

# Stouffville man dies trying to save friend

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
sbolan@yrmg.com

Mark Van Sickle died trying to save a friend.

The 40-year-old Stouffville resident drowned Friday morning when he and two friends were fishing in the St. Lawrence River off Howe Island, near Kingston.

When one of the men fell out of the boat, his two companions jumped in to rescue him.

Also dead is Jeffrey Johnston, 35, of Oshawa.

Alcohol or weather were not factors in the incident, police said.

... he and two friends were fishing in the St. Lawrence River off Howe Island, near Kingston.

"They were at a moderate speed in moderate waves," OPP Const. Sandra Barr said, adding life-jackets were on board but the men were not wearing them.

Post-mortems performed Saturday confirmed the men drowned.

Mr. Van Sickle is survived by his wife, Anne Jones, daughter Alyssa Van Sickle of Markham, his parents and siblings.

He grew up in Chesley, near Owen Sound, where his parents live.

Visitations were held in nearby Hanover Tuesday.

The funeral was scheduled for yesterday at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hanover.

— with files from Torstar News Service



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Ontario PC leader Tim Hudak, with local candidate Farid Wassef in tow, visited the Lameiro family on Manley Avenue in Stouffville promising tax cuts. From left are Monica Lameiro with daughter Madilyn, 2, Mr. Wassef, Mr. Hudak and Mike Lameiro with son Marcus.

# Hudak cooking up tax relief

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sbolan@yrmg.com

Monica Lameiro is a technical writer turned stay-at-home mom because day care for her three children under the age of three is too expensive.

Laundry in their house is an all-day event and her husband Mike, a Bell Canada technician, wants to know "why is it so expensive to warm up my lunch?"

The Lameiros, who live on Manley Avenue in the Tenth Line and Hoover Park Drive area, played host to Ontario PC leader Tim Hudak Tuesday morning. (See video at [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com))

"The Lameiros, like every family in Ontario, struggle to make ends meet," Mr. Hudak said after a meeting in the family kitchen.

The party leader was joined by Oak Ridges-Markham PC candidate Farid Wassef, who lives just six doors away from the Lameiros.

"Life is becoming increasingly unaffordable for hard working families here in Stouffville,"

Mr. Hudak said. "Dalton McGuinty is not done. There's to be no doubt that if the taxman is given another term, he will increase your taxes once again."

If elected, Mr. Hudak promises to remove the HST from home heating and hydro bills as well as the debt retirement charge, which he said will save the typical Stouffville family \$275 a year.

"I suspect for Mike and Monica, it might be even more because they've got three busy kids in the home," Mr. Hudak said.

Mr. Hudak is also promising to cut income tax rates by 5 per cent on incomes of \$75,000 or less. He will also introduce income sharing, which equates to anywhere from \$400 to \$1,400 year in savings, he said.

"I think Tim needs to be quizzed about his math," said Helena Jaczek, the incumbent Liberal candidate for Oak Ridges-Markham. "We feel he's got a \$14-billion hole he's not accounted for."

No one likes to pay taxes but "people need to balance out what they get for it," Ms Jaczek said.

The provincial election is less than 100 days away - Oct. 6.

## Teacher on NDP ticket

An elementary school teacher will carry the NDP flag in Oak Ridges-Markham for the Oct. 6 provincial election.

Joe Whitfield, 31, a former Stouffville resident, wants to focus on rebuilding the middle class.

More than 50 people filled a room at the Markham Village Library June 22 for the nomination meeting.

Sameer Thaver, a prominent TV broadcaster in the South Asian community, was also seeking the nomination.

"I envision a responsible NDP government," he said at the meeting. "I see a province that has chosen renewable energy sources over nuclear energy. I see an Ontario which has answered the dilemma we face today in which two out of three Ontarians do not have a pension plan."

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