

Ridings finalized in 2013

From page 1.

I attended). It's an opportunity for others to speak," he said.

When it comes to community reaction, the two-time MP said he hasn't heard much but what he has heard has been very localized.

"People are split in two down a street," he said of the proposal, for Main Street Markham/Unionville in particular.

The proposal has Whitchurch-Stouffville paired with the portion of Markham east of Hwy. 48, Main Street north and south and Markham Road.

The new riding of Markham-Stouffville would have a population of 105,500.

The latest redistribution is a reflection of a population shift and increase.

Under the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, the commission's main aim in redrawing boundaries is to divide the province into electoral districts "as close to the average population as reasonably possible".

The population of a district should remain within 25 per cent of the average, once consideration is given

to communities of interest or identity and historical and geographic factors.

The re-aligned ridings are expected to be finalized in mid-December. Early in 2013, MPs who still do not agree with the re-alignments can make committee suggestions, according to Mr. Calandra.

The proposal has Whitchurch-Stouffville paired with the portion of Markham east of Hwy. 48

"By in large, the next set of maps will be what the final boundaries will look like," he said.

At about this time next year, Mr. Calandra said the old ridings will be de-registered and new riding meetings will begin.

The MP will still represent constituents in the Oak Ridges-Markham riding boundaries until the next election, which is slated for Oct. 19, 2015.

"Organizationally, it's a bit of a nightmare for everybody, but so be it," he said.

Jaczek won't run for leadership

From page 1.

Monday night came as somewhat of a surprise to Ms Jaczek, at least the timing of it.

"There was a sense he felt he had made his contribution and there was a time for renewal," Ms Jaczek said of Mr. McGuinty at the recent annual meeting of the party at which he received an 85-per-cent approval rating.

"It's an opportunity for renewal. ... In the business world, companies that don't re-invent themselves, that cycle of renewal is getting shorter and shorter," she said.

Mr. McGuinty, 57, became an MPP in 1990. He won the Liberal party's leadership in 1996. He lost to Conservative Mike Harris in the 1999 election but went on to win three consecutive terms starting in 2003.

He was the first Liberal premier to win three terms in 125 years.

During his tenure, Mr. McGuinty brought in the 13-per-cent harmonized sales tax, full-day kindergarten and a health premium of up to \$900 per person. He reduced the average class sizes for students in JK through to Grade 3, extended vaccinations for children and added more teachers and nurses. He closed coal-fired power plants and began measuring and reducing health-care wait times.

Then there were the scandals. The \$3,000-a-day eHealth Ontario con-

sultants, ORANG air ambulance and more recently the charge of at least \$230 million to cancel gas-fired power plants in Oakville and Mississauga.

"Our government hasn't been perfect," the premier said in his resignation speech Monday night.

Mr. McGuinty, a father of four adult children, cited family as one of the reasons for his decision to step down.

"Family is just absolutely No. 1 with Dalton," Ms Jaczek said.

But one local resident thinks his resignation and the proroguing of parliament was for a whole different reason.

"Why put the province on hold? ... Because let's not kid ourselves, he clearly didn't want to face the music with the gas plant," said Farid Wassef, PC candidate for MPP of Oak Ridges-Markham.

"Folks are left hurting and left wondering what's going to happen. ... You can't put Ontario and Ontarians on hold while you decide what's your next move," he said.

Mr. Wassef said he is concerned people will spend less and investors will by-pass the province because of the current flux in leadership.

"If the government is closed for business, why would any business open for business" in Ontario? he asked.

While the Liberal party seeks out its next leader, Mr. Wassef said "my

job remains the same. We don't know when an election will be, what they plan to do."

When it comes to choosing the new party leader, one person who definitely won't be in the running is Ms Jaczek.

"I would never think of such a thing, personally," she said.

"I'm a collaborator. I'm not a confrontational kind of person. ... A lot of day-to-day life of a leader is being confronted with non-constructive dialogue," she said.

Some of the names that started to quickly get bandied about as Mr. McGuinty's successor included Energy Minister Chris Bentley, who was in town last month to speak about renewable energy at a Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce event; Finance Minister Dwight Duncan and Citizenship and Immigration Minister Charles Sousa, who was first elected back in 2007, the same year as Ms Jaczek.

"I'm obviously going to keep a very open mind," she said. "We have an incredible caucus. All the names you are hearing are all very qualified."

Ms Jaczek anticipates the leadership convention will take place early next year with the new premier in place when the house resumes sitting for its spring session in February.

with files from Torstar News Service

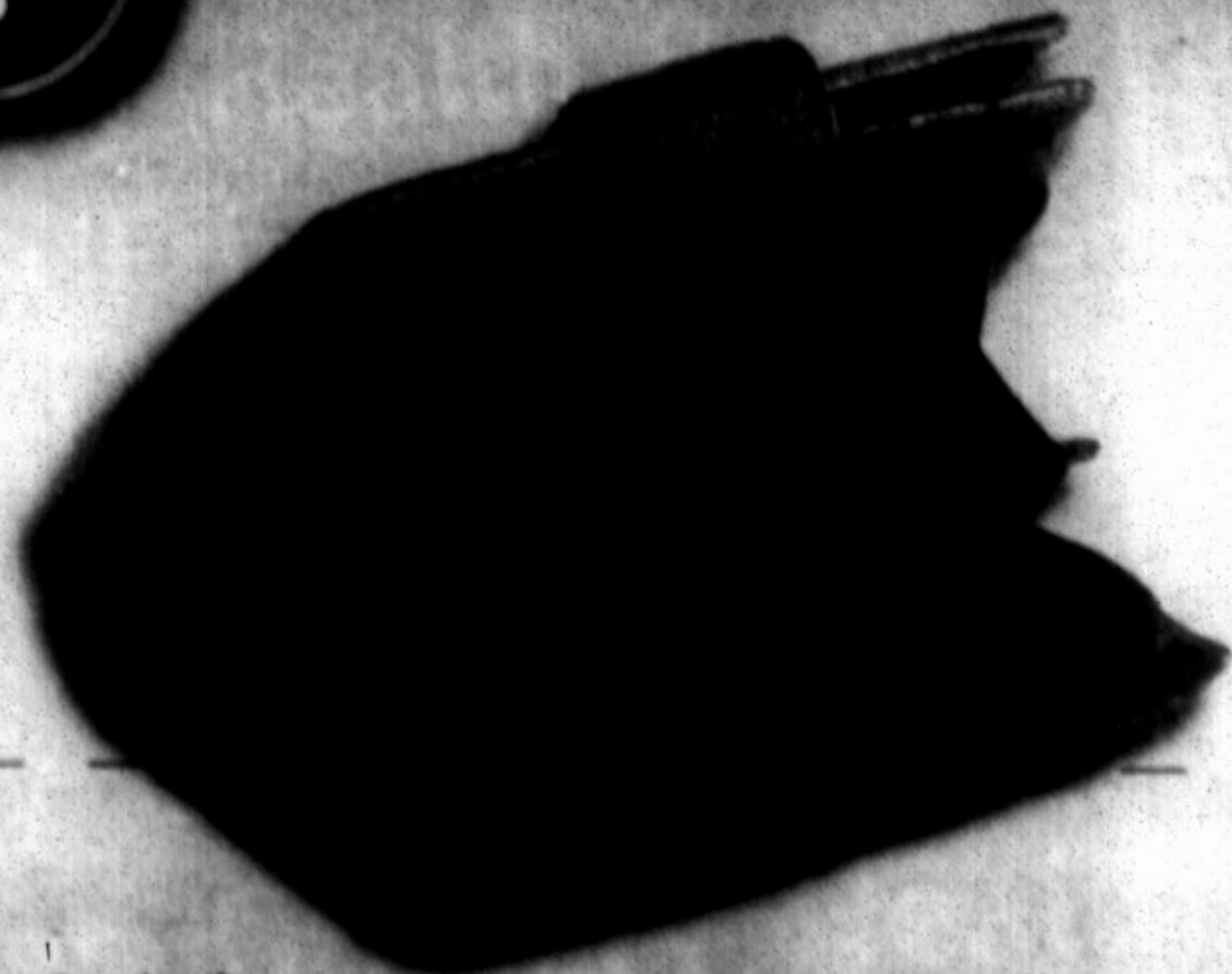
save.ca

your online source for FREE online coupons

Get coupons for your favourite brands at Save.ca, it's fast, easy and free!

Save \$

Keep your money where it belongs

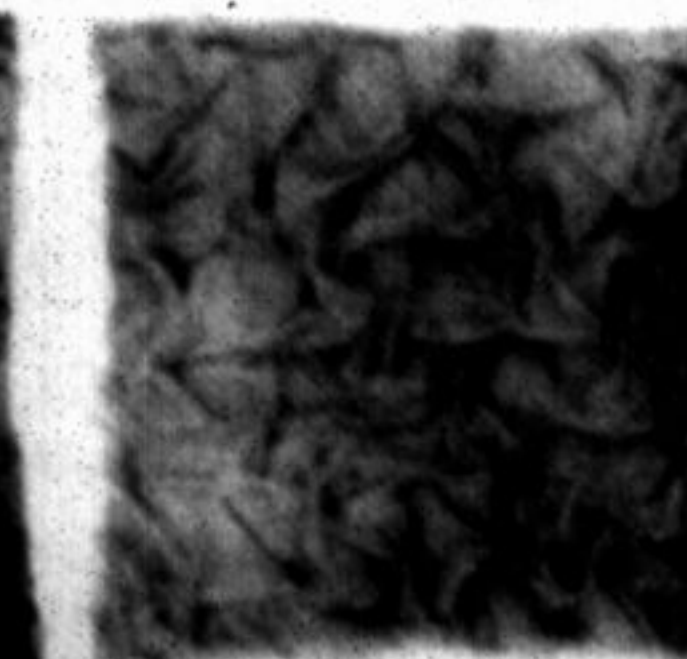


Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/savedotca

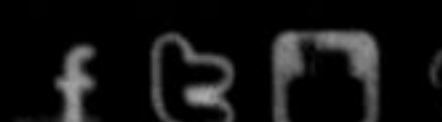
save.ca is a division of metroland media

Bouclair HOME

cushions 19.99 starting at



home fashion smart value



The BRICK.com

It's back! For a limited time only!

96 HOUR MARATHON SALE!



The BRICK.com

4 DAYS ONLY!

Doors open @ 9 AM Thursday, October 18!

ALL FURNITURE

20% OFF

On Now at The Brick!

For more details go in-store or online @ thebrick.com