

Sun-Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Good candidates out there

For many years, I have witnessed the resigned and cynical attitude many people have toward politicians and the system. After all, aren't they all untrustworthy? Self-serving? Easily bought? Isn't democracy just a nice idea?

Encouraged by a friend to do my civic duty, I grudgingly went to my first provincial all-candidates meeting and have since attended municipal candidates meetings in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Listening to the candidates has given me a whole new perspective.

I've seen three types. One is high-profile, smooth-talking and manipulative, often backed with lots of money. This one usually wins.

The next type of candidate tries too hard to say and do what he thinks the public wants to hear. He sometimes wins because people are afraid of the first one.

The last type sincerely wants to do what is right, often having a clear vision. This candidate rarely wins because we don't think he has the strength or experience for the job. Maybe we should give him a chance.

I believe that there are good people out there. To find them, we must open our eyes and listen with our hearts.

**SANDRA CARVELLO
GORMLEY**

Thanks for help with charity run

To all those that were part of the third annual Markham departure for the CIBC Run for the Cure Oct. 5, I want to extend thanks for being part of a wonderful day for a wonderful cause. There were approximately 100 people this year and we raised \$7,700.

To Garry Gosling and staff from Laidlaw Transit, I cannot express how grateful we are to have a worry-free shuttle service from Newmarket, Aurora and Markham to Nathan Phillips Square and back.

The group seems to keep growing, which is proof your generosity is very much appreciated. We are proud to unofficially call ourselves the Laidlaw Team.

We hope to be an even larger group next year, so participants, mark the date on your calendars and call me to reserve your seats again.

**ANNA SEARLES
MARKHAM**

Chairperson should be elected

During the last municipal election, I was extremely concerned about apparent self-serving candidate endorsements by the chairperson of York Region.

I noticed a consistent pattern in the campaign literature of all incumbent mayors and



regional councillors. It appeared chairperson Bill Fisch endorsed each and every one of them over new candidates seeking election.

However, it is these very same mayors and regional councillors who elect the chairperson. In my humble opinion this is a pretty obvious demonstration of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours".

Hopefully this won't be the case this year. In some other regions, the public elects the regional chairperson. However, York Region chooses not to do this. To my mind that would be a far better demonstration of the democratic process.

**JOYCE RIETTIE
UNIONVILLE**

One MPP should cross floor

The provincial NDP party wins significantly more votes in the recent election and runs, by all accounts, the best campaign but loses two seats.

It finishes one seat under the minimum for official party status and loses all the rights and responsibilities that go with the designation.

The NDP has lobbied Premier Dalton McGuinty for reprieve with no luck. Mr. McGuinty has, in strategically sound fashion, denied any pleas from NDP leader Howard Hampton for official party status.

I don't expect a career politician like Mr.

McGuinty to act in a truly democratic fashion when it clearly doesn't serve his interests. However, there still exists a need to rectify the situation.

I have come up with an idea that falls into that category of ideas that have characters in movies saying, "That's so crazy, it just might work".

With the Liberals and NDP so ideologically similar and Liberals holding a massive majority, wouldn't it be wise of one courageous Liberal, who faithfully serves democracy and the people ahead of their party, to join the NDP?

The move itself wouldn't be entirely altruistic on the part of the ex-Liberal MPP. I'd like to think whatever self-serving ire he may absorb from the Ontario Liberal party itself would be more than offset by the incredible political capital gained from the electorate in general for the MPP who makes the brave move.

The shift of just one MPP in the Ontario legislature would reinstate the official party status of the NDP and fix this immediate problem of disenfranchisement felt by so many Ontario voters.

It would also give a starting point from which to institute real political change in the area of proportional representation.

**TOM PASHKOV
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Love nature? It's in our genes

While in Ottawa recently, I was amazed to discover the city was packed with tourists coming to witness the spectacle of the fall colours. Really, I shouldn't have been surprised; nature tends to draw crowds the world over.

In Algonquin Park each year, thousands of people spend their evenings straining to hear the call of wolves. In towns such as Churchill, Manitoba and Iqaluit, Nunavut, locals welcome visitors coming to experience the annual migration of polar bears and the display of northern lights.

According to renowned Harvard ecologist Edward O. Wilson, more people around the world visit zoos and aquaria each year than watch all professional sports. This is only natural, he claims, because humans have a profound need to "affiliate" with the rest of nature, an innate need he has named "biophilia", a love of life.

Try showing a young child a butterfly or flower or, for that matter, a spider or snake. You will see an instant attraction, often with the child wanting to stuff the object in her mouth. That, Wilson believes, is a direct expression of biophilia.

Unfortunately, he says, in our concern that something might bite, sting or dirty us, we teach our children to be repelled or frightened by nature, eventually replacing biophilia with biophobia.

Recently, the spectacular achievement of elucidating the entire genetic blueprint in a human genome was deservedly feted as an historic milestone. But in the rapturous speculation about the potential benefits — new drugs, cures for hereditary disease, elimination of mutations — I believe we ignored the most thrilling insight gained. In the DNA of all human beings are found hundreds of genes identical to those found in mice, fish, insects, plants and bacteria.

The human genome project revealed what many native people have always understood: we are genetically related to all other forms of life; they are our evolutionary kin. Our actions can no longer driven by the perception of other species as "resources" but must be tempered by the recognition they are our relatives.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org

LETTERS POLICY

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

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