

**Sun-Tribune**

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Fax: 905-640-8778

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905-640-2612

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jim Mason

[jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager

Stephen Mathieu

[smathieu@yrmg.com](mailto:smathieu@yrmg.com)

Marketing Manager

Mike Banville

[mbanville@yrmg.com](mailto:mbanville@yrmg.com)

DISTRIBUTION

Systems Manager

Carrie Castaldi

[ccastaldi@yrmg.com](mailto:ccastaldi@yrmg.com)

Circulation Manager

Tanya Pacheco

[tpacheco@yrmg.com](mailto:tpacheco@yrmg.com)

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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.

Letters to the Editor  
The Sun-Tribune  
6290 Main St.  
Stouffville, ON  
L4A 1G7  
[jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)



# OPINION

**Stouffville Sun-Tribune**

6290 Main St.  
Stouffville, ON, L4A 1G7  
[www.yorkregion.com](http://www.yorkregion.com)

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Debora Kelly

BUSINESS  
MANAGER  
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR,  
PRODUCTION  
Jackie Smart

DIRECTOR,  
OPERATIONS  
Barry Black

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't use environment for your political gain

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak has said he will cancel the green energy program to save on your Hydro costs.

Trying to make "political hay" at the expense of the environment is deplorable.

The subsidies for solar panels account for 0.1 per cent of the hydro bill. An independent company in Calgary has completed a feasibility study and reported cancelling the program would not make any difference to the cost of our hydro and many job losses would result.

A senior climatologist for Canada has stated the extreme weather conditions the planet is experiencing appear to be the result of global warming. There is no longer any debate.

Thankfully, we have not, as yet, had to endure the devastating floods, wild fires or

### HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of these issues or others? E-mail letters to the editor to [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

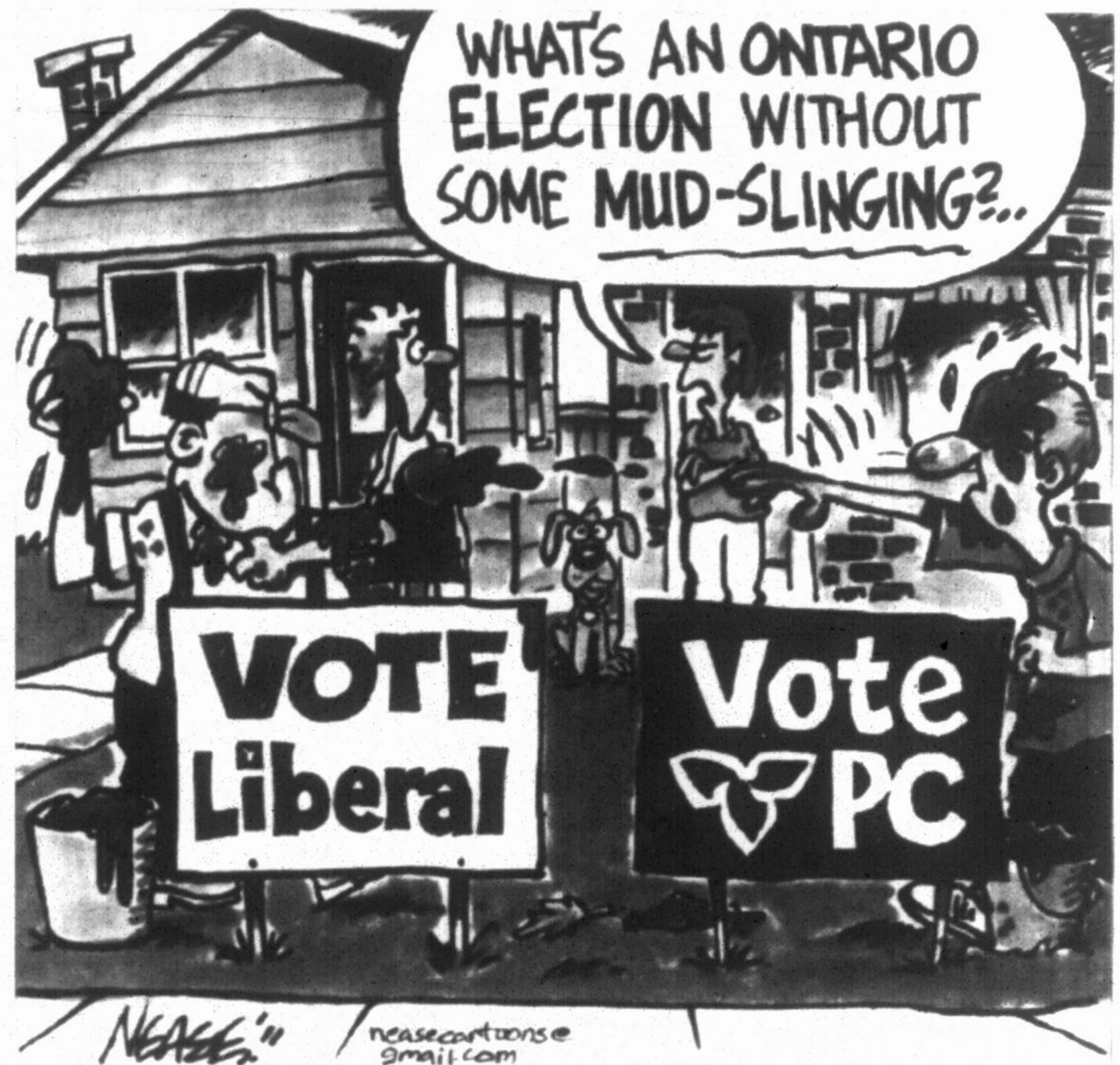
droughts reported daily around the world.

The oceans are becoming acidic, resulting in loss of some species. If the plankton disappears then half the oxygen we breathe would disappear, too.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we should be doing everything possible to preserve our environment.

M. TYNDALL  
NEWMARKET

You can read letters, columns and breaking news from The Sun-Tribune newsroom on [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)



## Sharing banana bread and welcomes in new home

Seeking a fresh start, my partner, children and I planted roots in Stouffville in 2009.

The kids have learned their way around town through school activities and soccer, while my partner has learned much about our community through his frequent (OK, very frequent) visits to Schell Lumber.

My personal induction to Stouffville proved to be colourful and divergent through a series of informal history lessons.

My first tutor, a longtime resident, was a co-rider on the northbound GO bus out of Toronto.

Our frequent interactions became a sort of Tuesday afternoon bridge between the "old" and "new" guard of Stouffville.

He would ask about my writing papers on gender inequality – and would tease me to slow down so he could efficiently read over my shoulder and I would explain why gender equality remains such a pertinent issue even in a community like Stouffville.

My co-rider couldn't believe the speed at which I could type and I couldn't believe that, because he was a hockey player back in the day, he was permitted to nap during typing class.



Tracey Hardie  
New Voices

We were admittedly from very different backgrounds, but found common ground and great conversation in sharing a vested interest in our town and the new perspectives that add to a sense of community.

My next lesson on Stouffville came when we moved from our neat and tidy townhouse to an ongoing "labour of love", our home on O'Brien Avenue, one of Stouffville's oldest residential streets in the downtown core.

(Perhaps I love it more than my partner, but it was less laborious for him to concede than argue with a law student.)

Our very first welcome was from a neighbour one block away who

stopped in with a Tribune clipping from 1964 on a previous generation who lived in our very home.

I thanked him with a banana bread delivered by the kids and in return received an entire copy of a commemorative newspaper from 1975. (Which I still have, because I only have banana bread in my thank-you repertoire!)

The welcomes kept coming and along with them an interest in continuing a tight-knit sense of community that has evolved over many generations.

One of my favourite storytellers is an O'Brien neighbour. While a generation ahead of me, my friend is keen to dip her toes in our pool and tell me about the historical relationships in town.

When I joked that all that was missing was a "Reesor", she was able to list a few connections that in fact brought this familiar name to our neighbourhood.

In telling her about this opportunity, through the New Voices feature in The Sun-Tribune, to write as a Stouffvillian, she teased me and said that it's a long apprenticeship, one that even she has not completed in her many years as a resident.

So be it. We will be the "new people"

for a few years longer it seems.

As the "new people" I have come to view Stouffville as certainly a place for building, (through new construction) but also a site of renewal, particularly inviting additions to the stories and histories that remain relevant to this community.

*In telling her about this opportunity, to write as a Stouffvillian, she teased me and said that it's a long apprenticeship, one that even she has not completed in her many years as a resident.*

Our home may always be known as the Farley house or the Borinsky home to some, but I do thank the old guard in welcoming our story to the mix and guiding my learning experience.

New Voices is a new feature in The Sun-Tribune. If you are a relative newcomer to Whitchurch-Stouffville and would like to share your experience, contact editor Jim Mason at [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com) or 905-640-2612, ext. 23.