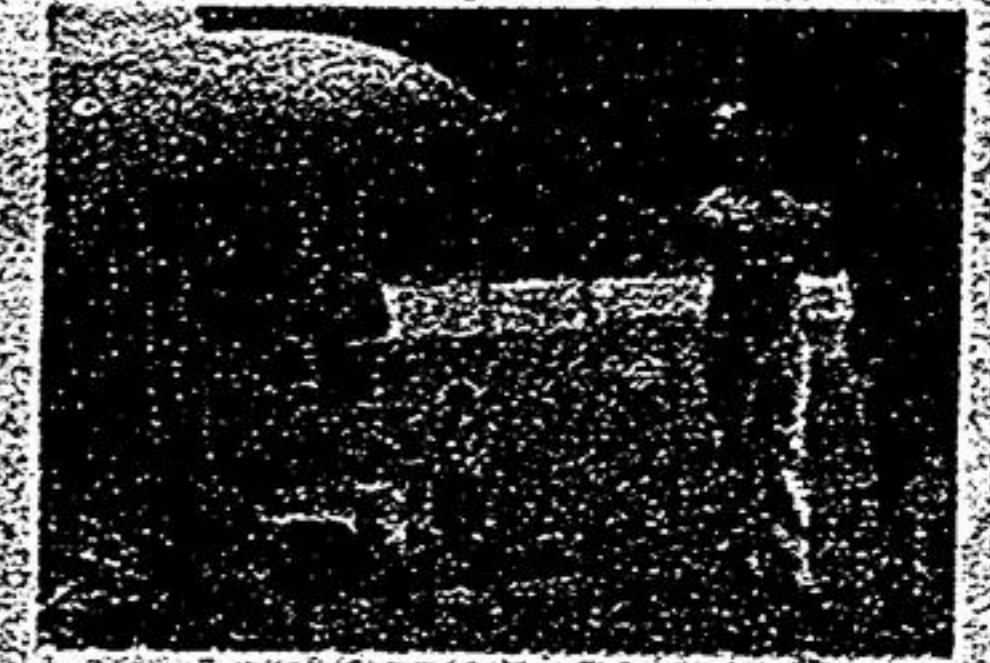


Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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3 Hats off to the 163rd Markham Fair. Events run through this weekend

Opinion 6
 Entertainment 9
 Sports 11
 Classified 14



Hannelore Volpe

Over-50 set big on election

Learning what local candidates are all about is apparently a job for the over-50 crowd, judging by the audience that ambled into Tuesday night's all-candidates' meeting.

Only a sprinkling of younger people was in the audience of around 130 listening to hopefuls running in Oak Ridges-Markham in the Oct. 10 provincial election.

Unlike municipal all-candidates' meetings of a year ago in Whitchurch-Stouffville, there was no shouting at candidates when they answered questions.

Instead, the audience listened attentively and showed its approval with polite, subdued applause.

Held at Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham, the meeting was sponsored by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, Markham Board of Trade and Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce.

Microphones were set up and name tags affixed to the candidates' table on the cafetorium stage by the crew from Most Excellent Productions for the four participating candidates: Phil Bannon of the Progressive Conservative Party, Janice Hagan of the New Democratic Party, Dr. Helena Jacek of the Liberal Party, and the Green Party's candidate, Atila Nagy.

There are also two other candidates, Pat Redmond of the Family Coalition Party and

See **TORIES**, page 2.

POURING IT ON



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT
 Ryan Dunlop of Summitview Public School takes part in the junior York Region Firefighters event in Markham Tuesday. Activities included a combat challenge, bucket filling, hose targets and extinguisher training. Ryan, who dropped the puck at Thursday's Stouffville Spirit game, was selected by Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services to represent the town. For additional photos, go to yorkregion.com and click on photo gallery.

Ontario VOTES

KEY ISSUES: Education in York Region

Funding 'doesn't add up'

But Klees argues faith schools funding working in B.C.

BY TERESA LATCHFORD
 Staff Writer

The math just doesn't add up when it comes to funding faith-based schools, according to one university professor.

Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory's plan to take \$400 million and put it toward funding faith-based schools means other services will have to be slashed or taxes will have to rise to meet the financial demands of such a scheme, York University political science professor James Laxer told The Sun-Tribune last week.

"John Tory is claiming he will do this without raising taxes or taking money from other major priorities in the budget," Mr. Laxer added.

"All I have to say is, good luck. This kind of cheerful math just doesn't work out."

The PC leader let loose a lion leading into the election campaign, proposing to invite faith-based schools into the publicly funded education system. His proposal quickly became the hot election topic.

"His strategy is to appeal to groups of people he can win over by appealing to different cultural groups," Mr. Laxer said.

"If this proposal should occur, there will be many faith-based schools cropping up across the region and the educational system will suffer tremendously," Thornhill Liberal candidate Mario Racco said.

If elected, the Conservatives would begin a process to implement the transition of 53,000

See **CONSULTATION**, page 13.

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