

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Create accountability process

My understanding of democracy is not only that government representatives are democratically elected, but are accountable to voters.

If this is the case, then how do we make politicians accountable for their promises? One method would be creating a non-partisan, volunteer citizen committee to investigate allegations a government failed to carry out a major campaign promise.

The committee could be limited to rating a government's performance on the issue in question as acceptable, given unforeseen barriers to achieving the campaign promise or as unacceptable, an inadequate effort made to carry out a promise.

The committee's decision would be made public so citizens could choose who to vote for based on their records.

I believe this would force politicians to limit their promises to what they truly believe they could achieve.

It would also provide the public with more accurate information on a party's performance than information shared by voters who are strong supporters of a party.

TAMMY MORRELL-BELLAI
UNIONVILLE

Thanks for help with benefit

Thank you to the patrons of Markville Shopping Centre who made the Laidlaw Survivor Weekend benefiting the Hospital for Sick Children, the best event of its kind in Ontario. We raised more than \$26,000 despite the unseasonably cold and rainy weather.

We could not have done it without your generous support.

DEBBIE ACCETTURA, JAYNE McLEOD
& JANE DAILEY
MARKHAM

Liberals took easy way to surpluses

Re: Martin created budget surpluses, letter to the editor by Mohammed Shakir Ali Khan, June 12.

The Chretien government balanced the federal budget by simply cutting transfer payments to the provinces. This was passed to ordinary Canadians, who now live with lower quality services in several areas.

Meanwhile, the Toronto Transit Commission has no regular funding from the province or Ottawa and Toronto has to find the money from somewhere. The result? Deteriorating service and no capital for much needed new buses.

To my knowledge, the government has never done the honourable thing and thanked the public for living with the results of these cuts. Making them was a simple bit

of paperwork compared to the inconveniences that continue in our lives.

Worse still, Liberals take every opportunity to boast about how they balanced the books when the hard work has not been done by them at all.

The issue of the huge employment insurance surplus is similar. When the booming economy created the surplus, the government could easily have handed it back to working Canadians by reducing premiums or increasing benefits. The people in the Maritimes sure could have used some help at that time.

But because it was not close to election time, they abused their power by ignoring common sense and cries for help and keeping the surplus.

Now it has come out that \$45 billion of that money has been moved somewhere else to do another balancing act.

Their arrogance may well come back to haunt them when Canadians go to the polls.

PHIL PENFOLD
MARKHAM

Parks lack recycling bins

As a parent and elementary school teacher, I am concerned about the environment.

For years schools have promoted recycling through lessons and example by providing blue bins for paper, cans and plastic bottles.

After several years of watching my children participate in organized sports at local parks, I am astonished and disappointed with the amount of cans, plastic bottles and cardboard coffee cups left in garbage bins.

What kind of example are we providing children? Why can't the municipal parks and recreation departments provide recycling bins for these items?

Furthermore, shouldn't parents encourage their children to take their recyclable items home and use their blue bins?

What schools teach is being negated by parents and parks departments.

ELLEN RICHTER
MARKHAM

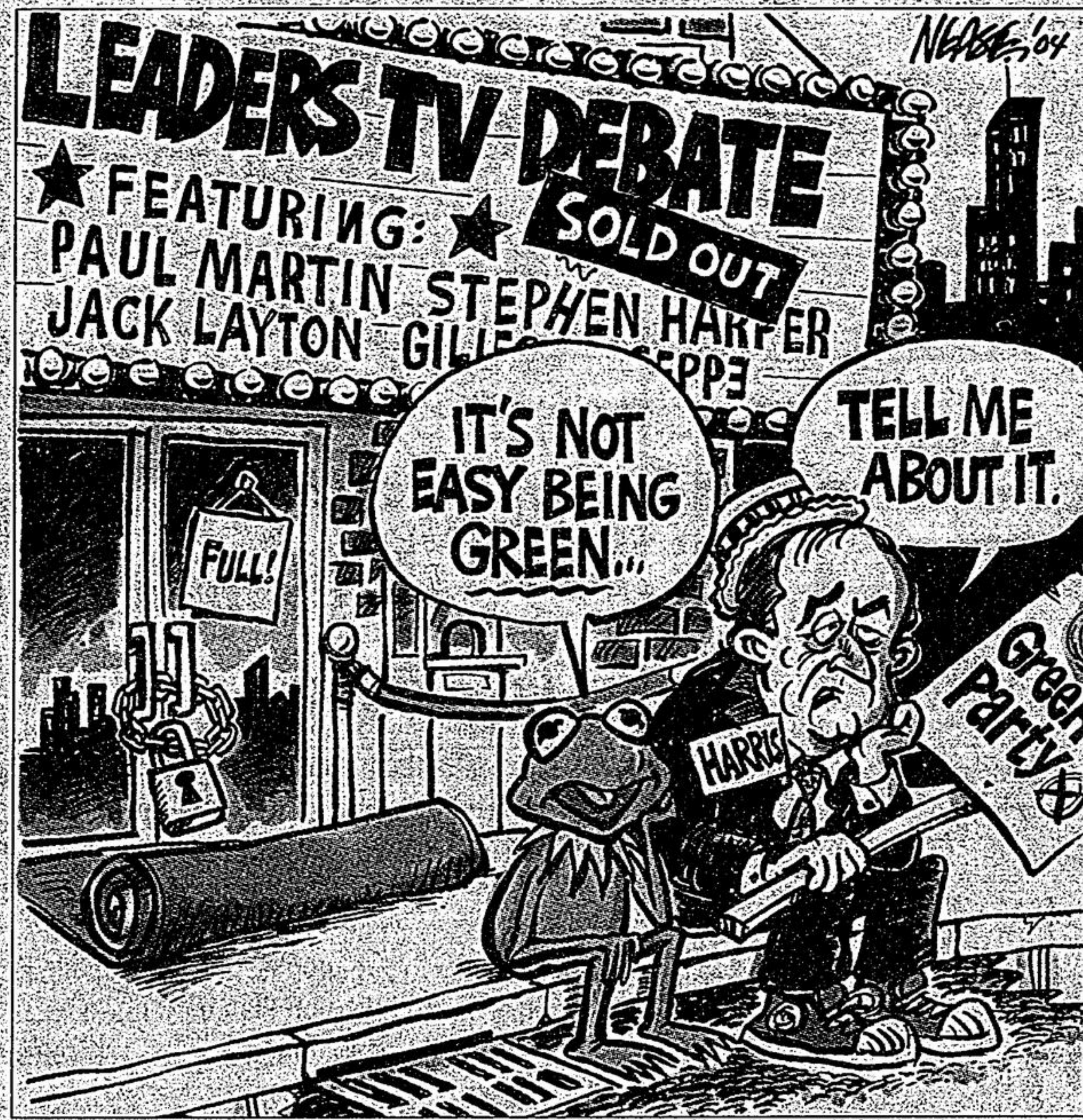
Action needed on vandalism

Over the past five years, there has been a steady increase in vandalism on and around Main Street Unionville.

Although this has been a major concern of the Unionville Villagers Association, we have been unsuccessful in getting a concerted and consistent police effort to nip it in the bud.

Unfortunately, too many people and officials seem to believe this is not a priority and dismiss it as childish pranks.

However, the damage to planters, trees, shop windows, fences, street signs, park benches and private property probably exceeds \$50,000 each year.



Now vandals have hit the jackpot with \$250,000 in arson damage to the GO train bridge and countless commuters inconvenienced for nearly a month.

The time has come for us to crack down. This was no prank, but life-threatening hooliganism.

I call upon GO to issue a substantial reward for any information leading to the arrest of these dangerous offenders.

In addition, I believe the town, police and community associations such as ours should work together to offer effective rewards. In addition, we must insist on increased overnight police foot patrols.

RICHARD D. B. TALBOT
PRESIDENT
UNIONVILLE VILLAGERS ASSOCIATION

De-listing will not save money

Re: De-listing difficult, but necessary, letter to the editor by MPP Tony Wong, June 10.

Mr. Wong, I see your vision is as myopic as that of Premier Dalton McGuinty. De-listing chiropractic services will not save money.

In fact, it will end up costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in the not-so-distant future. Doctors, who are already inundated with musculoskeletal complaints of which they are not certain how to treat, will be even more stressed.

Our emergency departments will fill up with low back, neck, and other musculoskeletal complaints because these people choose not to pay or cannot afford the extra cost of chiropractic treatment. So please explain to me how this cutback will save money.

Your government is focusing too much on treating disease and not on prophylactic procedures. Research has shown chiropractic is the most efficacious and cost effective treatment for low back and neck pain.

Did your government peruse any of this research prior to making this absurd decision? I think not.

DR. PETER J. MOORE
MARKHAM

Youth helps Stouffville woman

Kudos to the young man in the blue pickup truck Monday afternoon in front of Giles Chev-Olds in Stouffville who stopped and helped an obviously confused disabled woman who was in the middle of Main Street.

Several cars tore off around her, confusing her even more. However, this young man got out of his vehicle, calmed her down and turned what could have been a terrible accident into a happy ending.

People are always complaining about the teenagers and young adults in our community and this is a perfect example of how responsible and kind they are.

His parents should be very proud of him.

SHERRI REDSHAW
STOUFFVILLE

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.

Letters to the Editor,

The Tribune
9 Heritage Rd.
Markham, ON
L3P 1M3

Email: letters@constun.com

EDITORIAL
Editor **Jim Mason**
newsroom@constun.com

ADVERTISING
Retail Sales Manager
Steve Kane
skane@yimg.com

Sales Manager, New Business
Development & Distribution
Dauna Andrews

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

Real Estate Manager
Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@yimg.com

PRODUCTION
Production Manager
Pam Nichols
pnichols@yimg.com

DISTRIBUTION
Distribution Manager **Barry Black**
bblack@yimg.com

ADMINISTRATION
Office Manager **Vivian O'Neil**
vonell@yimg.com

York Region Events

Managing Director

Debra Weller

dweller@yimg.com

Shows Manager

Stacey Allen

sallen@yimg.com

York Region Printing

General Manager **Bob Dean**

bdean@yimg.com

EDITORIAL

905-294-2200

Fax: 294-1538

ADVERTISING

294-2200/ Classified: 1-800-

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DISTRIBUTION

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