

OPINION



PUBLISHER *Ian Proudfoot*
GENERAL MANAGER *John Willems*

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune
6290 Main St.
Stouffville, ON. L4A 1G7
www.yorkregion.com

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

Editorial

905-640-2612
Fax: 905-640-8778
Class: 1-800-743-3353
DISTRIBUTION
1-855-853-5613

DIRECTOR, BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION
Robert Lazaruko

DIRECTOR,
ADVERTISING
Debra Weller

DIRECTOR
CREATIVE SERVICES
Katherine Porcheron

DIRECTOR,
DISTRIBUTION
Tanya Pacheco

DIRECTOR,
REAL ESTATE
AND CLASSIFIED
Gord Paolucci

Editor
Jim Mason
jmason@yrmg.com

Advertising Manager
Anne Beswick
abeswick@yrmg.com

Circulation
Co-ordinator
Daphne Laurie
dlaurie@yrmg.com

York Region Media
Group community
newspapers

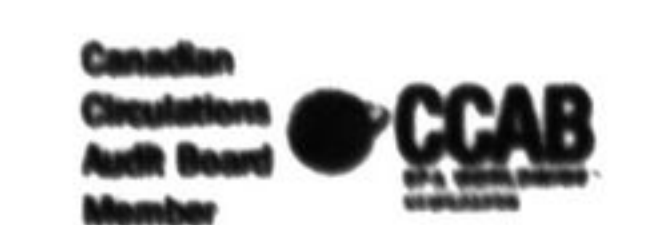
The Sun-Tribune,
published every
Thursday, is a
division of the Metroland
Media Group Ltd., a wholly-
owned subsidiary of Torstar
Corporation.

Delivery issues?

For all your delivery
inquiries, please
contact
yrcustomerservice@
yrmg.com

LETTERS POLICY

All submissions must be
less than 400 words and
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.
E-mail jmason@yrmg.com



Follow the trend and vote today, Whitchurch-Stouffville

ISSUE

Advance poll numbers across
York Region are hopefully
encouraging for election day

Voter turnout in Ontario elections has been steadily dropping since 1990 and headlines this week about turnout at advance polls suggest that trend might continue.

Preliminary figures released by Elections Ontario revealed 566,845 people voted early this year, down 6 per cent from 603,785 in 2011.

Given that overall voter turnout was 48.2 per cent in 2011, down from 52.1 per cent in 2007 and 64.4 per cent in 1990, the figures seem to suggest we might be on track for another record low turnout.

If you dig a little deeper, however, there is reason for optimism.

Because this is not a fixed-date election due to the minority government being defeated, there were seven days of advance polling — three fewer than 2011.

That means the average turnout per day rose more than 20,000, to 80,978.

The numbers are even better in York Region, where four of the seven ridings saw increases not just in per-day turnout, but overall advance voting as well.

Thornhill led the way with 7,538 advance voters, up 1,140 from 2011.

York-Simcoe, Richmond Hill and Markham-Unionville also saw increases in overall turnout.

Even in Newmarket-Aurora, Oak Ridges-Markham and Vaughan, which saw decreases in overall advance voting, the per-day totals increased by 222.3, 259.4 and 157.9, respectively.

All of this is not to say overall voter turnout will increase in this election.

As always, there is plenty of reason to be cynical about politics, with the Liberals mired in

gas plant, Ornge and other scandals and the PCs being hammered for mathematical errors and, in recent days, accusations of misleading Liberal supporters about poll locations.

For its part, the NDP decided to bring down the government based on what was widely regarded as an NDP-friendly budget, claiming the real reason for its decision was the aforementioned Liberal scandals, despite the fact it propped up the Liberals throughout those scandals.

However, despite the obvious flaws in each of these parties, it is imperative for democracy that you educate yourself about what party best meets your needs and values and cast a ballot.

There's no need to limit yourself to the big three parties, as you may find a candidate or party you feel will best serve you. There is no such thing as a wasted ballot, as each one sends a message to every party about what Ontarians think of them.

Not voting tells them you don't care, which means if one or more of the big parties dominates the legislature — as they almost certainly will — they'll continue on their current course, as that's what keeps them in power.

If you don't care, you should, because you are required to give them money, in the form of taxes, to provide services for you and your fellow citizens. None of us wants to see our money wasted or spent on things we don't want or need.

Let's hope the per-day increases in advance voting are more indicative of Ontarians' desire to have their voices heard than the overall decrease, because the best way to send a message to politicians, whatever that message may be, is to vote.

BOTTOM LINE: If you want to send a message to our politicians, you'd better vote.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Mayor has no business in China

Re: Mayor in China to lure trade centre, June 5.

A one-million-square-foot trade centre in Stouffville? Please tell me that is a typo.

I fail to see how a facility of such enormous size would enhance the town or serve its residents.

October can't come soon enough to vote in a mayor and council who believe in community and are not looking to sell our

town to the highest bidder regardless of the impact on its character.

An outgoing mayor has no business going on a trade mission to China to lobby for a facility for which he does not have strong resident backing.

I am counting the days until his departure and will be asking the candidates running for mayor for their position on development of this kind.

LYNN KAHRKLING
STOUFFVILLE

Memorial Park gates stupidest idea ever

Whoever had the idea to install and close gates in Memorial Park obviously doesn't live in Stouffville, as it's the stupidest thing this town has done.

Even removing the toboggan hill in the park wasn't as idiotic as these gates. You take everything out of the park — several ball diamonds, the hill and the outdoor pool — now you gate it up?

I don't get it. It's a road a lot of people use to get around town, especially on weekends when Main Street is clogged up. It's just ridiculous gating up a road that's used so regularly.

Ball games are rarely played in the park on weekends and it's not like there are hundreds of people flocking to the glorious Memorial Park — there's nothing in it!

Now I have to drive through the leisure centre/library to get home, which is full of people, mainly kids running around the parking lot. What a joke.

It makes sense to gate them up for Strawberry Festival and the ribfest, but other than that they should be open.

MICHAEL PENNANEN
STOUFFVILLE

Make voting easier

Re: Nearest advance poll too far away for Stouffville voters, letter to the editor by Wilf Morley, June 5.

I have great empathy for Mr. Morley and all seniors and anyone else unable to make their way

to the advanced poll in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

It is for this very reason that I and my fellow Sun-Tribune Links' panel members spent months preparing a presentation for the current council in aid of bringing phone and Internet voting to our town for this fall's municipal election.

The clerk/returning officer agreed phone and Internet voting should be made available to all for the advanced polls and made her recommendation known to council. Our presentation was summarily dismissed by a vote of five to one. Councillor Clyde Smith was the only one to vote in favour.

Perhaps, as Mayor Wayne Emmerson suggested at his annual lunch, it is time for new blood to take over council?

We are a physically large community. Let's make it easier, not more difficult, for all of our citizens to exercise their right to have their voices heard.

FRANK J VAN VEEN
BALLANTRAE

Lights not new issue

Re: Frustration at lights, letter to the editor by Dave Brooks, June 5.

Several months ago, I brought up the issue of the lights at Weldon and Main Street, Ninth Line and Hoover Park Drive and Hoover Park and Reeves Way.

The councillor said he would contact the roads department and have them check into the situation.

I waited for a month — nothing happened. Contacted the councillor again. He

said he would check into it.

That was at least two months ago. Nothing has happened at all. To get 15 seconds to cross Ninth Line at Hoover Park while north-south traffic gets three times that time is insane during the day when most traffic is mostly east-west.

The presumption on the part of the "planners" is that everybody drives north-south. Anyone driving east-west on Main Street these days knows that is not the case. Not to mention Hoover Park.

The world has changed around Stouffville in the last eight or nine years, but all the braintrust in the municipal offices can come up with are roundabouts to solve our traffic problems.

Do any of you drive a car around Stouffville or are you all being politically correct and using public transport?

GARY REID
STOUFFVILLE

Did you see crash?

I was riding my motorcycle on Tenth Line next to the Stouffville Country Market Saturday at 11 a.m. when a vehicle pulled out in front of me from the flea market.

I laid the bike down on the road to avoid a collision, but I suffered extensive bruising and my bike is badly damaged. It was my first crash in 56 years of riding.

If you have information about what happened, please send it to me through editor Jim Mason (jmason@yrmg.com).

BILL RAILEY
STOUFFVILLE