

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

VIEWES across the region

Waiting for answers from Belinda

I have been a stalwart Liberal my entire life, but jumped on the Belinda Stronach bandwagon, agreeing it is time for a change.

I eagerly paid my dues for the privilege of joining the Conservative Party of Canada, which entitles me to a vote on who is to become its leader March 20.

Now I am having a problem.

After surfing through Belinda's website, it strikes me there is nothing relating to gay/lesbian issues. The website is well-constructed, user-friendly and states repeatedly Belinda wants to do what is best for all of us.

It outlines her stance on health care, taxes, the economy, the military, gun control, marijuana, education, everything to make Canada a better place for everyone to live.

But nothing about the issue that will determine where I will put my mark on that ballot. Since Belinda's website invites us to "send Belinda an e-mail", because "All party members should have a voice in our platform", I complied Feb. 12, asking about her stance on gay/lesbian issues.

The only responses I have received are daily e-mails updating me on her whereabouts and directing me to her page on "policies and issues", but no solid answer to my simple question.

In frustration, I sent her another e-mail stating if I didn't receive an answer from her office, perhaps I should ask elsewhere.

Immediately, Belinda's office responded saying, "Thank you for your message and your interest in the campaign."

Please visit Belinda.ca for more information on my vision for uniting Canadians across this country.

With regards to your specific issue, please expect a response from my campaign as soon as possible. Thank you again for your interest.

As of Feb. 23 the only e-mails I received were redundant requests for help in recruiting members.

I would love to support Belinda in her campaign race for leadership as I am behind her 100 per cent in all the known policies, but how can I vote for a candidate who will not hear my tiny little voice with a very big question?

NANCY J. WHEELER
NEWMARKET

Sorbara's resignation not real issue

Re: Sorbara will resign, Klees, Feb. 28.

Former Tory transportation minister Frank Klees is at it again.

As a master of grandstanding, he looks for any opportunity to keep his well-polished picture and name in the news.

Now he is rubbing his hands in glee as he focuses on Liberal Finance Minister Greg Sorbara as an opportunity to recapture a fading spotlight.

OPINION



LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters to the Editor,
The Economist & Sun
9 Heritage Rd.
Markham, ON
L3P 1M3

E-mail: letters@econsun.com

Whether Greg Sorbara should or should not resign pending the outcome of the investigation by the Ontario Securities Commission regarding his role as a director with Royal Group Technologies is not the issue.

One only needs to ask where Mr. Klees was during the pork barreling antics of the now defeated Conservative government, including the Hydro One fiasco and sell-out of Hwy 407.

No questions were asked when millions of dollars went out for consultants' fees and uncontested high-level appointments.

When is that investigation going to capture Mr. Klees' interest?

DAVID PAYNE
MOUNT ALBERT

Snow melt reveals dog mess

As dog owners who walk daily around Unionville's Toogood Pond and the adjacent ravine, my spouse and I have been dismayed by the amount of dog feces covering the paths.

Do some dog owners never stoop and scoop or is the product just more obvious in the winter?

Do these people feel it unnecessary to clean up after their pets in the snowy weather, figuring the excrement evaporates rather than being preserved until thaw, when it degenerates into a stinking, gooey mess?

These transgressors must be in the minority because most dog owners do clear up the canine output as evidenced by the number of doggie bags in the garbage receptacles, but a minority is giving the rest of us a bad name.

This morning, walking on a street near our house, we were confronted by a woman who demanded to know if we were abiding by the bylaw. She was upset, understandably, by an increase of dog feces in the streets, parks and especially the schoolyards.

Now that spring is coming, this problem will only worsen.

Maybe it's time for the town to initiate a program promoting pooping, stooping and scooping.

K. GRIMSHAW
UNIONVILLE



David Suzuki

Is climate nearing tipping point?

A report that argues global warming is a greater threat to world security than terrorism and predicts a warming future where "disruption and conflict will be endemic features of life", may sound like it came from a radical environmental group, but it didn't. Unless you consider the Pentagon a radical environmental group.

The report, submitted last fall, but only recently released to the media, looked specifically at what would happen if the world's climate were to abruptly shift, rather than change at a constant pace, as most people naturally assumed it would do.

Of course, this is the Pentagon talking about worst-case scenarios. Inventing scenarios is what they do.

But it would be a mistake to simply dismiss the Pentagon climate report, because it is based on real science. Abrupt climate change is both scary and plausible and we've known about it for some time.

Our atmosphere and oceans are all part of one big heat-transfer system and ocean currents are a key driver of our climate. If we somehow change these currents, we change the climate and this can happen very quickly.

The greatest and most mysterious ocean current is called the thermohaline circulation or the great ocean conveyor, which exchanges warm and cool water around the world.

It moves slowly, but the amount of water it carries is massive — the equivalent of 100 Amazon Rivers.

Part of this conveyor is the Gulf Stream, which brings warm water from the equator up to Europe, where it releases its heat, cools and sinks near the Arctic. The Gulf Stream helps moderate Europe's climate. Without it, most of the continent would be much colder.

But as we add heat-trapping gases to the atmosphere and warm the planet, we increase the amount of fresh water that melts from glaciers and Arctic ice.

This fresh water is less dense, so it doesn't sink, which slows the Gulf Stream.

If it were to slow significantly or stop (which appears to have happened in the past), Europe could very quickly plummet into a little ice age. Much of North America would also become cooler, drier and windier.

As the Pentagon points out, this could wreak havoc on agricultural production and the economy, leading to major social upheavals.

Although Canada has adopted Kyoto and committed to reducing our emissions, we haven't actually done anything yet.

By acting now, we can avoid the Pentagon's worst-case scenario.

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

EDITORIAL

Editor **Jim Mason**
jmason@econsun.com

ADVERTISING

Retail Sales Manager

Steve Kane
skane@ymg.com

Sales Manager, New Business
Development & Distribution

Dawna Andrews
dandrews@ymg.com

Classified Manager **Ann Campbell**
acampbell@ymg.com

Real Estate Manager

Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@ymg.com

PRODUCTION

Production Manager

Pam Nichols
pnichols@ymg.com

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution Manager **Barry Black**

bblack@ymg.com

ADMINISTRATION

Office Manager **Vivian O'Neill**
vonelle@ymg.com

York Region Events

Managing Director

Debra Weller
dweller@ymg.com

Shows Manager

Stacey Allen
sallen@ymg.com

York Region Printing

General Manager **Bob Dean**

bdean@ymg.com

EDITORIAL

905-294-2200 /

Fax: 294-1538

ADVERTISING

905-642-1908 ext 221

Classified: 1-800-743-3353 /

Fax: 853-1765

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