

**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,
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trying walking Ward 1 during this election

Re: Emmerson, Hargrave set to run, Jan. 7.

I read about the budgets candidates will be permitted for the Oct. 25 election.

Ward 1 encompasses 50 square kilometres. Ward 6, on the other hand, is approximately one square kilometre. The election budget for Ward 1 is \$7,286, while the Ward 6 budget is \$11,660.

Ward 1 is in the rural north-west corner of the town. Ward 6 is in urban Stouffville, in the southeast corner of the municipality.

According to Michele Kennedy, clerk for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"With a small place like Stouffville, you can walk around and meet people and they will actually open their door to you."

Once again, the town staff do not have a clue that there

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

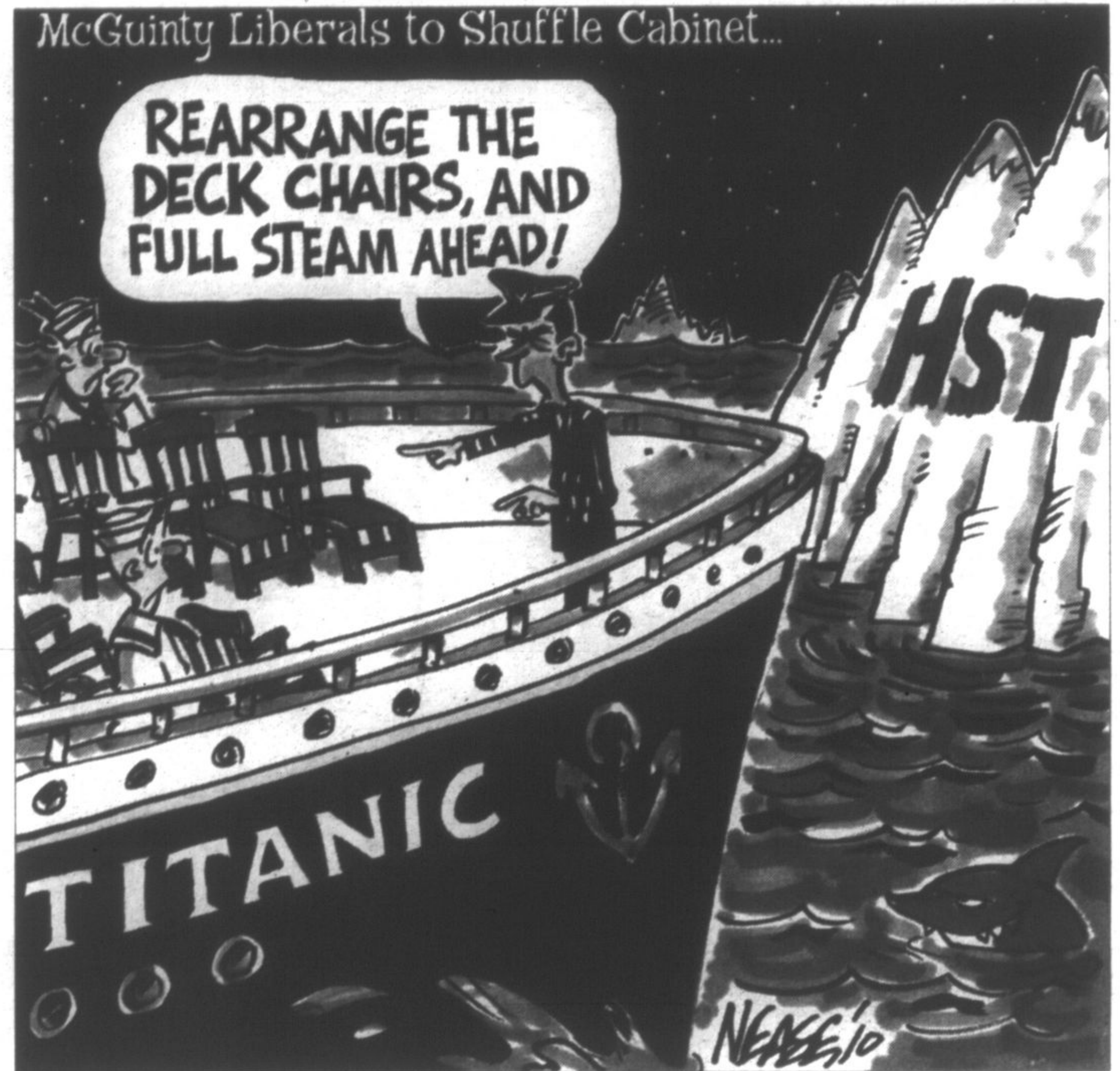
► What do you think of these issues or others? E-mail letters to the editor to jmason@yrmg.com

is actually a "Whitchurch" in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

I look forward to Ms Kennedy walking around Ward 1 come election time. The distance walked will be approximately 46 kilometres. The distance does not include the rural driveways, which generally average 150 feet in length.

I believe if Ms Kennedy starts now, she may very well cover the entire distance in time for election day.

FRANK J. VAN VEEN
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
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If only we could prorogue our own chores

I almost feel bad that I am not more upset about the federal Conservatives proroguing Parliament for a few months, until after the Olympics when they'll come back refreshed, with a new budget.

At least Parliament can't screw anything else up until March, is how you start to feel after seeing them in action for a few decades, no matter which party is in power.

If only the provincial government could prorogue itself, too, we'd be in business.

Now I do understand that people hold dear their democratic institutions, which is why so many have signed up on Facebook pages and are pledging to burn down the Parliament buildings (which might have less effect seeing as the MPs aren't there), burn their bras, or burn the latest Stephen Harper Beatles cover tunes CD, or whatever it is you burn these days to show your displeasure.

Maybe you don't burn anything, for fear of global warming. You just join hands with your fellow protesters outside in the cold and form the shape of a flame, which can be



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seen by the media's helicopter flying overhead. "Protestors join hands in symbolic human bonfire," the headline reads.

But I still think it's a matter of sour grapes, as in the average Joe or Joanne would love to give themselves a few months off (I know, I know, the MPs are not on vacation, they are "consulting with their constituents in their ridings") or get out of some of their daily responsibilities, at least for a while.

You can just imagine the typical York Region family.
"Mom! Dad! What's for supper?"

"You'll have to make your own supper tonight, Jake. Your mother and I have prorogued the making of dinner."

Jake is stunned. He's heard something about the prorogued Parliament at high school, but was too busy texting his buddies about some new video game to pay attention.

"You've prorogued dinner?"
"Yes, you'll have to make your own dinner tonight."

"But Pop, it's Perogies Night!"
"We've prorogued Perogies Night. And Pizza Night, Pasta Night and Pork Chop Night."

Jake's knees go weak.
"Yes, they're all prorogued. You can walk down to the grocery store and buy your own perogies if you want."

Walk to the grocery store?
Jake doesn't walk anywhere.
"Yes, we've prorogued the family limousine service. You can walk."

Jake ponders the prospect of walking 10 minutes to the grocery store to buy his own food. With his own money. He decides to eat cereal (no more Porridge Night) and stock up on groceries tomorrow.

"Can you give me a ride on your way to work?" he asks.

Dad doesn't flinch. "Work? I'm not going to work. I've called my boss and told him I won't be in until March."

Jake realizes Dad's job is what keeps Jake in new shoes of his ever-expanding shoe size and pays his cellphone bill.

"And what did they say?" Jake asks, hesitatingly.

"They said so long as I'm watching the Olympics, working on a family budget for next year and meeting with constituents, then everything should be OK."

"They said maybe if I wasn't around for a few months, things wouldn't get so screwed up."

Relieved, Jake settles in front of the TV to watch the Olympics with Dad. "Can it still be Popcorn Night?" Jake asks. "Or have you prorogued that, too?"

"Yes, we can have popcorn," Dad concedes.

As they turn on the TV, Jake asks, "Dad, what's a constituent?"

"I don't really know, son, but if I actually meet one in the next two months, I'll put out a press release."

Stouffville resident Bernie O'Neill is a York Region Media Group editor.