

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## Tories make inroads in York Region ridings

Former stronghold no more for Liberals

BY PATRICK MANGION  
 Staff Writer

A second consecutive Conservative minority government gouged some serious holes in the Liberals' 905 fortress Tuesday, producing a stunning new political landscape in York Region.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's victory was the least surprising outcome of the night, however, three former Liberal seats, overtaken by Conservative candidates in York, underscored a miserable performance by the Grits in what was widely considered the party's stronghold.

The Tories finally made their long anticipated Ontario breakthrough, gaining 11 seats. Three of those seats were won in York Region, where Peter Kent, Lois Brown and Paul Calandra toppled Liberal incumbents.

When the dust settled from the 2006 election, York-Simcoe Conservative MP Peter Van Loan was outnumbered 6-1 by Liberal MPs in York Region. Today, it is 4-3 in favour of the Tories.

Liberals Tim Jones, in Newmarket-Aurora, and incumbents Susan Kadis, Thornhill and Lui Temelkovski, Oak Ridges—Markham, were defeated.

Bryon Wilfert, John McCallum and Maurizio Bevilacqua — stalwarts from former prime minister Jean Chretien's Liberal government — retained their

See BUSINESS, page 8.

NO CHAMPAGNE THIS TIME AROUND, AS STOUFFVILLE'S CALANDRA WINS OAK RIDGES-MARKHAM

## CONSERVATIVES CRASH LUI'S PARTY

BY AMANDA PERSICO  
 Staff Writer

Empty champagne glasses remained on the counter top at St. Dimitrija Solunski Macedonian Orthodox Church in Markham. Friends, family and campaign supporters waited for Liberal incumbent, Lui Temelkovski to arrive.

In one of Canada's largest ridings, with more than 135,000 voters, calculating the final numbers went on well into yesterday's early

morning hours.

"We're winning today," Mr. Temelkovski said as he arrived around midnight. "And we're counting tomorrow."

With 350 of 364 reporting three hours after the polls closed, the margin between Mr. Temelkovski and his Conservative contender, Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Paul Calandra, was less than 500 votes.

The champagne glasses remained empty.

Mr. Temelkovski, who won in 2004 and 2006 by more than 6,000 in both elections, thanked everyone in the basement of the church decorated with red and white balloons and Canadian flags.

"We have to make sure Oak Ridges—Markham has a good voice, because it's used to having a good voice in Ottawa," he said.

A hush came over the crowd as the riding name flashed across the screen and showed Mr. Calandra was ahead by 18 votes. The ticker

went across the TV set as people waited for the final numbers.

The final result was posted after 1 a.m., and, to the church crowd's surprise, Mr. Calandra won the seat with 42.1 per cent of the vote. Mr. Temelkovski was at 41.5 per cent, about 400 votes behind.

"This is such a surprise," said Bill Attwell, Mr. Temelkovski's campaign manager. "(Mr. Temelkovski) had more invites and such positive

See WIN-WIN, page 10.



STAFF PHOTO/AMANDA PERSICO

### CONGRATULATORY VISIT

Defeated Liberal incumbent Lui Temelkovski (right) congratulates newly-elected Oak Ridges-Markham Conservative MP Paul Calandra at the Calandra victory party at Boston Pizza in Stouffville early yesterday morning. The pair took turns in the lead throughout the evening before Mr. Calandra won by about 400 votes.

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