

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
37 Sandford Dr., Suite 306, Stouffville, Ont., L4A 7X5

Publisher - Ian Proudfoot
General Manager - Alvin Brouwer
Editor-in-chief - Brenda Larson
Advertising Director - Debra Weller
Business Manager - Margaret Fleming
Regional Editor - Brian Kiritik
Classified Manager - Stephen Mathieu
Office Manager - Vivian O'Neil
Editor - Tracy Kibble
Distribution Director - Barry Goodyear

Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q If a provincial election were to take place tomorrow, who do you think would win?
Who do you think should win?

The Conservatives would win. The Conservatives should win whether people want them to or not.

JOSY WALKER

The Liberals would win. Mike Harris should win because he's done a pretty good job for the province so far.

NORMAND BEAUCHESNE

The PCs would win. The PCs should win because the province is in much better shape since they have taken over. The province is on the right track and is doing well.

ANN COLEMAN

The PCs would win. The PCs should win because they are going in the right direction by cutting taxes.

JEFF BLACK

The Liberals would win. The PCs should win because they are doing a good job with the province.

MICHAEL BALFOUR

The Liberals would win. The NDP should win. The pendulum has swung so far right, we need them to balance the province out.

ARMANDO LUIS

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

York Regional Police Chief Julian Fantino is lobbying region council to make funds available for a helicopter. Do you think York Regional Police needs its own helicopter. Why?

Submit contributions to
Views on the News, fax: (905) 640-5477
E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

OPINION



Dave Teetzel

People may be smarter than they look, poll reveals

Every week, I receive a fax from Rasmussen Research, based in beautiful Waxhaw, North Carolina, detailing the results of its latest opinion poll of Americans.

Every week, I toss it in the circular file with the rest of the irrelevant faxes.

But this time, they sent me a story that is too good to pass up. According to this opinion poll, 44 per cent of Americans don't trust media opinion polls. Only 33 per cent do. The rest don't even answer pollsters' questions.

According to Rasmussen, 35 per cent of Americans said pollsters don't survey enough people to make their results worthwhile, 28 per cent say poll questions are biased and 23 per cent say the media misinterprets the results of the polls.

Outside of the obvious and delicious irony, the most important revelation from this poll is people (or at least Americans) may be smarter than they look.

Polls are open to all kinds of manipulation.

A couple of weeks ago, *The Toronto Star* did an automated poll based on the question, "Would you vote for Mike Harris?"

The nays were carrying the day until evening, when, in the course of 3-1/2 hours, 670 yes votes poured in compared to 156 nos.

That may be because the hard-working Common Sense constituency came home in the evening, saw the question and voted. Or there is a possibility, however remote, that some Tory Party organ decided that a big-time loss in a newspaper opinion poll could be damaging to a spring election campaign and flooded the phone lines.

So this poll may have been influenced in Harris' favour by a call-in campaign.

It may have been influenced against Harris by the fact it appeared in the *Star* — the Liberal Party's unofficial propaganda organ. Or everyone who answered the poll may have thought it was about Mike Harris the curler.

A few years ago, the feds decided they would stop the media from running polls a few days before elections — the thinking being that voters, being a pack of mindless sheep, would go along with whatever the majority says.

But if the Rasmussen poll can be trusted (it is, after all, an opinion poll), people just might be smart enough to judge these things for themselves.

That could really mean trouble for the feds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Auction a success

On behalf of all those who attended Music Mania's GST-auction on Feb. 27, I would sincerely like to thank Matt Douris and Terry Neprly who organized the event.

We all had an absolutely fantastic time. There was something for everyone — dancing, a live band, a silent and a regular bidding auction, great food and door prizes, too.

A special thank you to Linda Williams who was helpful in co-ordinating many aspects of the event, and also to all those who helped with decorating, providing food, tallying the bids, providing music and auctioneering.

We are very appreciative of the generosity of the many people who contributed to the auction, both by donating wonderful items and purchasing them. Their support was reflected in the sum of more than \$5,000 being realized which will be used to help with production costs.

This year's show will be held April 29, 30 and May 1, at Stouffville District Secondary School.

CAROLYN DUGGAN
DIRECTOR, MUSIC MANIA

Winterfest well supported

Thanks to the supporters at Winterfest. We were able to serve meals to the many participants and gave away 72 family prizes to local families who participated in our scavenger hunt.

Without the support of business people, we would not be able to have the necessary impact on the youth in our community. All funds raised are spent in Stouffville.

We always welcome new members and do not expect much in return other than support, and ask residents to support the local merchants who help make this successful.

RONALD BRABANDER
WINTERFEST CHAIRPERSON
OPTIMIST CLUB

Concert aids music students

The receipts gathered both through sponsorship by local businesses and donations from those in attendance at the Student Music Scholarship Concert Oct. 30 at Stouffville District Secondary School have been distributed to the participating schools.

The amount distributed to area schools in the six years that the concerts have been run is \$15,691.

St. James Presbyterian Church sponsors this event yearly, and is in the process of setting up the 1999 version for Friday, Oct. 29.

The committee would like to express its sincere appreciation to everyone involved in this event.

G. ATKINS
TREASURER, ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
STUDENT MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT

Tax diversion unfair

To columnist Doug Devine (*Tax break a slippery slope*, Jan. 28), let me say that if the Catholic special interest group can divert school taxes away from the public system, then so should I be allowed to direct my school taxes to the school where my son receives his education.

PHILL GILES
MARKHAM

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

Phone: (905) 640-2100 • Classified: 1-800-743-3353 • Distribution: (905) 640-2100 • E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd. group of newspapers, which includes the Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Action Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetangishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket Aurora, Georgina Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Orlia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clearington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, Uxbridge Tribune and City of York Guardian.

