

## Tory candidate has own new baby to kiss

BY JIM MASON  
Staff Writer

Paul Calandra can be excused for taking time off the federal election campaign trail last weekend, even if he still was kissing babies.

Well, at least one.

The Conservative candidate for Oak Ridges-Markham and his wife Melanie were welcoming their second child into the world.

Olivia Joy Calandra was born at Markham Stouffville Hospital Saturday at 11:59 p.m., weighing five pounds, 12 ounces.

"Melanie and I would like to thank Dr. Arnold and the entire medical staff at Markham Stouffville Hospital," Mr. Calandra said in a statement. "The care and attention they have shown my family has been outstanding. Melanie and Olivia are now resting comfortably in their care."

Paul and his family were excited about returning to their Whitchurch-Stouffville home and introducing Olivia to her older sister, Natalie, campaign manager Matthew Ellis said.

"The birth of Olivia has only strengthened my resolve to fight for a better, safer, and stronger Canada," Mr. Calandra said.

"Families across the riding have told me they want safe streets where their children can play, strong economic leadership in these uncertain times, and action on the environment that will produce real results instead of just more talk. That is what I want for my daughters and it is what we all want for our children."

Oak Ridges-Markham includes Whitchurch-Stouffville and sections of Markham, Richmond Hill and King.

Election day is Oct. 14.

## Mayors in local riding differ on endorsements

From page 1.

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Phil Bannon.

Mr. Emmerson was defeated by Mr. Temelkovski for the Liberal nomination two elections ago, in 2004.

Mr. Scarpitti points out that as mayor, he is often in a unique position to see public players, such as Mr. Temelkovski, at work.

"I see a perspective. It is one perspective," he said. "It is not one (person or party) over another. It is support of Markham. I am happy to endorse anything that is good for Markham," he said.

Mr. Scarpitti has endorsed Markham politicians in the past including: Tony Roman, Jim Jones, Bill Fisch and David Tsubouchi.

After the election, he makes an effort to work with other levels of government, regardless of who he endorsed, he said.

Mr. Scarpitti pointed out that when he was mayor in 1992 to 1994, Ontario had an NDP government. While Mr. Scarpitti did not necessarily agree with everything that government did, he still worked amiably with them.

"I have never let political philosophy get in the way," he said.

People often vote based on a party and its leaders rather than a local candidate, although the local candidate can play a role in their decision, he said.

"I question how much people look at endorsements," Mr. Scarpitti said.

Richmond Hill Mayor David Barrow, on the other hand, says he stays neutral on these matters and prefers not to endorse candidates.

"I choose not to support any party or candidate because in the end, we have to work with whoever forms the government," he said.

Having municipal politicians endorse candidates at other levels of government is not a new phenomenon.

Former Markham mayor Don Cousens endorsed politicians at different levels throughout his tenure

and sees nothing wrong with the practice.

He was quoted in a previous John McCallum campaign brochure. Mr. McCallum is the Liberal incumbent for Markham-Unionville.

Mr. Cousens also supported Frank Klees during election time. Mr. Klees is the Conservative MPP for Newmarket-Aurora. Mr. Cousens said he has supported both Tories and Liberals over the years.

"I did it out of the conviction that they were the right person at the time," he said.

Mr. Cousens doubts this kind of endorsement makes a difference to voters anyway.

**'I don't think it becomes a problem. I and Frank (Scarpitti) and other (politicians) build bridges. It would not get in the way. Temelkovski is a big guy. So is Frank. They won't play stupid games.'**

Don Cousens  
former Markham mayor

"People are busy making up their own mind. The fact that local politicians have a view plays a small role. They respect (that) you have a view but respect their own view better," he said. "I think there is ambivalence to the whole thing. I don't think it affects people's thinking."

But what happens post-election, when the local politician has to interact with the provincial or federal politician he did or did not endorse?

"I don't think it becomes a problem. I and Frank (Scarpitti) and other (politicians) build bridges. It would not get in the way," Mr. Cousens said. "Temelkovski is a big guy. So is Frank. They won't play stupid games."

— with files from Jim Mason

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