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York Region Media  
Group community  
newspapers

The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 100 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Media Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Newmarket Era, Aurora Banner, Vaughan Citizen, Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Georgina Advocate, Bradford West Gwillimbury Topic, Beingswell and yorkregion.com.

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Ontario Press Council  
FUSAC  
Canadian Circulation Audit Board Member

# OPINION

**Stouffville  
Sun-Tribune**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Closed-bin system would clean up town

I wanted to express my frustration with the waste collection system in Stouffville.

I have lived here for three years. Almost every single week, the bins get blown all over the neighborhood and trash is everywhere.

I have addressed the town about this, but I think they pretty much ignored the issue.

Maybe it is isolated to a couple of the newer neighborhoods, but something should be done about it.

Toronto has set a great example by switching to the closed-bin system. Stouffville would be 100 times cleaner and more beautiful if we did the same.

Thanks for taking the time to read my message of frustration.

CHRISTINE WHALEN  
STOUFFVILLE

### Judo athletes welcome move to new facility

Re: Vandorf closing door on 90-year-old centre, April 16.

We were thrilled to read of Dave Cash, CAO for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, saying all the current users of the Vandorf Community Hall will be able to use the new community hall in the municipal museum across Woodbine Avenue and no one will be excluded.

As judo athletes and members of the Sheffield Judo Club, we are glad we will be able to continue to train in our home community.

Thank you for taking the worry off of us.

CEILIDH, COLLEEN  
& PAT WELCH  
STOUFFVILLE

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## Majority doesn't make governing a breeze

I'm going to miss the old minority Parliaments, I must confess. I've been accused of liking my coffee and my dinner more or less lukewarm. And that's how I feel about politics and politicians.

The less they are all pumped up about imposing their ideas on us rather than gauging the mood of the country, listening to the voice of the people, getting the pulse of the nation, trying to do the greatest good for the greatest number and all those other great things that great leaders do, the happier I am about the whole thing.

Canadian leaders have sometimes thought a majority government gave them licence to shove a bunch of unpopular legislation down our throats, so the minority situation suited me just fine.

A lot less yelling and screaming that way, too.

While Prime Minister Harper insists there is no "hidden agenda" and no plan to change course from the relatively moderate approach he has taken, and perhaps has been forced to take, these past few years, I wonder if he'll be able to keep the lid on things until 2015.



Bernie O'Neill

Not all the Conservative MPs are as moderate as he is or at least projects himself to be. And now that they've won big time and their seats are guaranteed these next four years, I'm sure the more outspoken of them are not just going to sit back and say nothing.

I'd say, look for a little less unity from the Conservatives as the years roll on and the more right-wing members of the party flex their majority muscle.

I don't really see that from the Tory MPs in York Region, but I think there is a different view of the world in the West that we're going to hear more about — that's where this party's power lies.

It will be great if York Region MPs are part of cabinet — the inner circle — but there are a lot of Tory MPs and only so many jobs to go around.

As for the NDP, it is quite the victory — taking home the silver for second place. But for that party, too, I think it will not be a bed of roses.

I have lived in Quebec and I must say some of the promises made to people there by the NDP about reopening the constitutional debate, or providing the "winning conditions" to secure a better spot for them in the Canadian family (the term "winning conditions" was normally used to refer to not holding another referendum unless you thought you had a realistic chance of winning) is like playing with dynamite.

Now they elected a whole slate of Quebec MPs who will have to handle this hot potato on a daily basis.

People didn't just give up on separatism, sovereignty or special status overnight. They've just shifted those hopes to the NDP and a string of some experienced but many other rookie MPs.

I personally can't wait to hear what they have to say.

My guess is this will be a tough group to manage and I doubt Jack Layton will be able to keep them on the same page, let alone in the same party.

(I realize I am predicting their demise just days after their historic win, but that's how I see it, anyway, as a person who has lived there.)

And the Green Party? If I were an aspiring young politician, that's the party I would set my sights on running for four years from now.

Environmental concerns are part of everyday life and part of every party's platform. The fact Elizabeth May was able to translate this hope near and dear to so many into a seat without us having to change our electoral system to proportional representation to do it, shows anything is possible and she could well be joined by more Green MPs next time.

And the poor old and, at least in this election, hapless Liberals?

I'm sure they'll survive, what with their provincial counterparts so firmly entrenched and their long history.

Considering how things may unfold, they might be happy to be watching from the sidelines, renewing themselves with a new leader.

But if they don't get it together for next time, they'll probably have used up their last second chance.

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