

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON L4A 1G7
www.yorkregion.com

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly

BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR
INTERACTIVE MEDIA
& TECHNOLOGY
John Futhy

DIRECTOR, ADVERTISING
& DISTRIBUTION
Barry Black

YORK REGION PRINTING
GENERAL MANAGER
Bob Dean

DIRECTOR, CIRCULATION
SYSTEMS
Lynn Pashko

Editorial

We don't know ABCs of MMPs

It is ironic a scheme to get us involved in provincial elections will be put to a vote in less than three weeks with so few of us knowing what we're voting on.

What we will be asked to vote on is a mixed member proportional system of government in Ontario.

Under the system, drawn up by a citizens' assembly, MPPs would still be elected in each riding.

However, MPPs would also be appointed from lists of candidates based on voters' party preferences.

When you get into the voting booth, you would be asked to vote twice: once for the party of your choice and once for the candidate to represent you in your riding.

Parties would win the right to appoint MPPs from their list of candidates based on their percentage of party votes cast.

The breakdown would be 90 locally elected members and 39 list members, 129 MPPs in total.

That's up from the 107 MPPs we have now.

Why make this change?

Advocates say the results would better reflect how people actually voted.

Smaller parties that receive 3 or 4 per cent of the popular vote, but don't garner enough votes in any one riding to win a seat, would now have a voice in the legislature by winning the right to appoint a handful of members.

A party that won 40 per cent of the vote might end up with less of an iron-clad majority, because list MPPs would be appointed to even things out.

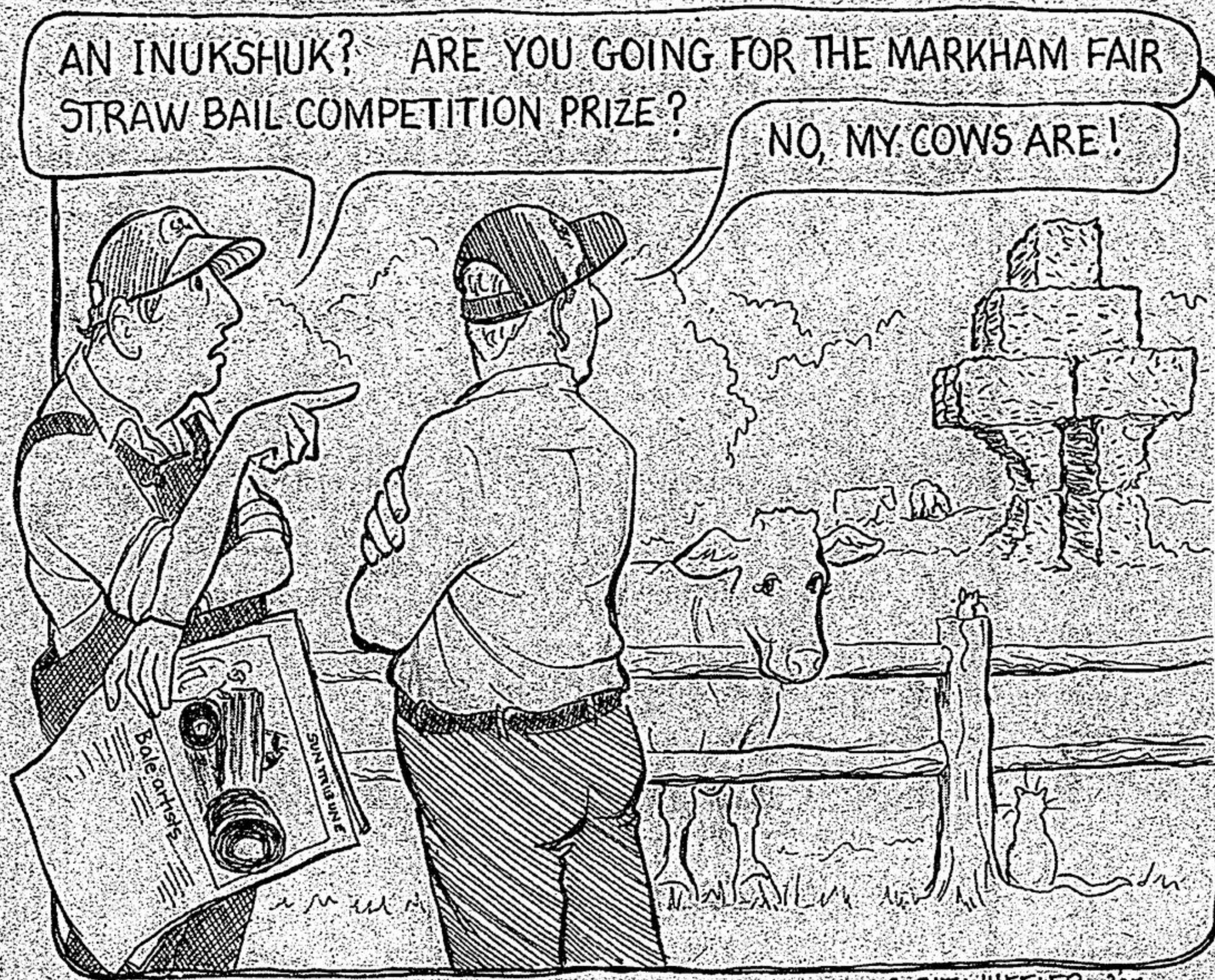
There is also the suggestion women and minorities who have not had success in the major parties could find themselves in the legislature by virtue of an appointment as a list member.

While these arguments may sound good, one might also argue the system we have now has served us pretty well since the 1800s.

A majority government — whether it got 50 per cent of the popular vote or 40 per cent — is required to set the direction and get things done and not be hamstrung by a handful of appointed MPPs.

If this is one of the first times you are hearing about this, you are probably not alone.

The move has not been well promoted by government advertising, or by our current MPPs.



PAT WHEELER '07
SUN-TRIBUNE



Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Drawn together for a day and a lifetime of memories

Wim deVries and Terri Ness live a world apart, don't know each other and, yet, share an all-too-common bond.

They were at the Stouffville track Sunday with hundreds of others, warming up for the 26th annual Terry Fox Run.

Mr. deVries flew in Friday from Holland for the run. He was one of 28 family members in the T-shirts with Dutch and Canadian flags on their sleeves and Team Amanda on the chest.

Namesake Amanda deVries, a single mother, died three years ago next weekend from cancer. Her sister, Ann Wildberger, and family live in Stouffville. The rest of the team ventures in from across Ontario, and Europe, for the day.

Amanda meant that much to them. Stouffville also means a ton to them, thanks to the warm memories of previous Terry Fox days. When Terry ran through Peterborough on his cross-country trek in 1980, Amanda and Ann went to see him pass by.

The Wildberger home on lovely O'Brien Avenue was a shrine to all things Terry Sunday. That wasn't the laundry drying on the trees out front, but shirts from previous runs marking the big day.

Terri Ness, formerly a Stouffville auctioneer, now lives near Port Perry. At the 2006 run, her husband, Gord Ness, videotaped participants and cheered people on, including Terri.

Gord, a Main Street lawyer, died before this year's run. Terri quietly put a challenge: pledge \$5,000 for the run and she would get her hair cut ultra short during Friday's new corporate cut.

It worked. Friends came up with \$6,000 and Terri arrived in Stouffville Sunday showing off her sheered locks and a photo of her Gord on her chest.

There were many other Gord's and Amandas Sunday. Their names were written in marker on the memory board next to the track.

Their memories were carried in heavy hearts around the 5 and 10 km. routes through north Stouffville Sunday afternoon. Gone, but hardly forgotten.

Jim Mason is editor of *The Sun-Tribune*.

Letters to the Editor

McGuinty hypocritical when it comes to funding religious schools

Re: *Keep public funds in public schools*, editorial, Sept. 12.

I was dismayed to see such an editorial from our local newspaper.

John Tory is promising to right a wrong. This is 21st century Canada.

To publicly fund religious schools of one denomination to the exclusion of all other is absolutely wrong and discriminatory.

The argument that this is the way it is written into constitution is pure demagoguery. This can be easily addressed by a bilateral constitutional amendment, as was done in Newfoundland not so long ago.

We had a lot of backward and discriminatory laws and traditions in Canada, including not allowing women to vote and having religious quotas on university admissions. We overcame them in due course.

Ontario must fund all religious schools which adhere to the provincial curriculum or none.

Anything else is a pure and severe form of religious discrimination, which you and the hypocrite Dalton McGuinty, whose own children attend a publicly funded religious school, seem to be advocating.

MAX ROSITAN
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Residents, Wal-Mart back Red Cross

On behalf of the Canadian Red Cross - Region of York Branch, I would like to thank the citizens of Stouffville for supporting the recent fundraising campaign with the local Wal-Mart Supercentre.

Thanks to the generosity of its customers, Wal-Mart raised \$1,618 in support of our local disaster management program.

These funds will enable our team of volunteers to respond to emergencies ranging from house fires, to flooding and severe weather, and provide for the basic needs of those affected including shelter, food and clothing.

We will also be able to recruit and train additional volunteers to ensure we remain ready to respond quickly when residents of Stouffville need help and we can continue educating the public about personal preparedness.

Wal-Mart Canada is matching the funds donated by their customers, making the campaign an even greater success.

We raised more than \$17,000 in York Region. Across Canada, the campaign raised more than \$1.4 million with more than \$425,000 of that amount being donated by generous Ontarians.

I would also like to thank the staff at Wal-Mart #1029 for their efforts during the campaign and their support of the work of the Red Cross.

JERRY CHWANG
PRESIDENT
REGION OF YORK BRANCH COUNCIL
CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters to the Editor,
The Sun-Tribune
6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON
L4A 1G7
jmason@yrmg.com

EDITORIAL
Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

INTERACTIVE MEDIA
Marketing & Advertising
Manager
Dawna Andrews
dandrews@yrmg.com

ADVERTISING
Retail Manager
Stacey Allen
sallen@yrmg.com

Classified Manager
Ann Campbell
acampbell@yrmg.com

Assistant Classified
Manager
Bonnie Rondeau
brondeau@yrmg.com
PRODUCTION
Team Leader
Sherry Day
sday@yrmg.com



EDITORIAL
905-640-2612
Fax: 905-640-8778

ADVERTISING
905-640-2612
Classified: 1-800-743-3353
Fax: 905-640-8778

DISTRIBUTION
905-640-2612



A York Region Media Group community newspaper
The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Metroland is comprised of 100 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Newspaper Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill; Vaughan Citizen, The Era-Banner (Newmarket/Aurora), Markham Economist & Sun, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, yorkregion.com and York Region Printing.