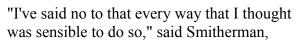
## George Smitherman squashes rumours

Jul 18, 2009 04:30 AM
Comments on this story (1)
Robert Benzie
John Spears

George Smitherman insists the cleanup is about civic pride, not city politics.

The deputy premier will lead another crusade today to pick up garbage in the strikebound city by hitting at least five "hot spots" where litter is piling.

The Toronto Centre MPP, long touted as the strongest possible challenger to Mayor David Miller in next year's civic election, insisted he has no plans to run municipally.





KEN FAUGHT/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

George Smitherman, Toronto Centre MPP

bemused that his OneToronto cleanup campaign, begun this week, has revived rumours he will make a mayoral bid.

But Councillor Joe Mihevc, a Miller ally, sees it differently. "I think this is clearly an early indication of George's intention to run for mayor," Mihevc told the *Star*.