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Sainsbury moving up

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Fran Sainsbury caused quite a stir in local provincial political circles last week in announcing her bid to seek the nomination for the Liberal party in Markham.

And though incumbent Tory MPP Don Cousens questions her knowledge of Markham area issues and her place of residence outside the riding, the mayor's move would benefit voters in Markham.

A respected veteran politician, Mr. Cousens handily won Markham riding in the last provincial election, but there were no serious Grit contenders that he was up against.

With Mayor Sainsbury's hat in the ring, that could change, assuming she wins the nomination.

She's principled, honest and hard working, and brings with her years of municipal experience.

Further, Mayor Sainsbury was a champion of the environment before it was politically rewarding.

There are no official contenders for the Grit nomination in Markham yet, which will force her hand, but from here, the move is one that spells action for Markham voters.

Our loss however, would be their gain.

Broken dreams in Atlantic City

I spent a day recently noting all the streets on a Monopoly board, as they appear in real life in the seedy centre of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Someone once told me that Atlantic City was the model for the legendary board game, and I found that it is true.

All the streets on the Monopoly board can be found in the city's core. The only difference, of course, is that in Atlantic City, it's real money you're likely to lose.

And that I did. I went with three co-workers to the famed Atlantic City Boardwalk via Worldways Airlines, and spent a day taking in the sights, sounds and unpleasant smells of the city.

The boardwalk, lined with casinos, expensive eateries, souvenir shops, and more casinos, was filled with tourists from the moment we arrived.



at random

steve houston

And hidden behind many of those faces were surely a number of broken dreams. Hidden in their pockets were surely many empty wallets.

The casinos themselves reek of money and excess. Outside, city fathers have done little to keep up appearances. For every chandelier in Trump's new Taj Mahal there are as many boarded up storefronts.

For every pay-off in a slot machine, there are twice as many out-of-pocket donations.

With my substantial \$75 gambling stake, I thought (like a thousand others that day) I would find

my fortune. I took my chances at a Black Jack table to see if my stake would grow. It didn't.

And, as most people here know, \$75 American translates roughly into \$3,500 Canadian. It still didn't take me very far.

Early on, I thought I might bump into Donald Trump, seeing as he just sunk a fortune into his latest casino.

Instead, I saw people pose beside cardboard images of His Richness, so they could spend \$20 (\$100 Canadian) for a deceptive black and white photograph.

There was no sign of Ivana or

Marla Maples.

After losing my whopping \$75, I wandered around various casinos, counting the stacks of chips other gamblers held jealously before them. Most stacks dwindled quickly, but I did see a few fortunate gamblers win.

One brave soul withdrew \$3,000 from a slot machine in one pull. I later found out from another curious bystander that the player had dropped more than \$1,000 into the machine before it paid off.

I also learned that he was paying \$75 a crack to play.

I had fun while I was there, but wouldn't consider spending more than a day in Atlantic City.

For one, I would have to save for about 10 years before I could put together a stake large enough to play. By that time, of course, I would be so afraid of losing it, the

trip would be out of the question.

But the most disturbing part of my day came when I recognized a fellow at the ticket counter at Atlantic City's Pomona Airport on the way home.

Earlier in the day, the person in question was on a winning streak, judging by the stack of \$25 chips spread out before him.

When I saw him later, I could tell his pockets weren't lined with profits. His tie was loosened and hanging askew. One shirt tail hung carelessly out of his pinstriped pants. His shoulders were now slumped as he shuffled toward the boarding line.

It was then I realized I was indeed lucky. Lucky that I didn't have more than \$75 to throw away on Trump's tables.

Give me penny-ante poker any old time.

Stouffville/Uxbridge

Publisher Patricia Pappas
Editor-in-chief Don Bernard
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Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd. Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3 Tel. 294-2200. Second class registration number 1247. The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday, at 54 Main St. W. Stouffville is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Action Free Press, Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser-Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist and Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa-Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic Newsmagazine, Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.



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Editor's mail

No-fault proposal ill-conceived

Dear Editor,

An open letter to MPPs regarding Bill 68: no-fault insurance.

The Town of Georgina has now passed a resolution opposing Bill 68, making it eight out of nine local municipalities, as well as York Regional Council and the York Regional Separate School Board, which have passed resolutions against the Bill.

I am still at a loss to understand why the Liberal Party is not listening to the wishes of the people of Ontario.

There is a situation which is bound to arise frequently under the new legislation and I would like to know what you suggest people do about it.

Frequently, when people of limited means are injured and have a valid claim but cannot afford a lawsuit and do not qualify for Legal Aid, their lawyer will finance the suit by not charging for his time and may even pay out thousands of dollars in expenses out of his own pocket.

Then, when the action is settled or tried, the lawyer is reimbursed for his expenses and compensated for his time and effort. For those clients of more substantial means, the client will pay for the expenses as they occur, waiting until completion of the matter for payment of their

lawyer's fees.

Under existing legislation, an experienced personal injury lawyer usually has a pretty good idea what a court will decide if there is an issue as to liability for the accident.

With Bill 68, there will be an added measure of uncertainty.

It will be several years before the court has provided clear guidelines as to how serious the injury must be before a person is entitled to bring legal action for proper compensation.

The great shame of this situation will be that many people would probably pass the threshold, i.e. be entitled to proper compensation, but would not be able to risk the financial ruin that would result from being unsuccessful.

The theoretical and conceptual harms of this ill-conceived legislation are apparent to anyone who looks closely at it. Sometimes it seems like your government is living in a dream world.

Sincerely,
D.W. Monteith
Chairman of the FAIR Committee