

Sun-Tribune

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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, Beesley 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.

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Printed by FUSA

Canadian
Circulation
Audit Board
Member
CCAB

OPINION

**Stouffville
Sun-Tribune**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

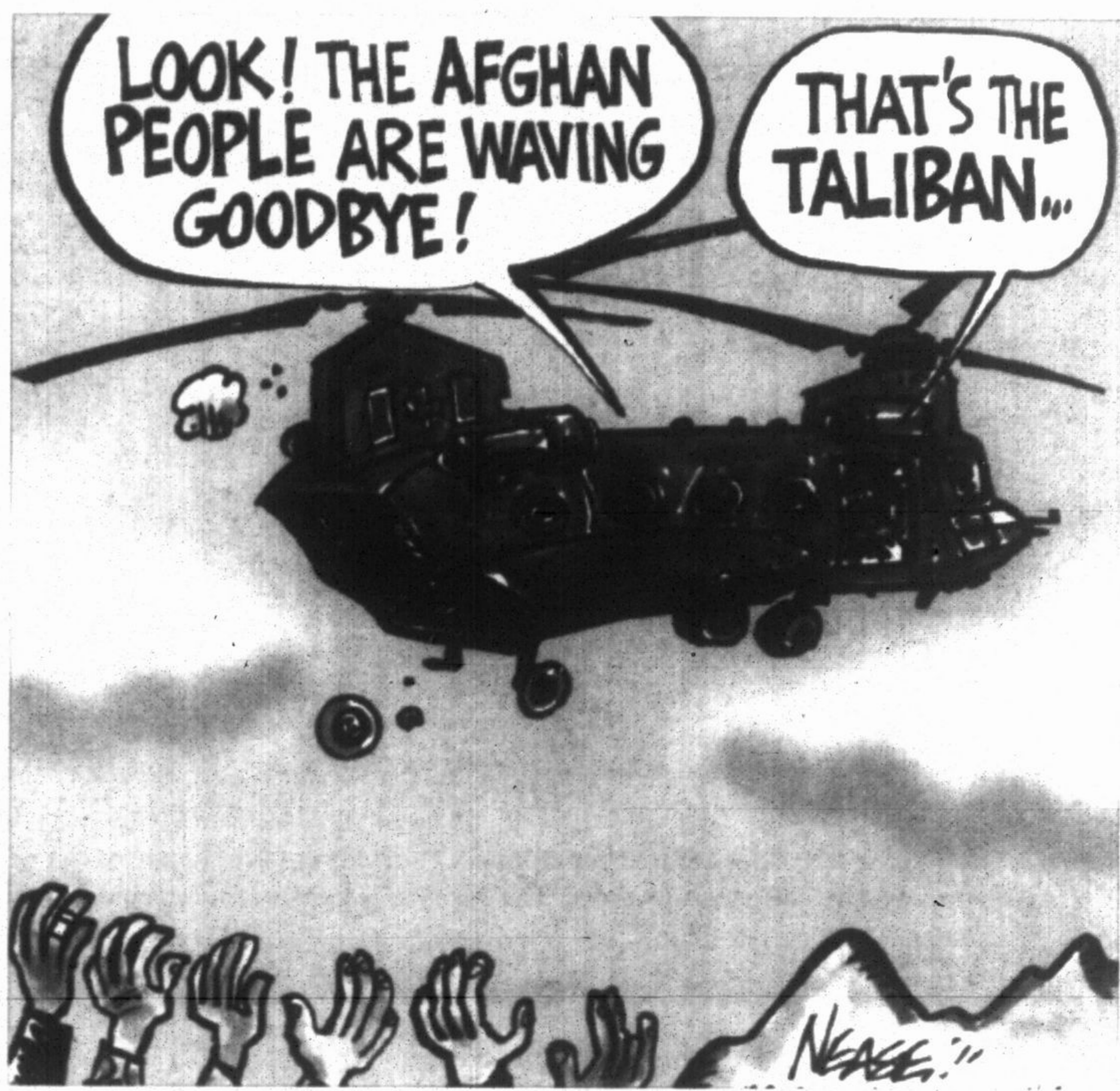
Catch-22 at our library

I attended a meeting at town hall June 21. There was some mention of reaching out to the new communities in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Well, that's good. Then our library community's presentation was summarily dismissed with: "Go to the library board; be careful with those figures." Our concern is that the library is functioning at capacity as far as space is concerned. There is not enough money for books and if there was, there would be no space to put them. And if there was space and the money for new books, there wouldn't be enough staff to process them. Isn't that a catch-22? We were happy to hear that an extension to the library in Memorial Park in the town's master plan for 2015. By that time, I guess, the library will need to be doubled

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH- STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of these issues or others? E-mail letters to the editor to jmason@yrmg.com in size. The mayor told us that \$2.5-million has been put aside for this. Of course, double that amount will be needed, perhaps more, the way prices escalate. Then I come to our inability to interpret the figures. The percentage of the town budget allocated to the library has decreased from 5.1 per cent in 2004 to 2 per cent in 2011. I'm not sure how that could be misinterpreted. I'm a political neophyte who needs help.

JOAN RIZZI
STOUFFVILLE



Political attack ads insult our intelligence

Are the provincial Liberals heading for the gutter in more ways than one? There are the polls that tell us Tim Hudak's Progressive Conservatives are heading to a majority government Oct. 6.



Debora Kelly

Though, all you need to do is talk to anybody out there — at the soccer game, family barbecue, neighbourhood picnic or coffee shop — to know people are fed up with the McGuinty Liberals and high taxes.

The Tax Man is what PCs have dubbed beleaguered Premier Dalton McGuinty, who gets a thumbs down from two-thirds of Ontarians, according to one poll.

With their fortunes sinking, the Liberals and their nice guy premier are stooping to attack ads.

The Liberals have launched ads on YouTube and TV, which, according to "Christine" on the party website, show "the positive difference our Liberal plan is making in the lives of Ontario families".

Three of four "poignant vignettes" show images of charming children to illustrate improvements in newborn screening, class sizes and kindergarten.

All positive, without a whiff of the polarizing vitriol infamously popularized by the federal Conservatives.

But Christine goes on to explain, "To complement those vignettes, a new ad will ... expose how the cynical Harris-Hudak PC platform is being received by those who read it from all sides of the political spectrum.

"This ad is tough, factual and fair." The media and, of course, Tories were quick to label it an attack ad.

Over unflattering images of Mr. Hudak smirking and scowling are partial newspaper quotes, such as "Hudak treats us like dolts" (Windsor Star) and "His plan is a scam" (Hamilton Spectator).

The PCs responded by saying, "After promising for years not to go negative and hiding behind his union friends to do his dirty work for him, today Dalton McGuinty revealed how desperate and panicked the Liberals have become when he backtracked on his pledge and launched attack ads."

Then follow more newspaper quotes, such as "I'm for the high road" (National Post) and "I'm in my ads and I'm in their ads. According to traditional U.S. campaign lore, if you're in the other guy's ad, it's a negative campaign" (Toronto Star).

Interesting to note, there isn't a sign of the premier in his new ads.

The PCs launched their Tax Man attack ad months ago, calling out Mr. McGuinty for his health tax and "HST tax grab" — taxes they themselves wouldn't eliminate.

Both the Liberal and PC ads are tame compared to what we saw months before and during the federal campaign, with the Conservatives accusing then Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff of not being a real Canadian because he established a successful career outside of the country before returning to our home and native land to wreck the economy and establish a nation-wrecking coalition with separat-

ists and socialists.

Pundits says we, the voters, are turned off by this negative politicking, point scoring and pettiness — I know I am, in part because it's insulting to our intelligence. But backroom organizers and political hacks insist negative works.

It certainly didn't hamper the Conservatives in achieving a majority government. Sadly, many Canadians simply vote their distaste by not voting.

Interesting to note, the New Democrats have not gone negative and polls indicate their leader, Andrea Horwath, tops approval ratings for the party leaders.

I believe we can't be better if our politicians are only in it to win power — which is all negative campaigning is about.

To borrow the words of U.S. President Barack Obama at a service for those killed in the shooting spree in Tucson, Arizona last year, "Only a more civil and honest public discourse can help us face up to our challenges as a nation."

Debora Kelly is editor in chief of the York Region Media Group.