing time for thousands of residents forced to flee northern Alberta as they wait to hear when they can go home—and if there is a home to return to—after fires swept the region.

Hardest hit has been the town of Slave Lake, 40 percent of which now lies destroyed. All 7,000 residents have left and are currently in evacuation centres or staying with friends or family.

About 500 people (and 46 animals) had checked into an evacuation shelter at the Edmonton Expo Centre by Tuesday. Other shelters were set up in Athabasca and Westlock to help those who had lost everything.

Lorna Beaver, who is stay-

Thank God nobody got hurt. Everybody's alive, everybody's together. Material things can be replaced, lives cannot.

BOB BOUDREAU

ing at the Expo Centre, was forced to evacuate Slave Lake on Sunday night. She said she had only enough time to grab a few clothes and precious family photos before getting out. She is anxious to get back to her home and evaluate the damage.

PLEASE SEE WILDFIRES ON A2



TODD KOROL/REUTERS

A firefighter waters down a hot spot at a destroyed neighbourhood in Slave Lake.

Obama's re-election campaign gets cheeky

BY ANDREA HAYLEY
EPOCH TIMES STAFF

WASHINGTON—U.S. President Barack Obama's re-election campaign is poking fun at both itself and the rumour mill, which has spent years raising questions about the veracity of the president's birth in Hawaii.

The campaign, which officially kicked off on April 14 in Chicago, is now offering supporters an opportunity to purchase merchandise that promotes an insider's joke.

T-shirts and coffee mugs featuring the president's photo, a copy of his birth certificate, and the message "Made in the USA" are available at BarackObama.com.

"Get Your 2012 Made in the USA T-Shirt and Mug" merchan-



BARACKOBAMA.COM

Photos of a new T-shirt and mug made available by President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.

dise is available in exchange for a campaign donation. Obama's deputy campaign manager Julianna Smoot posted the advertisement in a blog post on Wednesday.

PLEASE SEE OBAMA ON A4

LOOK INSIDE



LINA BROVDO

Around the Mediterranean in 30 days

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PETER MOUNTAIN/WALT DISNEY

'Stranger Tides' treads familiar waters

SEE ENTERTAINMENT B1



DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION

It's time to stop eating endangered animals, says Suzuki

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Five tests for the Tory majority & What it and NDP should both oppose

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Study reveals zombie ant manipulation

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