

SUNDAY READER

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Paula Simons



COMMENT

Keep an eye on these up-and-comers

thastive, exhausting lists
at the top 10 whatsits of
ide, century or millenni-
So I'm ushering 2000 in
a little prognostication, a
to five up-and-coming
ontarians — post-
— who I see making
our city over the next
y're listed here in no par-
just five community
new generation, whose
k forward to watching in

YD: In the wake of the
urt's 1998 Vriend deci-
wn-to-earth, articulate
merged as the city's most
d effective advocate for
oyd's folksy charm, her
se, and her careful avoid-
emist rhetoric make her
kes person for Equal=Al-
er-suited to defusing con-
an provoking it. This
es on a new academic
g a course on advocacy
iversity of Alberta. To
n political work has been
enes, as a volunteer for
and federal Liberals;

and for city councillor Michael Phair. In the decade to come, Lloyd stands to make a valuable contribution to this city's larger political culture.

RAHIM JAFFER: The past year was not a good one for the Reform party, but Jaffer emerged from the United Alternative fray in better shape than most. Though an avowed UA supporter and Manning loyalist, Jaffer avoided the pettiness displayed by other young Reformers, and prudently refrained from making headlines by dumping publically on caucus colleagues. More proof, if any were needed, that this clever, charismatic, bilingual MP has a long future in politics. Since his election, Jaffer has won his stripes with solid local constituency work, and proved himself to be far more than his party's token visible minority. Watch him work a room, and you quickly tell that Jaffer's political future will easily outlast that of the Reform party. No matter his eventual party affiliation, no matter whether he opts for the federal or the provincial stage, Rahim Jaffer will be a player.

PAUL LaGRANGE: His name isn't as

well-known as Jaffer's or Lloyd's — yet. But this energetic young entrepreneur-cum-philanthropist has spent the last five years quietly weaving a network of business, cultural and political connections that stand to pay big dividends in the decade ahead. LaGrange wears one hat, as the owner of the Second Cup on Whyte Avenue, and a leader of the Old Strathcona business community: not long ago, he led the successful fight to allow sidewalk cafes to open on warm winter days. But he's also a sought-after fund-raising consultant. The University of Alberta, the Edmonton Art Gallery, Augustana University, Grant MacEwan Community College, the Fringe Festival, even the Calgary Stampede, are among those who've turned to him in their efforts to raise money and public profile. LaGrange knows where the money is — and he knows how to get it. Whether behind the scenes or centre stage, LaGrange bids fair to put his stamp on the city in the decade ahead.

MIKE NICKEL: Nickel made a name for himself in 1998 with his ambitious campaign for the mayoralty. Though he finished far behind Bill Smith, he

surprised many skeptics with a respectable second-place showing. Like LaGrange, Nickel wears two hats. He's a small businessman, running his family firm, Artisan Stone and Tile, in the heart of the multicultural Avenue of Nations. But he's also got his MA in political science, and put himself through the U of A as a provincial pollster and political consultant. Nickel kept busy in 1999, organizing the city's first St. Patrick's Day parade and raising funds for the SPCA. Now he's put together a group of under-40 business types — the Municipal Policy Coalition — to agitate for comprehensive policy alternatives at the city level, on everything from LRT expansion to the future of Epcor. I don't see Nickel as mayor, necessarily — he's more a Rod Love backroom strategist than a Ralph Klein vote-grabber. But if he can harness the energies of Generation X business people — especially the multicultural communities of 107th Avenue, who remain woefully under-represented in city politics — he has the potential to revitalize a lacklustre city council and redefine municipal policy vision.

SHIRISH CHOTALIA: This impas-

sioned city lawyer has already made name for herself in the Canadian human rights community. In 1989, when she was just 27, she was first appointed to the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Later, she served as northern director for the Alberta Civil Liberties Association. Last year, she took on a new challenge, as a member of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, adjudicating human rights cases at the national level. On the global stage, Chotalia is an executive member of the Human Rights Committee of the International Bar Association. Warm and funny, she still finds time for a private legal practice and for her "other" life as a mother to two young daughters. With all that on her plate, it's hard to see Chotalia finding five minutes for organized politics, per se. But it's easy to predict she'll continue to be a moral leader, locally and nationally.

Five intriguing names to watch in the decade ahead. Come 2010, we'll see how they, (and I, your humble futurist) measure up.

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