

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, ADVERTISING
& DISTRIBUTION
Nicole Fletcher

YORK REGION PRINTING
GENERAL MANAGER
Bob Dean

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safety first for rural mail service in Whitchurch-Stouffville

Re: Ex-postal worker keeps up fight for rural delivery, Oct 11.

This story did not provide your readers in Whitchurch-Stouffville with a fair report. Had Canada Post been contacted for comment, our position would have no doubt made for a more balanced story overall.

Your readers should know Canada Post is conducting a safety review of all 843,000 rural mailboxes across the country.

In accordance with a government directive, it is our goal to maintain delivery to as many of those rural mailboxes as possible.

Since 2005, Canada Post has received more than 2,000 health and safety complaints from its rural mail carriers. Canada Post is required by law to investigate these complaints.

HRSDC (the former Labour Canada) has handed down more than 40 rulings involving rural mail safety.

Over the past two years, there have been more than 90 traffic accidents involving rural mail carriers and, tragically, three have resulted in fatalities.

Canada Post has no intention of reducing service to our rural customers. When

HAVE YOUR SAY, STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of this issue?
E-mail jmason@yrmg.com

a change is required as a result of safety issues, we meet with each customer individually to discuss their options and receive their feedback.

In many cases, we are able to arrive at a solution that is amicable to everyone involved.

In a situation where customers are required or choose to be centralized into community mailboxes situated as close as possible to their homes, Canada Post will clear snow and ice during the winter months.

We look forward to continuing to serve our customers in all rural communities across the country.

For any questions or more information, customers are invited to call our dedicated customer service line at 1-866-501-1669 or visit Canada Post's website at www.canadapost.ca/ruralmail

SCOTT LEWIS
CANADA POST CORPORATION



Election signs were sign of things to come

You knew something was up, based on the lawn signs.

I have covered plenty of elections in the past and you don't want to put too much stock in these things — the colourful signage that adorns lawns and, sometimes, non-lawns in every election campaign.

You wonder if the candidate just has a lot of relatives.

Or else people are just exhibitionists when it comes to their political leanings.

You happen to be in a pocket of exhibitionist Conservatives.

It's kind of like wandering onto a nude beach. I mean, you just didn't realize they were going to let their political peccadilloes hang out there for all to see.

Soon you're driving around, trying to see if there are Liberal or NDP exhibitionists, or maybe Green ones, that just happen to live in other parts of Oak Ridges—Markham. (No offence but for some reason they sound like they might be more fun.)

But you couldn't seem to find any such pockets.

As an observer, you start to count the signs as you drive down the road.

You're gauging whether or not the sign is on an actual front lawn, or just over near the curb, planted there on public property by a party supporter.

A lawn sign on an actual lawn means a lot. It means votes, maybe a whole household full.

A sign on a curb, well, it means they have more signs than they are able to give away.

There seemed to be a lot of big blue signs on real front lawns.

I have always believed in the time-honoured tradition of the secret ballot. So even if I wasn't in the newspaper business, I would likely keep my party of preference to myself.

I'd always be afraid some election would come down to a cliff-hanger in one riding, and after the recount, my guy wins.

And then with everything that went wrong from then on in, well,



Bernie O'Neill

my neighbours, who don't share my views, could point at my place.

"See that guy over there? He had a (insert colour here) election sign on his lawn. He voted just before the polls closed at 9:29 p.m. It was his vote that put them over the top."

Then, when the economy goes south, they're leaving dead chickens on my lawn or calling the police for no reason and saying I was disturbing the peace. That's the kind of stuff you think about, after having seen one too many elections.

We were trying to get the election results to our website Tuesday night, and it was tricky.

It was such a close race in the one riding that neither of the front-runners surfaced until most of you had gone to bed.

I must say I always admire the graciousness of the person who finished second. In Markham—Unionville, Duncan Fletcher congratulated his opponent, John McCallum and a well-run campaign.

In Oak Ridges—Markham, Liberal Lui Temelkovski made the trek up Hwy. 48 to Stouffville at 1 a.m. to congratulate Paul Calandra, the Conservative who beat him by about 400 votes.

That is less than a percentage point of the total votes cast, but it is still enough to make it count and at this writing it does not appear there is any talk of a recount.

Recounts are only automatic if the spread is 0.1 per cent or less, in other words just a handful of votes, not a few hundred.

What will the results mean for the people in Stouffville, or Canada

in general?

It's probably too soon to say.

While I would never reveal how I voted, I will say I don't have much of a problem with a minority government.

The situation forces the party in power to moderate its positions and I think that's what the majority of Canadians are after — nothing too radical.

That's why the past two years, I would argue, have brought relatively good government. The Conservatives have pushed some items through and backed off on others and that's how it should be. To be able to pass legislation that is truly unpopular with the majority of people, just because you have the majority of seats, is a weakness of our system, at least some of the time.

In the meantime, some of these candidates may be renting some warehouse space or devoting part of a garage to storing their signs for the next time around.

Let's hope it doesn't come too soon.

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
Dianne Mahoney
dmahoney@yrmg.com

Classified Manager
Bonnie Rondeau
brondeau@yrmg.com

PRODUCTION
Team Leader
Sherry Day
sdayer@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

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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.