

Sun-Tribune

905-640-2612
Fax: 905-640-8778

EDITORIAL

ADVERTISING

905-640-2612
Classified: 1-800-743-3353
Fax: 905-640-8778

DISTRIBUTION
905-640-2612

EDITORIAL
Editor

Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager
Stephen Mathieu
smathieu@yrmg.com

Marketing Manager

Mike Banville
mbanville@yrmg.com

DISTRIBUTION

Circulation Manager
Carrie MacFarlane
cmacfarlane@yrmg.com

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.

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,
The Sun-Tribune
6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON
L4A 1G7

jmason@yrmg.com

Ontario
Press
Council

Canadian
Circulation
Audit Board
Member

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON L4A 1G7
www.yorkregion.com

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debora Kelly

BUSINESS
MANAGER
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR,
PRODUCTION
Jackie Smart

DIRECTOR,
OPERATIONS
Barry Black

DIRECTOR,
ADVERTISING,
DISTRIBUTION
Nicole Fletcher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election event too Christian, intrusive

Re: Candidates talk poverty, crime, April 30.

I attended what I thought was an all-candidates meeting April 28 at the Parkview Village auditorium, advertised as an opportunity for the public to meet the candidates, to hear their platforms and discuss issues.

I was not aware this meeting was by invitation and required previous sign-up and tickets.

As my husband and I entered the venue, we were welcomed by a nice young man who thanked us for coming and requested our names.

When I refused to give my name and/or proof of my identity I was harassed and repeatedly asked why I would not give my name.

This country does not yet have a policy of identification papers required on demand and I was of the opinion this

was a public forum for the voters of this riding.

The Stouffville meeting in fact was not a public forum. It was hosted by the Stouffville Ministerial Association. It was dedicated to Christian principles and was run more as a revival meeting, commencing with a Christian prayer, thereby excluding other religions and atheists from being welcome at this meeting.

I personally found this extremely offensive.

All of the questions that were to be put to the candidates were prefaced with issues relative to the community churches and not to the public as a whole.

I also noticed that no questions were to be allowed without previous vetting by the "hosts".

JOANNE E. BREITHAUPT
GORMLEY

You can read letters, columns and stories from The Sun-Tribune on yorkregion.com



Longer census survey not too tough

I pride myself in being a good Canadian and, in fact, some family members tease me and call me a "royal Canadian".

So I guess it's fitting Statistics Canada's Big Brother census computer would determine I should fill out the longer version of the 2011 census.

It's affectionately — or politically — called the National Housing Survey, not to be confused with the former name of the long-form census abolished by the Harper government to much gnashing of teeth by national organizations and precipitating the resignation of the head of Statistics Canada.

But that's old news and we live in the age of a Tory Majority.

So, I'll continue to be a good Canadian and do my best to give my information to keep federal transfer funds coming to my province for my hospital, to fix my roads and plan for enough housing for my children and my husband and myself when we're old and grey ... right, we are already ... oh well.

It's also possible that because I



Marney Beck

have completed the long-form census under previous governments, the computers in Ottawa knew I'd be a willing "victim".

After completing the easy 10 questions online last weekend and just when I was thinking this was really easy after all, suddenly my computer screen pulled up another section and told me I was "elected" or "selected" (can't recall the actual term) to fill out the much longer questionnaire.

Frequent buttons to click inviting me to "save and complete later" were my first hint this section would be far

longer and more complex than the first easy section.

Luckily, I'd made a cup of tea and was prepared to take the time to do my civic duty.

There were several sections where I, as the survey respondent, was told, or strongly invited, to consult with other family members and invite their opinions.

When I asked my husband — officially in the "senior citizen" age bracket — if he would allow the results of this confidential survey to be released in 92 years, it provoked some sort of snort combined with laughter as he agreed that, yes, in the year 2103, he wouldn't mind if the world knew how many bedrooms our home had or his religion.

I again consulted him when it came to education, as he had completed some years of university south of the border, so we had to figure out how to explain that in the post-secondary education status section.

Ottawa wanted to know exactly how many hours of work I, my husband and son, 19, did last week.

We had to dig up electrical and gas bills or estimate those for the past year, as well as water and sewer bills — pret-

ty depressing statistics when you add them up for an entire year.

The online survey even urged me to be sure I had included all family members, and offered that if I were "neglecting to count someone in this home" to explain who that might be and why, probably because it knew that there was a daughter previously counted in the census.

So again, I figured out how to use the blanks and suggestions provided to tell the survey technicians my daughter no longer lived at home: "student — other" is the category I believe I clicked (didn't think Ottawa would want to know she's now living with her boyfriend — wonder if his mom added my daughter as an "extra family member"?)

It did take about a half hour or 40 minutes to complete. A handy online completion target showed me that I was 50 per cent finished, then 62 per cent and so on until I achieved 100 per cent and it posted a thank you.

Apparently, 4.5 million good Canadians will be asked to do the longer survey, so get ready: it could be you.

Marney Beck is a York Region Media Group editor