

OPINION



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What will get you to the polls in next year's election?

ISSUE

Residents will begin to officially declare their candidacy three weeks from today.

Let the games begin. Three weeks from today, you will begin to know who you can vote for in this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville municipal election.

Nominations open Jan. 2. Election day is Oct. 27.

The rumour mill is filled with the names of prospective candidates for mayor and council.

They include councillors past and present and some very active and well-know community members.

We do know Mayor Wayne Emmerson will not seek re-election. He has also announced he will seek the job of chairperson of York Regional council — a post voted on by members of regional council, not the public.

We also know political newcomer Peter Carle is running for mayor. The publisher and retired lawyer came out of the gate early, in May, announcing himself as the "rural candidate".

And 2013 citizen of the year Joanne Iannuzzi has declared she will run again in Ward 6. She was defeated by the incumbent, Rob Hargrave, in 2010.

We should start getting a

clearer picture of the slate of candidates very shortly. Campaign teams are being assembled, websites ready to be launched and speeches written.

The Sun-Tribune is getting ready, too. Our Big 5-0 project hopes to get you to the polls next fall. We want to increase the percentage of people voting to at least 50 per cent.

What would get you in the majority out there — the non-voters in our community — to vote?

Would it be a neighbourhood or townwide issue that was significant enough? We aren't hearing of any in our communities, but there's still time.

How about a high-profile and juicy battle for the mayor's office? That could very well happen, albeit without the well-known incumbent taking part.

What else, Whitchurch-Stouffville?

Do you want more opportunities to meet the candidates, in person and/or digitally?

Do you want forums to talk about the future of your community?

Do you want to vote?

Please share your ideas with your neighbours. Send them to jmason@yrmg.com

BOTTOM LINE: Tell us what you want to see during the 2013 municipal election campaign.

This is debatable

WEIGH IN ON THE DISCUSSION ... e-mail your comments to jmason@yrmg.com

LETTER OF THE WEEK

MP Calandra embarrassing alternative to Rob Ford

No matter how you may choose to vote, it's hard to miss the MP for Oak Ridges-Markham being featured in recent media sources.

There's "Calandra has slipped into Poilievre's soiled spot as Parliament's propagandist-in-chief with such apparent ease, enthusiasm and droning monotony that he has made his predecessor sound coarsely eloquent".

And there's "Paul Calandra's mastery of question-avoidance, topic-changing and long-winded anecdotes; the Miles Davis of bafflegab" (IPolitics.ca).

Not to mention being the topic of scathing discussion on CBC's At Issue, being lampooned on last week's Rick Mercer Report

as the genesis of a men's perfume called Obfuscation and finally, being satirically parodied as evasive to the extreme in the current issue of Macleans.

...and finally, being satirically parodied as evasive to the extreme in the current issue of Macleans.

Thanks, Paul, for putting yourself — and by representation this riding — on the map as an embarrassing news alternative to the Rob Ford saga in Toronto.

Did you grin or grimace at the Macleans article?

ISAAC KLASSEN
STOUFFVILLE

The true meaning of Christmas: gravy

I sense the timing is right. This Christmas, I vote we change our town name to Grumpyville or No Music Town Ontario.

Why are you so grumpy, Stouffville? Did you miss your turn to argue loudly with a store manager for not giving out raincheck on Black Friday sales day?

Ready or not, Christmas is coming. Churches offering plays, musicals and dessert nights (yeah!); 2-for 1 sales, and the annual Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus parade.

A friend told me he was going to be in the parade as an elf wearing green leotards. Frankly, that was an ugly picture in my mind — but he did promise me candy.

Citizen of the year Joanne Iannuzzi seemed happy. Does she win that nice car? (Editor: No, you do not win a car.)

I liked the parade but now remember the great disappointment is coming. And I do not mean more socks and underwear.

Every year Christmas disappoints. You know why? There is never enough gravy!

Metro, No Frills and Wal-Mart have gravy in a can; I checked. It comes in different flavours and has a long shelf life.

But let us face the issue. You sit down at the Christmas table and someone puts a big boat of gravy in front of you. What is that funny shaped dish with a strange handle? That ain't no boat. When I think boat, I think cruise ship or oil tanker.

Oh my, now that is a thing of true Christmas dreams — a gravy tanker. Gravy is worth more than oil, you know.

If I had a gravy tanker, I would not need to hire friends anymore; people would want to be my friend just to get some gravy.

And I would change that song to something joyful. "On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a tanker filled with grav-y."

But dreams seldom happen, so I am preparing myself (along with most of grumpy Stouffville, apparently) for another disappointing Christmas.

The secret to good Christmas gravy is good strawberry jam. Spoiler alert! Oh... did I get those two sentences in the wrong order. Hee. Hee..

Hee.

I wish you all a Grumpyville Christmas and always wear big napkins when eating.

Bah Humbug

RON BOYD
STOUFFVILLE

MP making mockery out of system

Re: Virtual Paul Calandra draws laugh from real MP, Dec. 5.

Good-natured fun is the way Paul Calandra describes the responses to any question asked of the MP on this web site.

Of course, the reason the website was set up relates to the answers, rather non-answers, and irrelevant answers, he has been providing in the House of Commons question period on the Senate scandal.

In failing to deal seriously with real issues raised he may have the full support of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, but in reality, he has been making a mockery of our long-established parliamentary system. I find it embarrassing.

R. BLAKE TUFFORD
STOUFFVILLE