

More letters to the editor

Beer garden won't enhance Fair

Dear John:
I feel compelled to comment on the editorial in the March 31 issue of The Tribune. (Beer garden should be considered again). At the outset let me state that I fully support the decision by council to reject the proposed beer garden. It would do nothing, in my opinion to enhance the upcoming Country Fair.

As a rule I am not in favor of governments interfering in the personal lives of individuals; however, the time is past when governments can afford to take its hands off in these areas. Government has come to regulate almost every phase and facet of our lives. Most of us accept this as being for our own good and for the good of society in general.

But for some reason people seem to wink at the problems created by and related to the use and misuse of alcohol. The cost to our society, if all the aspects are added up, is staggering.

The provincial government has been concerned in this regard and the Addiction and Research Foundation has ample statistics to prove what a destructive force alcohol really is.

In fact, alcohol is as serious a drug problem as any of the so-called "hard" drugs such as heroin or chemical compounds such as LSD. Because it is socially acceptable, people refuse to see the dangers. Fortunately, some people are concerned and some of these people sit on Whitelock - Stouffville Council.

Violence in the home and various crimes of violence have been traced to alcohol. Medical costs for treating alcohol caused disorders and treatment of alcoholics are climbing at an alarming rate. There is no known cure for alcoholism that is 100 per cent effective. The cure rate for alcoholics is very low indeed.

A significant percentage of traffic mishaps are caused by alcohol. Lost work time due to alcohol and decreased efficiency on the job are also major concerns. Everywhere you turn alcohol is costing us in both human and dollar terms.

It is apparent that the problem is far more complex than the editorial writer would lead us to believe. A seemingly innocent beer garden has wider ramifications. What can the local council do about this situation? It can deal

wisely within its own jurisdiction and not encourage the sale and consumption of alcohol. That is precisely what council has done. The councillors should be applauded for their courage not criticized.

The editorial was unfair to Councillor Bill McNalley. It singled him out as the main culprit when in fact, the beer garden proposal was defeated by a 5-1 vote.

It was also unfair to blame council for the issuance of three permanent liquor licences in recent months. These licences are granted by a provincial agency - the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, not by the local council.

What is really lost if the beer garden is not a part of the Country Fair?

In my opinion, nothing. It is a sad commentary on our society that people feel they need to drink in order to enjoy themselves and have a good time. Short term enjoyment is a high price to pay for the

potential destruction that alcohol can bring.

My hope is that council will stick to its guns and not contribute to a problem that is already out of hand.

DON BERNARD
Main St. East,
Stouffville

Ed. note: We do not feel we "singled" Mr.

McNalley out as the main culprit. Our only reference to Mr. McNalley was that he was the only one who gave any explanation, which was "they don't need to drink beer." We feel this is a rather high-handed and arrogant remark and that it warranted special mention.

While it is true that liquor licences are granted by the provincial authority, it is also true that the town had the option to protest against the granting of those licences. A complaint by the municipality in these cases usually carries considerable weight.

Supports beer garden

Dear Sir:

I am very disappointed with the council's decision to ban the proposed beer garden at the County Fair Day on May 28th. The beer garden would add to the festivity of the Centennial celebrations, not to mention allow the library board to make a little bit more money.

The yearly beer garden operated by the firemen has been an entertaining and fulfilling occasion many people look forward to every year. I have never witnessed any 'bad' or 'immoral' behaviour at any of these events. I have always been overwhelmed by the strong spirit of happiness and joy.

It is not the council's job to worry about the 17 and 18 year old young people. In the first place, the 18 year olds are young adults and should be able to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner. In the second place, the responsibility of the other young people should be placed where it belongs.

It is the parents' responsibility to look after their children.

I might also add that

there are ways and means of regulating the sale of beer. It is as simple as asking for proper identification before the beverage is served.

I am not condoning public drunkenness. I am condoning the proposed one day beer garden and the community spirit during the Centennial celebrations.

Stouffville is celebrating its 100th birthday, not the return to Victorian morals.

Sincerely,
SUSAN CHRISTIE
372 Elm Rd.
Stouffville.



Last Tuesday night Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) honoured the women who lost the most weight in each weight category. These ladies lost a total of 105 between them. They are from left: Mary Sprague (21 lbs)

Dameana McQuigge (21 lbs), Flo Ball (20 lbs), Rose Fronski (22 lbs.) and Helen Lewis (21 lbs.). The queen for 1976 will be crowned at a later date.

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