

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
34 Civic Ave., Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z5

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Supporters deserted Emmerson

Re: Newcomer beats Emmerson, March 13

It's unfortunate Wayne Emmerson, a former mayor who did a lot for Whitchurch-Stouffville, will not be a candidate in the next federal election.

Mr. Emmerson is quoted as saying the other nominee, Lui Temelkovski, campaigned harder than he did. I, for one, do not think this is the case.

Mr. Emmerson campaigned very hard and actually had more members signed up who were eligible to vote than did his competition.

Yes, it is true the meeting was poorly organized, the venue far too small and the meeting did not start on time, none of which was the fault of either nominee.

However, it was Mr. Temelkovski's supporters who came out in force, stayed and persisted through a difficult situation until they had a chance to vote. The result was Mr. Emmerson lost by 10 votes.

Sadly, it seems many of Mr. Emmerson's supporters were not committed enough to do this for him and were not there for him when he needed them.

L. MEARS
MARKHAM

Bargain hunters block road

Re: Stop blocking Milliken intersection, letter to the editor by Denvil Buchanan, March 18

The same situation, dangerous blocking of traffic due to a convergence of drivers trying to buy cheap gas, is occurring at Hwy. 7 and Kennedy Bypass in Unionville.

When travelling west and attempting to turn north onto Kennedy, I am forced to turn into the left (centre) lane of Kennedy and merge with through traffic because the right (outside) lane is blocked by cars lined up to save a few dollars on gas at Petro Canada.

In my opinion, the town should pass a bylaw prohibiting line-ups extending on to roads.

This would force owners of some gas stations to purchase additional land to provide more space for their customers.

Or they could keep their prices at a more consistent, moderately low rate, a solution that would most likely eliminate this dangerous situation.

TAMMY MORRELL-BELIAI
UNIONVILLE

Republican takeover of Tories enough to vote NDP

With all the chatter about the alleged Canadian Alliance appropriation of the venerable Progressive Conservative party, it is surprising how few have spoken of the real takeover — that of genuine Canadian con-

servatism by Republicans in the United States.

Sir John A. Macdonald is surely twisting in his tomb.

It is now clear a new gang is in charge.

Steven Harper, Tony Clement, Belinda Stronach and Mike Harris are now ready to see who can best jump into George W. Bush's back pocket. The leaders of Her Majesty's not-so-loyal Opposition are all set to challenge the government of Paul Martin in a race to the right.

Shed a tear for Flora Macdonald. She must be suffering from terminal acid reflux disease. The shades of John Diefenbaker and our beloved conservative philosopher, George Grant, are surely suffering as they witness this tragic spectacle from beyond the grave.

It's enough to make you want to vote NDP.

HOWARD A. DOUGHTY
RICHMOND HILL

Road safety focus for WHO

For the first time in the history of the World Health Organization, the group's director general has devoted a World Health Day specifically to road safety. "Road Safety is No Accident" is this year's theme.

Young Drivers of Canada believes strongly in one of WHO's key messages, road traffic injuries can be prevented and their conse-

quences can be alleviated.

We are focusing on the risks for pedestrians and cyclists, which increase this time of year, and we urge drivers to be aware of these road users.

As part of Road Safety Day, Young Drivers has prepared a list of tips for drivers to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe. These can be obtained free of cost by e-mail at ydnewmarket@bellnet.ca

PAM MACDONALD
CENTRE DIRECTOR
YOUNG DRIVERS OF CANADA

Political watchdogs necessary

Re: Keeping councils honest and Watch for watchdogs with private agendas, editorial March 18

Following the federal Liberal sponsorship scandal, the conyrim inflicted on Hydro One by the Mike Harris government, the many broken provincial Liberal government promises and the goings-on in Vaughan and King Township, to name a few examples, the need for political watchdogs at every level of government is greater than ever.

Shortly after the Toronto municipal election, a political science professor made two points when asked to explain the low voter turnout of 39 per cent.

According to the professor, baby boomers have been marketed to since they were in diapers and are able to see right through political



rhetoric.

Only 25 per cent of 18 to 25-year-olds voted.

Further, a popularity poll conducted in January put politicians at 14 per cent, five points below used car salesmen.

The second point he made was you would never hear the current generation use the words honesty and politician in the same sentence.

In Aurora, a councillor proposed a code of ethics for council and was almost run out of town.

The Historical Society of Ontario is having to devote more and more of its funds to preserving cemeteries as politicians, developers and even religious organizations band together to dig them up to make room for condominiums.

Prime Minister Paul Martin, shortly after being sworn in, stated, "The trust between governments and the public has been broken."

"The goal is to create a situation where Canadians realize and trust that what they are voting on will make a difference to their lives."

Politicians think nothing of spending thousands of taxpayer dollars on studies, then refuse to make them public or use the studies to further their own agendas.

Citizens must depend on watchdogs willing to spend their own time and money to know both sides of an issue.

E. MILLAR
KING CITY

Use resources to battle real crime

Re: Jail pot growers, chief says, March 21

York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge is calling for minimum two-year jail sentences for those convicted of running marijuana grow operations.

Perhaps the chief should consider supporting the decriminalization of marijuana — Parliament is considering this — and freeing up police resources to fight real crime.

Given jail sentences are usually reserved only for dangerous, violent criminals and chronic repeat offenders, isn't the chief's suggestion a step backward?

STEPHEN HEBSCHER
THORNHILL

Region tax hike unjustifiable

Re: Regional tax hike cut to 6.3%, March 13

With inflation at just over 1 per cent and average pay increases 3 per cent, how can regional politicians justify a tax increase of 6.3 per cent?

Cut the spending on non essential items, get rid of waste. Please get back to fiscal responsibility.

People on fixed incomes cannot keep paying these kind of increases.

DAVID THOMAS
MARKHAM

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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