

Sun-Tribune

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EDITORIAL

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York Region Media
Group community
newspapers

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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.

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OPINION

Editorial

Promises, promises from all sides

For some, the lead-up to a provincial election is better than the weeks before Christmas.

As a child, Christmas came with the "Santa's watching you" threat to ensure obedience.

As a voter at election time, there are no threats, only promises to ensure support.

Let the season of giving begin.

Actually, it has already started.

Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals celebrated two years of public employee wage freezes (unless you work for eHealth) by opening the vault.

Check out the 13.5-per-cent wage increase over four years the OPP got. This came on the heels of a 3-per-cent hike for OPSEU members.

Both are obvious attempts to buy support for the October election.

The Liberals are also pushing through a plan to loosen liquor laws by the summer, citing overwhelming public support.

This is plan announced by Attorney General Chris Bentley, who should be more concerned about the state of our crumbling courthouses.

While the opposition points to this as a lame attempt to divert attention from the Liberals' shortcoming over the past term, opponents also believe votes can be bought with inane vows.

It wasn't long ago Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak mused about the days when he could buy a beer in Ontario for \$1 a bottle.

Neither party gives voters much credit when election fodder is the price of beer and expanding where you can drink alcohol. To think these are among Ontario's most pressing issues is laughable. There are issues that extend beyond the party-crowd vote, though.

The PCs are also promising an extra \$6.1 billion in health care funding.

Is there a better way to attract votes? Everybody wants better health care.

And the NDP came out early pledging to eliminate the HST from electricity and home heating bills. Even Mr. Hudak agrees with that, adding the pledge to his party's platform.

But those kinds of investment won't come without a cost and, so far, specifics are lacking. When it comes to the health care spending, Mr. Hudak is simply saying he will move away from funding waste and administration.

Can it really be that easy? There's only one way to find out — vote them in.

Unfortunately, plans are often altered or cancelled outright under a mandate and there's nothing voters can do until the next round of vote bidding begins.

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT BUYING PLASTIC BAGS FOR THE GREEN BINS... I'VE USED THE TRIBUNE TO WRAP COMPOST FOR YEARS!



Letters to the Editor

Let's improve health care for all to experience

Re: Health care an ailing cow, not a sacred one, column by Debora Kelly, May 21.

Editor in chief Kelly describes a "failing system", a "chronically ill system" and goes on to quote a Ms Carmichael who has decided, "We can't wait any longer, people are dying".

Astonishingly, she also quotes billionaire Frank Stronach, who apparently has decided that our health care system doesn't function any more and says we need a two-tier system.

Ms Kelly then refers to the unhappy experience of two friends and rightly so. I readily admit our system is not perfect.

Happily, that's not the full picture. I recently received excellent care at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket, an ECG within half an hour of arriving, heart attack diagnosed within an hour, angiogram and stent installed and back in recovery by noon.

My brother, who needed an MRI, got it within two weeks, referral to a specialist in one month, spinal surgery in two and four months in rehab.

Neither of us have had to sell our homes or declare bankruptcy.

Yes the United States has good care for some, but what of the millions who have no coverage?

I'm thankful every day for the health care we have in Canada. I question the right or ability of the Fraser Institute, members of the Canadian Club, Mr. Stronach and even Ms Kelly to tell the average Canadian what kind of health care we need.

Let's do all we can to make it better for everybody and not just for those who are able to pay.

BLAKE TUFFORD
STOUFFVILLE

Earth worth recycling for

Re: No more green-binning, thanks to leaky bags, letter to the editor by Michelle Johnston, May 19.

Ms Johnston says her household will not use the green bin until a quality bag is made available.

I don't normally advocate one product over another but since recycling is so important, I'd like to respond; Glad Easy-Tie Recycling Green Bags ("with Odour-Suppressing Gladgard") work beautifully.

I know because I forgot to take my under-the-sink greens out last week and when I did (after 1.5 weeks), the contents were brown and liquefied. Yuck, but the bag held up beautifully with no leaks or spills.

Please recycle. Mama Earth thanks you.

SARAH PORTER
STOUFFVILLE

Another bag nominated

Re: No more green-binning, thanks to leaky bags, letter to the editor by Michelle Johnston, May 19.

Having read of Ms Johnston's disappointment with leaky thin green bin bags, I'll offer this.

We've actually had great success for many years now using a much thicker green bin bag called Bag To Nature (www.bagtonature.ca), which is 100 per cent compostable/biodegradable.

Their motto is "Strong when YOU need it! Gone when WE don't!"

I'm quite sure she would change her mind and start green-binning again if she tried these. We bought these bags from Costco at a reasonable price.

SANDRA WON
STOUFFVILLE

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Off The Top

with Jim Mason

Old-school reunion stands out in crowd

Just twiddling my thumbs in the lobby of the Toronto Eaton Centre, checking my watch and awaiting the arrival of my fellow tourists from Stouffville when it all went down.

You know that feeling when someone is watching you? Two burly gents stared sternly in my direction then started toward me.

Security guards? Cops? Politicians I wrote mean things about?

Should I be texting a lawyer? Since I hadn't gone all Lindsay Lohan in a mall jewelry store and there were no outstanding warrants I knew of with my name on them, my worry level was on low boil.

"Jim Mason?" the bigger of the pair said, not even cracking a grin.

Swallowing hard, I fessed up. "Thought it was you," he said. "We played peewee football together. Remember?"

That was 40 years ago and 1,400 kilometres away, but I did recall the guys now in front of me. They were, and remain, brothers, the stars of the team, the Dynamiters, coached by their Vince Lombardi of a dad.

I remember celebrating a city championship with that squad and feeling pretty good about myself, in spite of having very little to do with that title.

We crammed four decades of family and career-building into five minutes of chit-chat.

More importantly, here was an old-fashioned, face-to-face reunion taking place without the aid of Facebook or classmates.com. No 140-word Twitter limit. A couple of solid handshakes, warm smiles and faded memories of back in the day.

I was feeling pretty darn good about myself all over again.

I couldn't have picked my former football buddies out of a police line-up, but, somehow, I was still recognizable, standing in a crowd on one of the busiest spots in the nation. Go figure.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.