

Talk Of The Town

The How, Who and Where of the Federal Election

By Ben Embiricos
Stouffville Free Press



This has been the longest Federal Election campaign in modern history so you can be forgiven for feeling a little jaded around about now. That said, decision time is not that far away, meaning it may be time to rouse yourself from power down mode and get moving on the checking, thinking, talking and maybe watching.

Firstly the checking - are you registered to vote? If so are you registered at the right address and how do you go about actually voting? If you visit www.elections.ca you can enter your name and address to check that you are registered and that they have your address correct.

By October 1st you should have received your Voters Information Card in the mail. The card will tell you where to vote on Election Day (October 19th) or alternatively on the Advance Polling Days on October 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th or at an Elections Canada Office before October 13th. If you don't receive the Voters Information Card by October 1st then contact Elections Canada.

To help with the thinking you can read the candidates in their own words

right here in our paper (see pages 12 - 13). If like me you vote mostly based on party ideas rather than candidates or leaders then this is a tricky election to decide on. Some might say that this time out the Liberals and NDP have swapped spots. The Liberals moving to the left and the NDP to the middle ground. Something similar happened in England when Tony Blair took the previously left wing Labour Party to the centre and the Liberals ended up being the leftist party in their place. In that case the left to centre switch was a long process based in part on loosening traditional ties with the unions. Centrist voters in Canada may have to ask themselves whether the NDP's move to the centre is similarly structural or surface only.

For those who often or habitually vote Conservative, dissatisfaction with Stephen Harper may be a factor in decision making. If Stephen Harper has you wavering then I suppose a question to ask may be whether his problem is one of style or substance. The Globe and Mail debate - available for viewing still on You Tube - was instructive. Harper frequently displayed that famous disdain for the questions he was asked and visibly seethed and sulked in equal measure.

At the same time though he showed plenty of brain power and there was clarity in what he said even when it was through gritted teeth.

CBC, CTV and the other major stations were frozen out of the Leader debates by the Conservatives which means that You Tube may be the best way to get your debate fix. Whilst policy detail is hard to come by in debates I always think that you can learn a lot about the leaders as people and about their current state of mind just by watching. In the Globe and Mail debate on September 17th Mulclair looked the most composed. Go to You Tube and search "August 6 Federal Debate" and "September 17 Federal Debate" to make your own mind up.

Do you have a friend with opposing political views that you can talk to without either of you taking offence? If so that can be a good way to test your own thinking. So there you have it, a Federal Election prescription of sorts - read the candidates in their own words, right here in our paper, then check, watch, think, talk and finally don't forget to actually vote! Good luck!

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WhiStle Radio Live

Brighten your weekday mornings by listening to Stouffville Morning from 7-9 am on WhiStle Radio. News, local weather, local traffic, drive times to down town, train delays, local sports and local guests are all wrapped into the package. The best part is that you can be part of the show by phoning in with a story or an opinion because it's live from WhiStle's Downtown Stouffville studios. It's a great way to keep up to date on the latest events in the community and the topics that are on people's minds.

If you like cars, trucks and vehicles or if you just have

questions about your own vehicle, tune in to WhiStle Radio on Tuesday nights for Auto Talk, brought to you live at 7 pm. The lively panel of hosts will entertain you with their friendly banter and astound you with their vast pool of knowledge and expertise. From which ear to buy to fixing up the old clunker, safety to maintenance, Auto Talk has it all.

WhiStle Radio is Stouffville's own community radio station. It's about people you know by people you know. Listen in at 102.7 on the FM dial or on the internet and your smart phone at www.whistleradio.ca

All Candidates Meeting October 5 at East Ridge Church

An all candidates meeting is to take place on October 5 at East Ridge Evangelical Missionary Church at 12485 Tenth Line in Stouffville.

The debate, which is to run from 7 - 9

pm, is to include Markham-Stouffville riding candidates Paul Calandra, Conservative; Jane Philpott, Liberal; Gregory Hines, NDP; Myles O'Brien, Green Party.

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