

Stouffville Tribune

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LETTERS

Trudeau was a great statesman and leader for Canadians

With the passing of the late prime minister Pierre Trudeau, Canada has lost a great leader, a philosopher and showman. He put Canada on the map and gave us our identity, Constitution and Charter of Rights.

The life of Mr. Trudeau is a message for all of us ordinary people. The message is that you have one life to live — live it with dignity, in spite of all the ups and downs. Look life in the eye and say with a smile, "Give me all your punches, I can take it." Mr. Trudeau refused to follow the insecurities of life to become a conformist.

About 20 years ago, I saw Mr. Trudeau during the election time in Scarborough while working as a volunteer with the Liberal party. His magnetic personality took me 20 years back to my college days when I met Jawaharal Nehru, then prime minister of India, another great leader of our times.

He had the same smile, dashing personality and, of course, a rose. Both liked a fresh rose each morning on their jackets and both changed the destiny of their respective countries.

Both had vision, foresight, courage and sense of humor. A personal shock was the cause of each death.

Mr. Trudeau's death challenged us to get involved in our lives. History will judge his true role in shaping people.

Canadians will miss him for a long time.

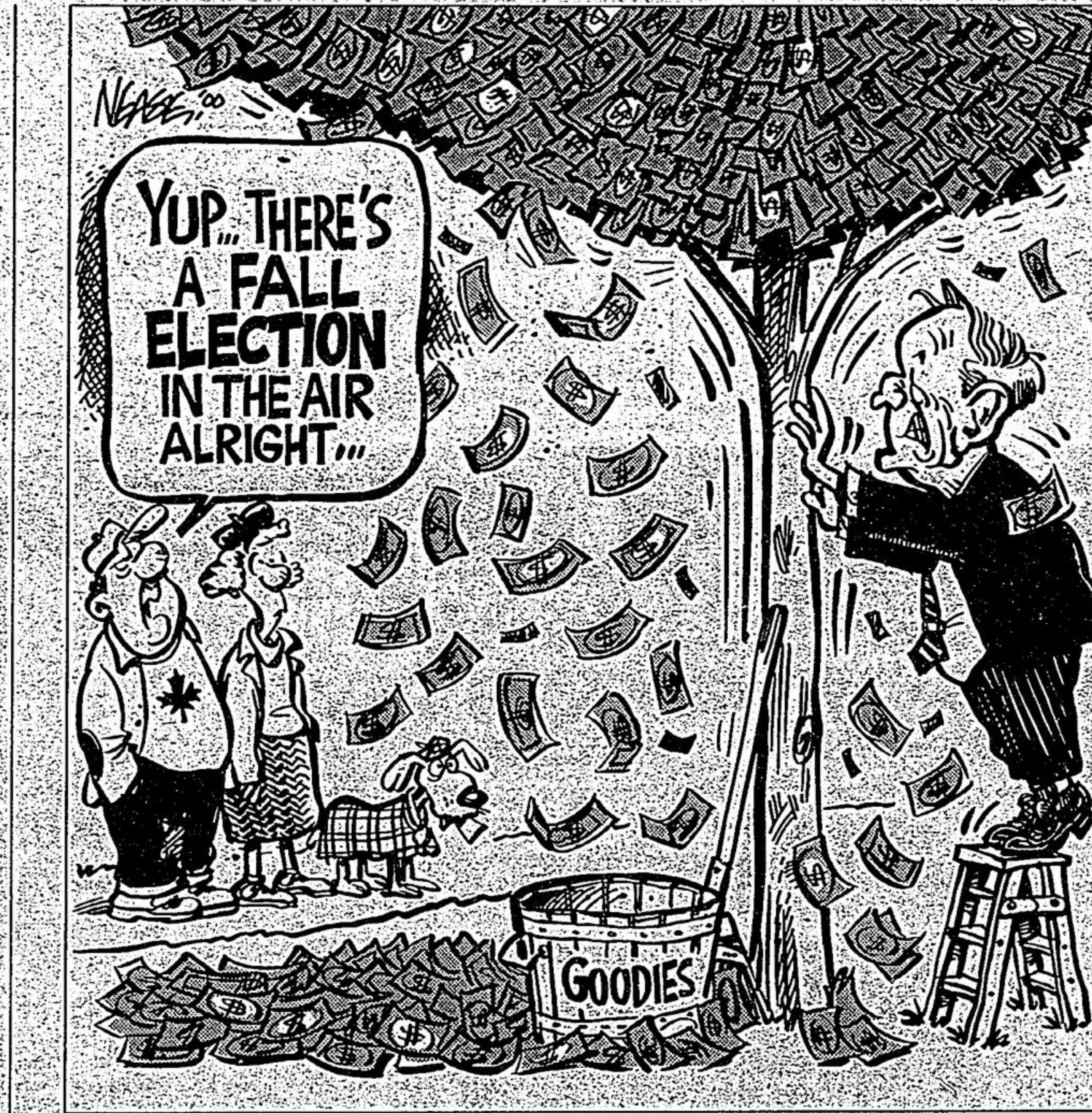
JOE KALRA
MARKHAM

I want no part in sending York Region trash to Kirkland Lake

This is an open letter to Oak Ridges MP Bryon Wilfert.

I have lived in York Region my whole life. Right now, like many people, I want no part of this plan to ship our trash to Kirkland Lake. My Dad grew up there, but that is not why I'm asking you to demand on our behalf that the federal government initiate an environmental investigation.

Don Cousens, like many politicians is wondering why there is such a fuss. There is so much fuss that Mr. Cousens asks, "Are we liv-



ing in Canada?" Yes, yes we are. In fact, like many Canadians, this country has given me the chance to obtain an outstanding well-rounded education.

My contribution to the fray comes because it appears that we have to take someone else's word for it that the Adams Mine plan is a good choice.

Is it our best option? I don't know. I would like someone to prove it to me. Summarize the evidence in a special insert to the Star, the Tribune, the Economist & Sun — let everyone see for themselves.

Perhaps we will be told there is too much to show us, that it would waste paper, that it would take time. It can be done. If necessary, skilled writers could focus the information and make it less technical. With adequate awareness of where to look, the web could be a less expensive and environmentally friendly communication vehicle.

If there are gaps in the existing evidence or if it is of poor quality, a federal assessment may be necessary to settle this controversy.

In the meantime (on a local level), let's talk about alternatives and determine how to fund them. What is working for others?

What is Edmonton doing? Tell me about Swedish incineration techniques — are they better? Why or why not? How can we optimize use of compost centres? I hear Georgina's buck-a-bag system has been successful. What about tax relief for waste diversion?

We need leadership on this issue — but that doesn't mean leaving us in the dark.

Please seriously evaluate the need for federal involvement and either share with us the

results of a federal environmental assessment, or demonstrate clearly and objectively why it was not needed.

KATHERINE O'DONNELL
STOUFFVILLE

We should all work to rectify food bank's crisis

I was utterly disappointed upon reading the article *Food Bank is on empty* in the Sept. 30 issue.

When you take into consideration how vital the food bank is, we are lacking in our involvement in helping the less fortunate.

Food bank shortage? It's not what the headlines should read.

I felt determined. I was pleased to see this article in the paper. Evidently our community hasn't forgotten the people and neither have I.

Subsequently, I have taken action where I can be heard most — where else but to my own school? I have taken on the role of head of the food bank committee, to collect canned foods, encourage the students and rectify a difficult situation.

My intention? Nothing more than to encourage the people of Markham to take part by donating as much as possible.

This will become the solution to this year's food bank crisis. It's not what we give, but as long as we give that surely and truly a difference will be made.

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Roy Green

Someone should tell the Little Guy that this isn't Camelot

It will be supremely ironic if Jean Chretien, as he's expected to do, picks tomorrow to drop the writ and call a federal election, leaving us to choose a prime minister from a cast of characters that looks a lot like Curly, Larry and Moe.

It's ironic because tomorrow is the 38th anniversary of the day U.S. President John Kennedy went on radio and television and faced up to the Soviet Union in what became known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

... when I contemplate an election with the likes of Curly, Larry and Moe, even Trudeau looks good.

When it was learned the Soviets had installed nuclear missiles only 90 miles away from the U.S., the world was poised on the brink of nuclear war.

We all held our breath when JFK spoke those electrifying words: "It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the western hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response against the Soviet Union."

The Soviets backed down.

Whatever one thinks of JFK's presidency, there's no question he cut an inspirational figure throughout that too short period from 1961 to 1963.

Yes, it was a lot like the fictional Camelot and proved to be too good to be true. But it was still a wonderful ride while it lasted.

And there's no question the lingering effect of his charisma played a large role in the love affair Canadians entered into with Pierre Trudeau only five years after Kennedy's death. He came across as our very own version of JFK.

Though he turned out to be an arrogant dilettante, he still cut a wide swath. Which explains, I guess, the incredible outpouring of inane drool that swept the nation's media upon his recent death. Still, when I contemplate an election with the likes of Curly, Larry and Moe, even Trudeau looks good.

Speaking of stooges, am I the only one who thinks Chretien may lose votes here in Ontario for going to the polls right on top of our own municipal elections?

With the low voter turnout in municipal elections, it won't help much to have the public torn between school board trustees, councillors and MPs.

Maybe it would have been better if the little guy from Shawinigan called for a combination election where we could vote, federally and municipally at the same time.

LETTERS POLICY

Stouffville Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The newspaper reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

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