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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hargrave for mayor?

As I read all the hoopla about Stouffville's outdoor pool, it amazes me how easily some people will dismiss such an incredible gift. Excuses of costs, seasonal use and accessibility are exactly that — excuses.

Indoor pools are great for lessons and other classes but for summer fun, keep us outside, please.

If you took a good look at all the money being thrown around for other supposed necessities in Stouffville, you would see last fall's election obviously did not focus on or make evident issues that are important to the people.

Petitioning should not be needed. Why doesn't the town send out surveys on all topics? Why not webcast meetings and allow a few days for feedback?

It is a shame the mayoral debate did not explore truths of Stouffville's needs. Rather than wasting money on signs, flyers and gimmicks, why not have a

fund for all-candidate debates?

Why is it that only after election day the topics seem to be revealed? Existing council members knew.

It is a shame after all these years there is even talk of losing our slogan, Country Close to the City. Stouffville had the best of both worlds — bye-bye country.

People are freaking out about the Pickering Airport, which has been in the works for 30 years, yet say nothing as this town becomes a concrete city. Council allowed farmland to be eaten up by the builders. New slogan: Stouffville the Un-sighty.

I do not agree with many things that have taken place but I am a nobody. I ran for mayor in 2010 to educate, communicate and listen to the voice of reason. Thank you Councillor Rob Hargrave for being the man you are. Maybe you should run for mayor.

CHRISTINE VLACHOS
MUSSELMAN'S LAKE



Love for elections seems to melt with time

There are a lot of things I don't love as much as I used to, like for instance as I look out the office window right now, snow.

Better yet, snow in the first week of spring. Lots of snow, coming in through a hole I've recently discovered in my shoe during my daring mid-afternoon coffee run.

My right sock is wet as I write this, the victim of a blanket of snow that would have looked dynamite two days before Christmas but on March 23, not so much.

I once simply loved snow — there was no other word to describe it. I wanted to walk to school with snow and show her my hockey card collection and build snowmen with her and ride on the bus to high school with her and introduce snow to my parents and marry snow and have children with snow and grow old with snow.

We'd call our kids Slush, Sleet and Crystal and have a dog named Flurry, a St. Bernard who could save us if we ever got trapped in the snow.

Although as I said, there was a time when I wouldn't mind that one bit and could play in the snow in my snowsuit (what a great type of suit — much bet-



Bernie O'Neill

ter than a business suit) all day.

Now I understand why people go to Florida, even those of limited means who live in a trailer for six months until the snow melts back home. For after a while, the love for snow grows cold.

Or there was tax time (tax time? is this guy nuts?) because there was a day when I used to get a refund — even a big refund — so I just liked to sit down and fill the thing out by hand — I could just feel the money rising off the pages like two warm arms reaching up to me.

Now I just get upset by how much I pay and how all these so-called incen-

tives add up to sweet nothing — of course, this does not become clear until I've spent hours vainly making the calculations.

Sometimes I would roll up the T1 General long form, spot that first fly of spring buzzing around the kitchen window like he was some government spy and swat him good and hard, once he landed and did that funny rubbing thing like he was de-icing his wings, the poor fly (who was no doubt thinking, 'Hey, I'm a house fly! A house is my natural habitat!').

But this week there's too much snow and it's too cold for the flies to come out. Lucky them.

Besides, sometimes that black speck on the wall wasn't a fly at all, it was just a speck near the fly, which I sometimes felt better about in the end — the fly was gone and I wouldn't chase him (let fly-gones be fly-gones).

And then, of course, there are elections — specifically federal elections — which believe it or not I once enjoyed observing and voting in back in a previous life, when government seemed somehow different.

What has changed, I'm not really sure. I agree with those who say there is a bit of a charisma deficit when it comes to Stephen Harper, Michael Ignatieff or

Jack Layton — it's been the case for quite a while now — but I don't really have anything against these three leaders.

I also agree with those who say that governments of all stripes are often so far in debt and have so many things on the go as it is that must be funded, there is very little room to manoeuvre for whichever party is elected.

A little cut here, a little addition there — not much changes, whether the party colours are blue, red or orange.

Another part of me also thinks that, with all the troubles in all the other parts of the world, perhaps we feel like we have it pretty good in Canada, and don't worry too much about the government we have or don't have.

Many people seemed to feel quite comfortable with a minority government these past many years — in that we had a government, but it didn't have the power to do anything too radical.

One wonders if this spring this minority situation will, like all this snow, finally come to an end.

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