

The Chronicle Journal

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTHWEST

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007

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THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO \$1

UP FRONT

WEATHER

A2

Today's Weather brought to you by
MARDSTICA & SUZUKI



Sunny periods
18°/9°

GRAND VITARA

EDUCATION

School secures grant
for music/A2

HEALTH

Teens deal with
substance abuse/B1

SPORTS

Rockies and Padres
in a nail-biter/B4

YOUR CITY.

LITTER FREE
THUNDER BAY

LITTER - IT'S
IN YOUR HANDS

litterfree.ca

DAILY MARKET WATCH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

S&P/TSX	14,200.58	+101.09 ▲
S&P/TSX VENTURE	2,872.86	-10.90 ▼
CANADIAN DOLLAR (US\$)	100.87	+0.35 ▲

Blood case decision slammed

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO — Activists and lawyers for victims of the worst public-health disaster in Canadian history lashed out in anger Monday after an Ontario judge acquitted the former national medical director of the Canadian Red Cross and three other doctors of criminal charges in the tainted-blood scandal.

Critics called it "ludicrous"

that the court acquitted Dr. Roger Perrault, 70, along with the three doctors and a New Jersey pharmaceutical company for their alleged roles in the blood scandal that left thousands of Canadians infected with HIV or hepatitis C.

Perrault's lawyer, however, called the ruling an "absolute vindication" and a "complete exoneration."

Perrault had been facing four charges of criminal negligence

causing bodily harm and one charge of common nuisance for allegedly giving hemophilia patients an HIV-infected blood-clotting product in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Also acquitted were Dr. John Furesz and Dr. Donald Wark Boucher, formerly of Canada's Health Protection Branch, and Dr. Michael Rodell, a former vice-president of New Jersey-based Armour Pharmaceutical.

Armour, which had also been facing charges, was acquitted as well.

"There was no conduct that showed wanton and reckless disregard," Superior Court Justice Mary Lou Benotto said in delivering her verdict.

"There was no marked departure from the standard of a reasonable person. On the contrary, the conduct examined in detail for over one-and-a-half years con-

firms reasonable, responsible and professional actions in response during a difficult time.

Silence fell over the courtroom as Benotto delivered the verdict.

"The events here were terrible," she said.

"However, to assign blame where none exists is to compound the tragedy."

• Continued on p. 1

Tory changes tune

THE CANADIAN PRESS

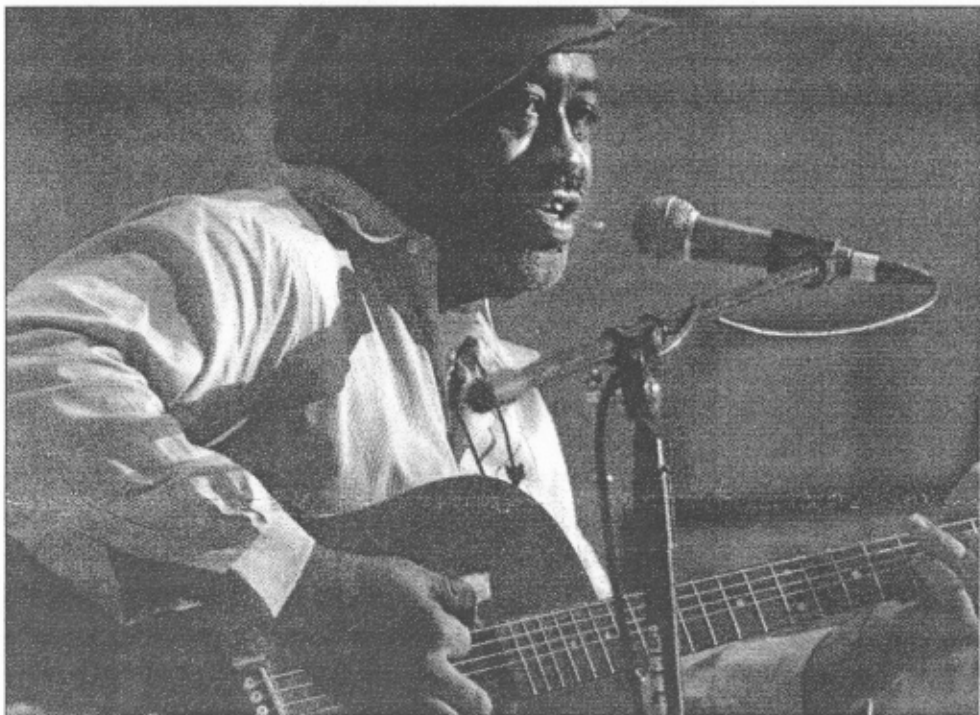
TORONTO — The leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservatives tried to mollify party faithful and win back badly needed votes Monday as he promised to allow would-be caucus members a free vote on his controversial proposal to extend public funding to the province's private religious schools.

John Tory, whose marquee pledge to bring religious schools into the public-funding fold has been a millstone around the neck of the Conservative campaign since it began three weeks ago, earned sustained applause when he made the concession in a speech to business leaders in Toronto.

"People have a depth of concern about this that I've listened to and I've heard," Tory said later.

"It is an issue that is proving to be more divisive. I'd like to try to depoliticize (it), frankly, while maintaining my position of conviction and letting the people play a very active role in making the ultimate decision."

Tory has steadfastly defended the policy throughout the campaign, insisting that real leadership is about promoting policies



THE CHRONICLE JOURNAL/BRENT

Lesson in the blues

Blues musician Fruteland Jackson performed and spoke Monday at 5-Mile School. The presentation was part of the Blues in The Schools program presented by The Thunder Bay Blues Society and which began in 2003. Jackson will be doing 10 perfor-

mances of his award-winning All About the Blues show to students. He will also be performing at Gargoyles Grill on Thursday. Blues vocalist Liz Mandeville will perform from Oct. 16-20 at the Port Arthur Prosvita Cultural Cen-