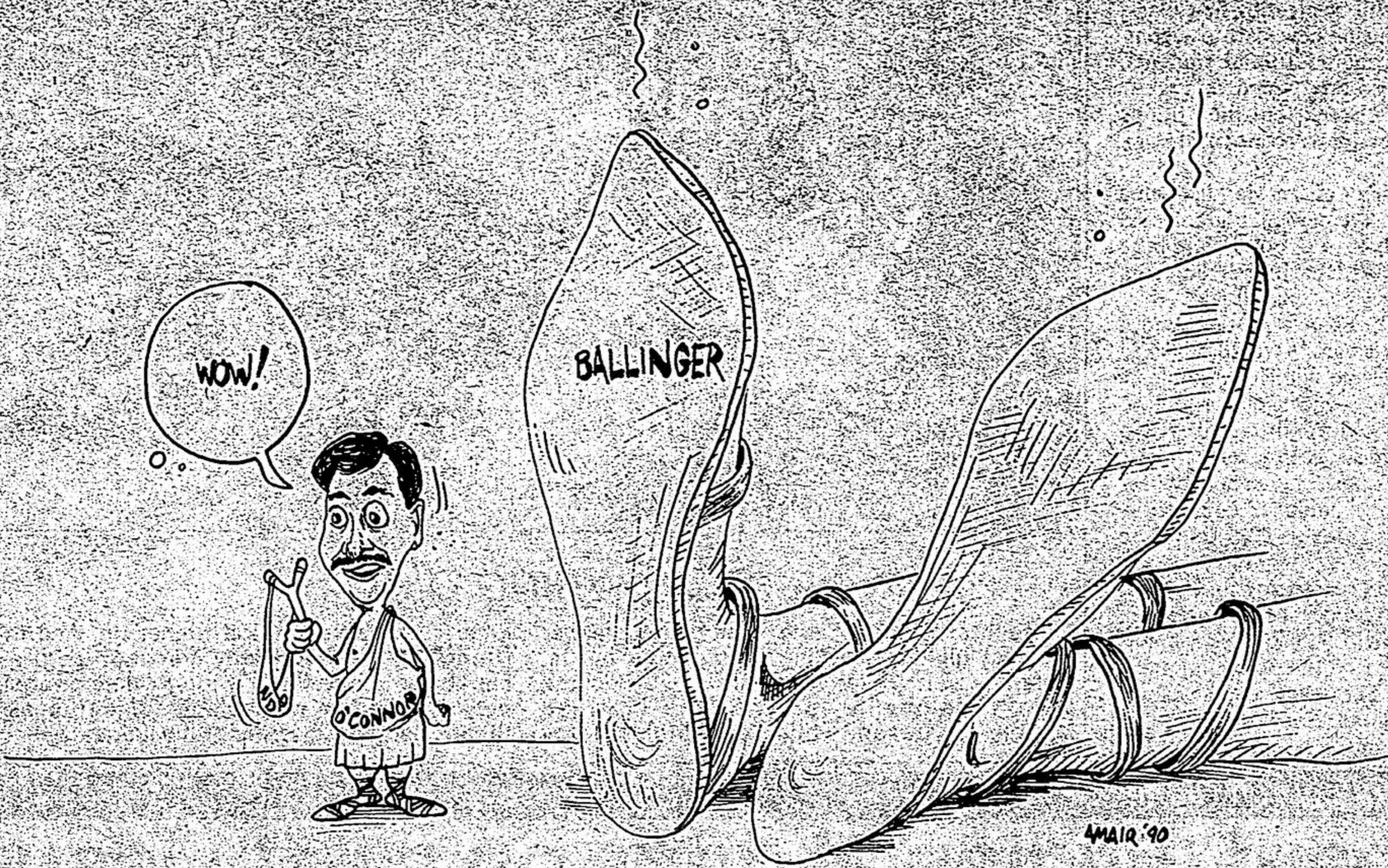


# Comment Page

## Dust settles on election

The dust has settled. The votes have been tallied, the polls closed and the candidates have discovered their fate after a long and often gruelling campaign. But the voters have spoken and now comes the task of putting together an effective government. It was most encouraging to note that voter turn-out this time around was quite high; not only in Durham-York, but right across the province. This, despite the fact summer elections rarely bring out the voters in droves, and considering the apathy most voters felt toward the campaigning, we should be proud of our efforts. The politicians and would-be politicians have heard the voice of the people and now they must live up to the mandates given them. Larry O'Connor was given a healthy mandate to serve this riding in a majority government. It is a new venture for the budding politician, and despite his surprise win, it is imperative he learn the Queen's Park ropes in a hurry so that he may quickly make a positive impression on the voters who put him in charge. There is little doubt that Mr. O'Connor has his work cut out for him, and we wish him all the best.



# I've come to expect the unexpected

Expect the unexpected. Don't assume it's over until it's really over. And whatever you do, get to the winner's headquarters when it's apparent a candidate has won the election. Those were my editor's words last week. Well, the unexpected part certainly came true. An NDP majority? Really? Are you sure? I personally predicted incumbent Bill Ballinger would squeak by on a bare minimum of votes in the Durham-York riding. Boy was I wrong. But the 'don't assume it's over until it's really over' part could have been spared. It was over after 30 minutes of



**kibble's bits**

**tracy kibble**

poll closing time. Evidence of a NDP majority across the province was obvious nearly 10 minutes after the results starting coming in. The voters really *did* send the Liberals a letter they couldn't ignore. That was an NDP advertising slogan that certainly wasn't wasted. But, what really threw me for a loop, as I sat excitedly in PC Jack Hauseman's Stouffville Main Street headquarters, was the fact that Larry O'Connor

(who?) was actually walking away with the majority of votes in Durham-York. I bet no one is as surprised as Mr. O'Connor that he won this riding. I know that because I made a slight boo-boo in a statement he made at an all-candidates meeting held in Keswick a few weeks before the election. When a campaign worker phoned me, and after I assured her a correction would be put in the paper, she said...

"Well it's not that he's going to win or anything. We just want it for the record." Well he did win. And I can't believe it. Voters abandoned Bill Ballinger for a man they never set eyes on before the election campaign. There is obviously a very strong anger out there. People have decided that the PCs and the Liberals are one and the same. No matter which party rules, the results are the same. Taxes, taxes, taxes. Cutbacks, cutbacks, cutbacks. Promises, promises, promises. So what do the New Democrats have to offer us? A clean slate if nothing else. They haven't screwed up yet

because they haven't been given the chance. Since I can remember, people have been juggling their support back and forth between the Tories and the Grits. But those two parties threw voters a double whammy. They made the mistake of ticking the people off at the same time. So the NDP mandate is a trial run as far as the voter is concerned. Give them a chance. See what they can do. And judging by the number of promises Larry O'Connor has already made to Durham-York voters, he better prove he can do something real fast. Because the voter is fed up. No more Mister nice guy.

## Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune

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### Editor's mail

## School issue missed: reader

Dear Editor, Although your paper has made progressive steps toward becoming an Uxbridge paper which reflects the views of the community of Uxbridge, your editorial concerning Mr. Ballinger for MPP missed one of the largest issues in the Uxbridge area. In your article, you touched on no-fault insurance and other issues that the Liberals have threatened the general population with. You have, however, missed public education. Where do all three candidates stand on public education and what is their party policy and record? There are two sources of funds for public education - provincial grants and property tax. The two are on a balance; as grants come

down, property taxes go up. What happened to property tax this year? The Liberals promised to raise grants to 60 per cent; they have lowered them to an all time low of 43 per cent. They try to hide behind smoke and mirrors, but when it's put on your tax bill, it can't be hidden. Why does education cost more money? The greatest cost is salaries and then on top of that the Liberals brought in the Employer Health Tax, increased Workman's Compensation and legislated pay equity. Guess who pays? The Liberals have brought in legislation such as Junior Kindergarten, day care, pay equity, affirmative action, lower class sizes. They are great programs, but

the Liberals have never calculated the total cost and back out of the payments once the total cost becomes too high for their pockets. The taxpayers pay again. Uxbridge is going to another year without a new school. The regions around Metropolitan Toronto are paying dearly in overcrowding for our proximity to Metro and smaller communities such as Uxbridge face great hardships due to overcrowding. The Liberals have balanced their budgets, but they are throwing school boards and taxpayers deeper into debt. Maybe there could be a happy medium. Find out what your candidate has to say about public education. Heather Beveridge Uxbridge