

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## OCT. 6 ELECTION

# Pharmacist wants to be next MPP

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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For years, Farid Wassef has been advocating for a better public health care system.

When the provincial government introduced its e-health plan and local integrated network initiatives, the 46-year-old community pharmacist for Stouffville IDA Pharmacy was all for them.

But as the years went by and the programs, in particular e-health, weren't being rolled out as planned, Mr. Wassef started to question the Ontario government.

And last summer, the rift increased, as Mr. Wassef became a vocal opponent of the provincial government's drug reform policy, which eliminated professional allowances and lowered the cost of generic drugs by 50 per cent.

Now, he's taken things one step further. Mr. Wassef is seeking the nomination of the Ontario PC Party for the Oak Ridges-Markham riding.

Provincial election day in Ontario is Oct. 6. Mr. Wassef expects a nomination meeting will be held in March.

"The one thing that's led me

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## DOUBLE DUTY



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

Conner Haines, 10 months, loves to sit in the snow shovel as his dad Andrew clears the driveway of his Stouffville home yesterday. More flurries are in today's forecast.

## COPTIC CHRISTMAS

# SECURITY RAISED AT CHURCH

MP offers support to Main St. congregation in wake of attack

BY SANDRA BOLAN, JOE FANTAUZZI & JIM MASON  
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St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church in Stouffville took the unusual move of hiring private security for this week's Christmas celebration service in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in Egypt last week.

Many members of the congregation are scared, said Evon Gindi. She is the wife of Father Tadros Tadros at St. Bishoy.

"But they won't be away from the church. They know prayers will make a lot of miracles," she said.

Only the inclement weather stopped some members from attending service Thursday night. Events went off without a hitch.

Father Tadros has been in Canada for more than 20 years and this is the first time he has felt threatened, he said.

All other Christmas celebrations have been cancelled at St. Bishoy, including those for the Sunday school students "because we're sorry for what has happened".

Regular liturgies will take place.

Oak Ridges-Markham MP Paul Calandra spoke to the congregation at Thursday's service.

"I know that the past few days have been very difficult for the Coptic people and I want to

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