

# WhiStle Radio to Hold 60's Dance

It will be go-go boots, mini skirts and bell bottoms as WhiStle Radio and the Vinyl Vault Show host a 'Back to the 60's' dance October 3 at the Christ Church Great Hall on Sunset Blvd. in Stouffville.

The music will be from the 1960's, with some 50's and 70's included. Those attending are welcome to dress up in their best 60's gear. There will be snacks and a cash bar.

The fun gets underway at 8 pm. Tickets are: \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and are available at the Christ Church office or from WhiStle Radio. Call Gord Bibby 416-509-5249 or Vince Parry 416-200-7525 for more information.



# Poll Position

By Kate Gilderdale  
Stouffville Free Press

Vintage Whine



On Oct. 19, after a seemingly-endless campaign, Canadians will finally get the opportunity to decide which party will lead us for the next four years, give or take.

I am always astonished at the low turnout for elections, be they municipal, provincial or federal. By contrast, this year's election in Turkey had a turnout of 86 per cent. But here in Canada, and other rich, first-world nations, too many of us take democracy for granted and can't be bothered.

If I had a dollar - even a Canadian dollar - for everyone who said, "I'm not interested in politics" or "I can't stand any of the parties", I would be able to bankroll the massive cost of this American-style campaign brought to you by, well, you. Or, to put it another way, by the hardworking middle-class taxpayers (the people formerly known as citizens) of our home and native land.

And whether you want to maintain the status quo, or think it's time for change, the best way to achieve your goal is at the ballot box.

When we left the 'ville this summer, after living here for almost four decades, one of my regrets was that I wouldn't be able to cast my vote for Jane Philpott. Her compassion and experience of living in the real world - as a doctor, volunteer, humanitarian worker, wife and mother - have given her a unique understanding of the issues that concern many Canadians, from improving access to health care to welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees.

She also represents a party that has vowed to scuttle Act C-24, which has created two tiers of citizenship - one for native-born Canadians, the other for those of us who came to this wonderful country and loved it so much we became citizens. Anyone in the latter group can now be stripped of his or her citizenship at the government's whim, with no oversight. Proponents explain that if you haven't done anything wrong, you don't have anything to worry about. Like Maher Arar, for example.

For me, above all, this election is about stopping the erosion of democracy, from omnibus bills being pushed through with little or no debate, to the overriding power vested in the PMO at the expense of our elected representatives.

One advantage of living in the riding of Markham-Stouffville is that the main candidates' platforms and contact information have been readily available at least since the writ dropped, several eons ago. Here in High Park, I was contacted directly by both Liberal and NDP candidates in early August, soon after we arrived. But until mid-September, when he finally popped up on a generic party web page, the Conservative candidate in our riding was harder to find than Donald Trump on a welcoming committee for Mexican immigrants.

Some people vote for policies, some vote for a specific party and some are more concerned about the suitability of individual candidates to represent their views in Ottawa. When a leading party fails to provide basic information on their representative until so late in the campaign, it is hardly surprising that people have become apathetic and disengaged from participating in the democratic process.

Still, I think Winston Churchill had a pretty good handle on our flawed system of government when he said, "No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."



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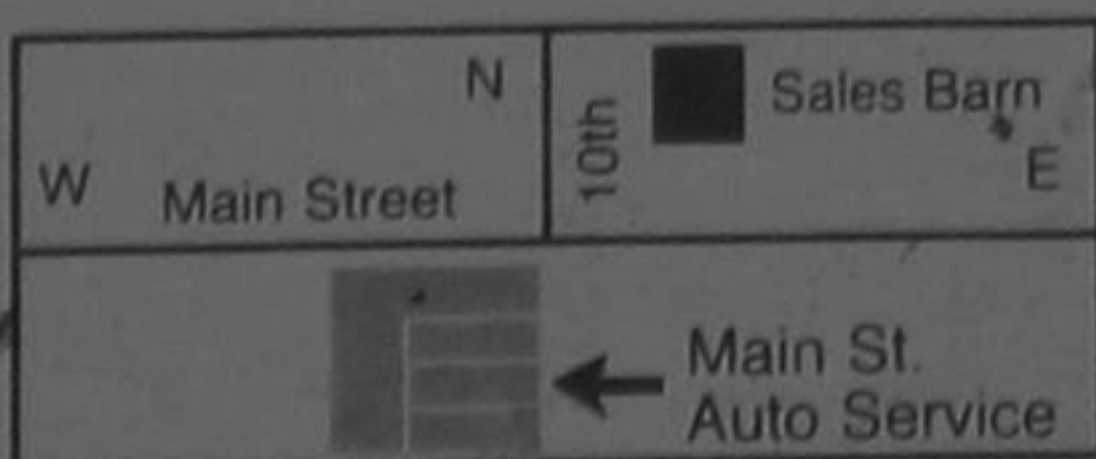
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