

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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20 DIVERSIONS: All quiet in Leaf Nation for another year

Letters 6
 Sports 10
 Total Home 13
 Classified 25

On your marks, get set, campaign

Federal candidates ready for election

BY ROY GREEN
 Staff Writer

Bob Callow's campaign phones are being hooked up, Susan Kadis has been ready since last week and Belinda Stronach has been campaigning, it seems, forever.

Bryon Wilfert is keeping his cards close to the vest and if there is a June election, Bridget Haworth will probably not run.

For area candidates, the state of readiness for a federal election, which could come as early as next month, varies from already up and running, champing at the bit, patiently waiting and, in one case, hoping the call doesn't come too soon.

RIDING CHANGES

With redistribution, York Region has seven ridings, compared to five in the 2000 election: Markham-Unionville, Newmarket-Aurora, Oak Ridges-Markham, Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and York-Simcoe.

While there is much speculation the announcement of a June 28 election will come just after Victoria Day, Bob Callow, the Conservative Party flag-bearer in Oak Ridges-Markham, is preparing for an earlier date.

"I'm getting ready, as if it's coming June 14 with a five-week campaign," Mr. Callow said Tuesday. "We've just rented a

See STAGE, page 8.

Rodeo riders



Jordan Brillinger (front) and Sheldon Dobney, both 7, tackle the bike rodeo route at the Ballantrae Community Centre last Saturday. The event was hosted by the Stouffville Community Policing Centre.

STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Taxpayers pay more for less service

York Region tax burden second highest in Ontario

BY LISA QUEEN
 Staff Writer

York Region families spend \$23,000 more a year in taxes than they receive back in government services, a new report from the Fraser Institute says.

York is second only to Halton on a list of 49 Ontario communities that measures the tax burden on households compared to the services they get in return.

York taxpayers are outraged.

"That's a lot of money. I'm not surprised because it's echoed in people's feelings. They feel like they are paying a lot in taxes and we don't have the services," said Sue Walmer, chairperson of Ratepayers of Aurora-Yonge Street South.

"I think what people are feeling and what I'm hearing is we love where we live, we love living in the GTA. But we pay very high taxes and the area is growing quickly. The infrastructure that should go along with that isn't there."

York families spend \$23,056 more in taxes per year, compared to the average Halton household, which shells out \$25,928 more in taxes.

Peel's third-place finish is significantly behind, with each household spending \$13,918 more in taxes than services received.

Meanwhile, Durham is fifth at \$10,861 and Toronto is seventh at \$9,497.

At the other end of the scale, Manitoulin is last, with each household receiving \$6,233 more in services than in taxes spent.

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