

# OPINION

*Stouffville*  
**Sun-Tribune**

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## Editorial

### Important decisions for Canadians

We often give our enemies the means of our own destruction. That line from the Aesop fable *The Eagle and the Arrow* pretty much sums up Prime Minister Stephen Harper's imminent political death. In the moral tale, an eagle was soaring through the air when suddenly it felt itself pierced by an arrow.

It fell to the Earth, bleeding from the wound. When it looked at the arrow that struck it, the eagle saw the arrow's shaft was feathered with one of its own plumes.

That plume came last week in the form of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's fiscal update, which was woefully short on measures to help boost Canadians and the economy and long on hard-right ideology.

That feather, so to speak, was the axing of roughly \$28 million in subsidies to the five major political parties. The move would, in essence, cripple the official Opposition.

The federal Liberals are still reeling from losing millions in subsidies and election rebates due to what was their poorest performance since Confederation in the last election, just seven short weeks ago.

The other parties, too, such as the New Democrats, depend to a greater degree on this public money than do the Conservatives, which has developed a solid fundraising base. But the fallout from this — and to be fair, it has been brewing for some time now — has been extraordinary and is without precedent.

Declaring the majority of Parliament has lost confidence in Mr. Harper and his government, the Liberals, led by outgoing leader Stéphane Dion, and the New Democrats, under Jack Layton, have forged a formal pact in the hopes of ousting the minority government and leading the country themselves. The separatist Bloc Québécois has guaranteed support for the coalition for at least a year and a half.

Will Governor General Michaëlle Jean hand the reins of power to the coalition?

Will Ms Jean dissolve Parliament and call a new election? It would be our fourth in five years. Or will Canada's head of state refuse to accept the prime minister's resignation; kind of a twist on the old line, 'You can't fire me, because I quit'.

The outcome of this is tremendously important to Canada's future. It is about creating stable and well-paying jobs in the global meltdown, investing in social programs and developing policies to address child poverty, for instance, which has shot up by a scandalous 44 per cent in York Region the past decade.

It seems Canadians would best be served in these uncertain times if the Governor General ordered Mr. Harper back to the drawing board to come up with a clear and positive economic plan that the country — and Opposition parties — can live with.



STOUFFVILLE'S SANTA CLAUS PARADE - SAT. - 2 P.M.



### Off The Top

with *Jim Mason*

### Our carriers deliver toys, good will during December

Everyone is "giving back" it would appear.

It's a catch phrase so many of use.

Pro athletes throw it about when they show up at an elementary school to read to the little guys or cheer up patients at a children's hospital.

They're always dressed in team gear and outnumbered by a crew shooting video and stills for future use by the squad.

Is the gesture linked to their unfathomable salaries or a sweet good-will gesture?

(I talked to Don Cherry and Ron MacLean about visiting a kid from Stouffville in a Toronto hospital 15 years ago. "No problem, Jim. We'll be there, but just in and out. No fuss," said Ron, who is as nice a dude as he appears in your family room during Hockey Night in Canada.)

I know some other people who are really giving back. No endorsement contracts, no money for autographs and no requests for fanfare.

They're the kids who deliver your copy of *The Sun-Tribune* to your doorstep every Thursday and Saturday.

Some of them are using some of the dollars they earn to buy Christmas presents for other children in our area who aren't as financially fortunate.

I know. The gifts are piling up on a table in my office in our Main Street location. They're a constant reminder that no matter how affluent our little corner of Ontario is, some of our neighbours are suffering. And, in late 2008, our economy is leaking worse than I've seen it in at least 25 years.

The drive is part of the Santa Fund employees of our York Region Media Group have run every Christmas since 2001.

Area families in need are given food, gifts and hope.

Like our carriers, you can help. Drop a new toy or a financial donation at our office, 6290 Main St. in downtown Stouffville.

Merry Christmas.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Stouffville shows it still cares

*Re: Gordie Ness' memory toasted at event, Nov. 11.*

Boston Pizza in Stouffville was packed on the evening of Nov. 18 as friends and family gathered to support the fundraiser for a bench in honour of Gordie Ness.

We thank the local merchants and individuals who donated raffle prizes to make our night such a huge success.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and allowed Gordie's night to be one to remember.

It's nice to know that even though Stouffville has grown so much over the past few years, that it hasn't lost its small town touch.

The smokers bench, better known as the "Butt Stop", has been placed outside the entrance way at Boston Pizza in his memory.

We couldn't have done it without you.

DEB HOUSE & TERRI NESS  
STOUFFVILLE

### Build business, industry, not homes in City of Stouffville, councillors

*Re: Knowledge firms key to our future: Less elbow power, more brain power, consultant tells Stouffville economic summit, Nov. 15.*

I believe Stouffville is a city. Whitchurch is the country.

So, if you are going to call Stouffville country close to the city, you are misleading.

Whitchurch-Stouffville needs to attract more

### HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of these issues or others?  
E-mail letters to the editor to [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

commercial and industrial business.

Enough of the residential subdivisions. They are causing more traffic congestion and damage to the environment.

Designate the Hwy. 404/Woodbine Avenue corridor and Stouffville Road, west of Hwy. 48 to Hwy. 404, as commercial and industrial.

Bring water and sewer to the area and you will have a tax base that will sustain the City of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

At the same time, the Region of York must provide transportation to all the regional roads.

People need public transportation. It is overdue.

You do not need 50 passenger buses on the roads. Use five to 10 passenger buses instead. They will be more economical and easier on the environment.

Do the infrastructure first, then the business will follow.

STEVE PLIAKES  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

### 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.

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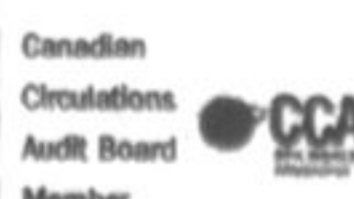
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