

George Smitherman squashes rumours

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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.

"I've said no to that every way that I thought was sensible to do so," said Smitherman, 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*.



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George Smitherman, Toronto Centre MPP