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**Exclusive**

## Reform fete turns ugly

Candidate acclaimed under hail of calls for women to stay at home and immigrants to return to their's

By THERESA EBDEN  
Correspondent

Oak Ridges Riding's welcome to its new Reform Party candidate turned ugly Thursday night after issues of immigration and women's rights hit the floor.

Edward Sarafian was acclaimed as Reform's candidate for the riding at a meeting of about 40 people at the Vandorf Community Centre in Stouffville. However, minutes after question period began, racial slurs were uttered to shouts of agreement.

"I'm talking about the garbage living on welfare who come over and take advan-

tage of our system!" shouted one man from the front of the room.

Sarafian, who is a Unionville resident and married with four children, tried to steady the crowd of residents from the riding which is made up of Markham north of 16th Ave., Whitchurch-Stouffville and Richmond Hill.



SARAFIAN

After his initial protests that immigration has been an asset to Canada, Sarafian later conceded to the crowd that past governments have "bowed to certain pressure groups." His comments were met with applause.

After an attempt to change the subject to economics, Sarafian was cut off by cries of "charity begins at home" and anti-immigration slogans.

Sarafian, a title searcher at Queen's Park, said that he has worked closely with human rights issues. But he agreed that funding for special interest groups was not high on the Reform financial agenda.

When asked to comment on how the party was working on its image after two members got into trouble last year for racial comments, Sarafian called the issue "Liberal lies" while the crowd shouted at the media for trying to block Reform's changes to the criminal justice system.

Family matters were also debated at length, including

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## Manning struggles to shake racist rap

Reform Party leader Preston Manning was in the area yesterday trying valiantly to shed his party's reputation as racist.

And while he did not address the Oak Ridges candidates nomination meeting in particular, which deteriorated into a shouting match of racial and sexist slurs Thursday, Manning was obviously frustrated with the fact Reform can't seem to shake the racist tag.

The event was hosted by a number of business associations, including the Markham Board of Trade, the Scarborough, Vaughan, North York and Richmond Hill Chambers

of Commerce as well as the Richmond Hill-Markham Chinese Business Community and the Scarborough-York Region Chinese Business Association.

After his speech, a question from the crowd of about 400 forced Manning to defend yet another allegation that his party was racist. This followed a report in a Toronto newspaper that Reform's B.C. organizer was fired for saying the Sikh community members were running regardless of party colors just to see a Sikh elected.

"Reform is committed to

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## Music Maniacs

The Music Mania chorus was in rare form Thursday night.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

## Music Mania a hoot

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

The Stouffville District Secondary School stage has been transformed into a train station this weekend as the Music Mania troupe presents *Mystery Aboard the Heritage Express*.

The railway motif is deftly carried through from the moment you enter the building. But the annual variety show is a hit due to its 'Why mess with success' formula, which is based on the traditional wedding day mix of something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.

The 'old' lies in the music and merriment that has become the show's trademark through the years. The 60 member chorus, as usual equipped with the biggest smiles on earth, once again offers a mix of tried and true standards, inspirational numbers and fast paced bee bop efforts. Definitely nothing dreary here. The first half closing number, Brother Love's Travellin' Salvation Show, was indeed a signature effort.

The world's worst jokes are also back as the show refuses to let Laugh In die three decades later. Question: "What are three things a man can't put down?" Answer: "A beer, a remote control...and a toilet seat!"

Jackie Petrie's black light number is effective as always. And of course there are the Music Mania deans of the dance floor, couples category, as Bruce and Bunny Burton and Jim and Sharon Brazier tear up the carpet.

The 'new' comes in the form of some good natured Uxbridge bashing. With the local council failing to provide skit fodder

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Art show  
May 4

The art is being shown in Markham next weekend.

The Lenoxville Group of Artists is holding its annual show at the Markham Community Centre from 12-20.

The original artwork is for sale.

For more information, contact the show at 471-8660 or visit our website at www.471-8660.com

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