

Sun-Tribune

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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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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hargrave forgot election?

Re: New pool for Memorial Park, Feb. 24.

There would be few in town who have better memories of the outdoor pool than me. I spent my youth learning to swim in the mornings and swimming with friends most afternoons, eventually working four summers as a lifeguard, swim instructor and manager at the pool.

This at a time when there were very few private back yard pools and numbers of swimmers averaged in the hundreds each day.

However, to repair a facility that is more than 50 years old at a cost of approximately \$1 million would have been irresponsible. This is especially so when a new pool built adjacent to the indoor pool and able to access some of the existing change rooms could probably be constructed for considerably less cost and with substantially less long-term maintenance

expense.

Yes, an outdoor pool provides an enjoyable venue for several weeks of the year and may well be a facility that the taxpayers desire. Of those in the small band of locals determined to blindly overspend our tax dollars on a tired and out-of-date facility, how many can actually say they have used the outdoor pool on a regular basis?

Council was wise to review plans for the water feature in the park and include a new pool, but to throw tax dollars at a facility that is beyond repair would have been foolish.

Councillor Rob Hargrave might better spend his time doing a little research and responsibly managing our tax dollars rather than grandstanding. The election was only a few months ago and I believe his campaign stressed controlled spending. Has he forgotten already?

WAYNE FEASBY
STOUFFVILLE



Personality, or lack thereof, may hold key to power

Will the rising cost of power be enough to zap Dalton McGuinty's chances of leading the Liberals to an electrifying re-election this fall?

We'll have to wait eight months for the answer to that politically charged question, but odds are some other issue will amp up and the hopefuls would be guessing if they told you now what that issue will be.

Elections are funny exercises in storm forecasting: you never quite know what will cloud the skies or where a lightning bolt will strike and knock out the power to an otherwise promising campaign.

The Big Issue now never seems that important by the time the election rolls around, maybe because we've been given so many jolts with the same message that our brains get fried, so we look for some other valid reason to vote or not vote.

Such as the leaders' hairstyles or what they look like in a hat.

Important stuff like that that will really matter in our lives, that their handlers are no doubt preoccupied with and assembling focus groups to probe at this very moment.

(Does Dalton look better with his hair a) parted in the middle? b) in a



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playoff mohawk? or c) in a mullet— as in "business in the front, party at the back"?)

(Does the fact Tim Hudak's name could be abbreviated to Tim H. mean people would a) like to roll up the rim to win with him? b) rather do their voting in a drive-thru? or c) pledge eternal loyalty in exchange for a \$10 gift card?)

(How many people in this province a) know the name of the leader of the NDP? b) can pronounce it properly? or c) are going to confuse it with the last name of the leader of the Conservative party?)

It would be hard for the Liberals to differentiate themselves from the Conservatives and their leader because, frankly, not many people seem to have

heard of the Conservative leader or NDP leader, Andrea Horwath (pronounced Horvath) for that matter.

Remember John Tory and Howard Hampton? They're long gone at this point, replaced by Hudak and Horwath in leadership conventions to which few if any of us paid any attention.

Obviously, as the election nears, we'll hear more about both party leaders.

Indeed, your own disinterested kids might even learn something about the people who aspire to run this province, instead of the latest news on pop idol Justin Bieber or some rapper, past or present, whose exploits they can tell you about in detail.

It's pretty clear the Conservatives led by Tim Who-dat? (his rapper name) would like to make the high cost of electricity the No. 1 issue.

In a province once known for low-cost hydro, as well as nuclear output that was a boon to the job-boosting manufacturing sector, they are probably on to something.

As winter drags on and bills mount, I'm sure some of us are thinking, hey, I can just stop buying food — I could stand to lose a couple of pounds. (History will recall how you stop eating and grow weak, but in a state of hallucination pen the modern children's classic, Chilly, Shaky, and Shivery: the Three

Little Rappers Who Forgot to Pay the Heating Bill.

It's kind of like the Three Little Pigs, only the Wolf is from PowerStream's collection agency.)

That being said, I just can't see this high-voltage issue holding its charge as we grow used to the higher costs.

I think it's all going to come down to what we think of the leaders personally, which is what it always comes down to, even if we say it's issues or platform, don't you think?

Especially when we have two new leaders on the scene and a premier who says this will be his last election.

Read-up on Mr. Hudak and you'll hear him described as competent but dull (words once used to describe McGuinty, although some now just use the word dull). Horwath, you might see described by fans as unguarded and spontaneous (if that's what you're looking for in a premier).

It's our own little Grammy Awards-style political popularity contest. Kind of like your kids' favourite musical artists, I'm sure by Oct. 6 you'll know more about these political leaders than you had ever hoped to.

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