

Weekender

Comment

Municipal elections aren't dull

There is hardly a dull moment in the world of politics as is demonstrated by the current pre-campaign activity in both Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham.

In Markham incumbent Carole Bell has formally announced she will seek her first full term as mayor (she was appointed last year when Tony Roman became regional chairman). Speculation has it that Regional Councillor Ron Dancy will run against Mrs. Bell for Markham's top job.

If Mr. Dancy does run, it should be a hard-fought campaign. Both are determined and seasoned campaigners and both have large war chests to finance their campaigns.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville incumbent Tom Wood, also a council appointee, faces a tough challenge from Fran Sainsbury. The race promises to be hard fought and close as the outspoken Mrs. Sainsbury takes on Mr. Wood.

Mayoralties races are always the most interesting aspects of local elections and they increase public involvement with the political process. Democracy will be well served by stiff races in both municipalities.



Speaking Out

Who do you think should replace Frank Miller as the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario? (Asked on Markham's Main St. and Stouffville's Main St.)



George Rasmussen
Markham
Retired

"From everything I've seen I think Larry Grossman has the best qualifications. The results of the last election prove that they need someone different."



Marc Bossi
Markham
Insurance adjuster

"That's easy. Dennis Timbrell should become the new leader. I was involved in his campaign last time doing some fundraising and general publicity."



Ian Morrison
Uxbridge
Ad sales manager

"Frank Miller wasn't the man for the job. I'm for Ross Stevenson and he backs Larry Grossman."



Dean Wilson
Uxbridge
Loans manager

"I don't think Miller was suited for the job. I've thought a bit about it but I'll wait and see who gets in there."

Weekender Mailbag

Check facts: reader

Dear Sir:
I am writing in response to the letter from T. DeFranco (Economist and Sun, Aug. 28). I really could not believe what I read. I urge this person to re-think a number of the points outlined and to research the subject matter more thoroughly.

I disagree with the comment that the paper has been amiss in its coverage of soccer. I too read the Economist and Sun every week and quite frankly, I cannot remember one issue that did not contain at least one article on soccer and this includes a complete breakdown of game results by division.

I do not dispute the facts and figures stated in the letter, but I ask "should the coverage given to a sport by the paper be based solely on registration figures?"

Believe it or not soccer fan, other sports associations have competitive teams that represent the Town of Markham. For example, the rep teams in my association compete against teams from as far east as Belleville, as far west as Bolton and Tottenham, and as far north as Orillia during their regular season.

I completely agree with your comment regarding the coverage of special events. I feel that the coverage of tournaments and special events in all sports, with a couple of possible exceptions, is somewhat lacking.

I take great exception to the last statement in your letter which says "I wonder what would have been published if it had been a different sport competition, say for example baseball."

Well sports fan, you're out in left field with that comment because baseball gets less coverage than any of the sports mentioned in your letter. Perhaps the problem is that your use of the term "baseball" is a misnomer.

To group all sports that use a bat and ball under the term "baseball" is a very common mistake. To answer the implication made by your last statement, I will only say that the competition probably would not even have been mentioned, were it baseball.

Peter Kelly
President
Markham Baseball Association

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