

Editorial ? A man of the people

No matter what political stripes one has, there is no denying that this area lost a very colourful political figure this week.

Former Toronto mayor Rob Ford died Tuesday of cancer, at the all too young age of 46.

Mr. Ford was mayor for only one term, and it was certainly a lively time, attracting attention world-wide. He was even parodied on a Saturday Night Live sketch.

It is true that some of his antics as mayor showed poor judgement, but the people who have been commenting on his passing have gone to lengths to stress his strong points, particularly as a politician.

It's been said he never failed to return a call. And he frequently visited people who were having troubles, trying to make sure things were sorted out.

As well, he was an elected official who made serious efforts to keep the promises that got him elected. He was a stickler when it came to the wise spending of the taxpayers' money. The mind boggles at the thought of Rob Ford going along with deficits that are contained in the federal budget.

True, he had his problems, but so do a lot of us.

But even his detractors have to admit who's side he worked to be on ? the side of those who matter the most in a democracy.