

Weekender

Comment

Don't cut staff now

It seems rather strange to us that at a time when York Region is growing so rapidly that the health branch is forced to layoff employees because of the shortfall in provincial government grants.

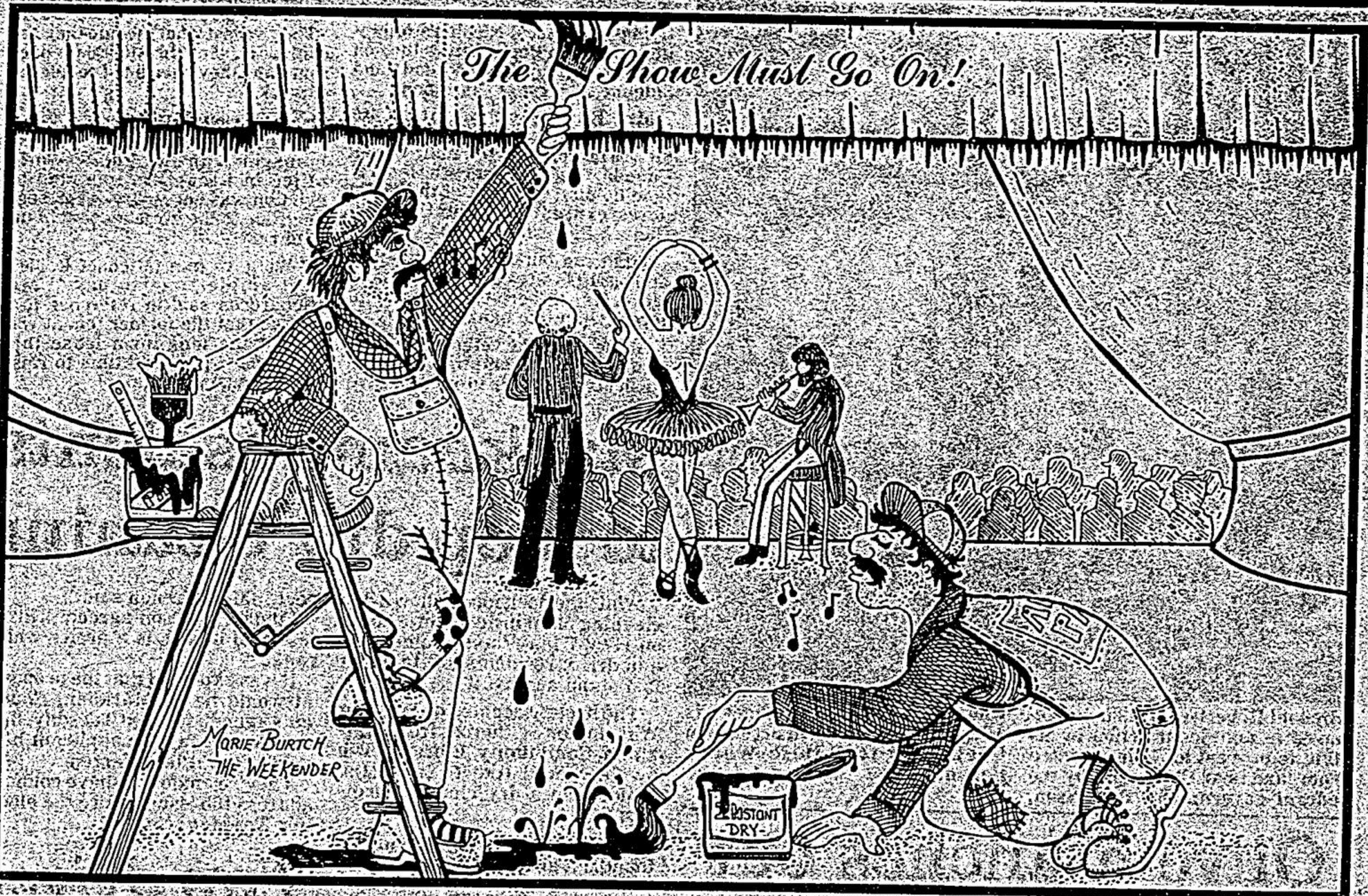
While the shortfall is apparently a misunderstanding of York's true population by provincial officials, it is disturbing that York Region would be so quick to announce layoffs.

Rather than cut back on health and social services, York Region should be spending more money.

The regional politicians claim that such services should be funded solely by the provincial government. However, provincial cutbacks have been a fact of life for a number of years now.

It's obvious that the Region of York does not have a strong commitment to providing such services even though it was given those responsibilities when the regional system of government was introduced here nearly 15 years ago.

Rather than use scare tactics of layoffs to force the provincial government to release more funds, the Region should be looking for ways of adding staff to meet the increased needs of this fast-growing area.



Speaking Out

In spite of the AIDS scare, would you still consider donating blood? (Asked on Stouffville's Main St. and Markham Main St.)



Larry Schell
Mill worker
Stouffville

"I haven't given blood in a long time but the AIDS scare wouldn't bother me. I'd still give blood. You can't get it from donating."



Lorena Yeh
Student
Markham

"I can't give blood for medical reasons but the AIDS scare wouldn't stop me from giving donations. If I could I would."



Chris Columbo
Software sales
Stouffville

"I already give blood and I'll definitely continue to do so. I think people have drawn the wrong conclusions about getting AIDS and giving blood."



Glen Cloutier
Electrician's
Apprentice
Scarborough

"Everything is supposed to be sterilized so the chances of getting AIDS would be slim. I've never given blood but the threat wouldn't really bother me."

Editor's Mailbag

Player replies to letter

Dear Sir,

As one of the players on last year's Major Bantam Team, I would like to comment on Steve Ryan's letter.

Steve only played hockey with Jeff Johnson for one year and I played with him for seven years. I think that Jeff always gave a full commitment to the team this year and every other year.

He also said that Jeff's injury wasn't apparent to him or the other members of the team and that it never required him to leave

the ice.

I saw Jeff hurt his knee on the goal post in a playoff game we played against Whitby, but he didn't always show that he was hurt until after the game was over. I saw him get a slapshot in the ankle in Finland and go right back on the ice to play.

I think Jeff should have received trophies, medal and jacket the same as the rest of the players on the team.

Brian Hennessey
Markham

Don't battle now

Re: Dancy fumes over letter by Mayor Carol Bell, (Weekender, Oct. 12, Page 3)

Dear Sir,

It is regrettable that Ward 8 has to serve as a battlefield for the mayoralty candidates.

What has been done is not entirely wrong, nor is it entirely right.

I believe this issue could wait until after the Nov. 12 election if it

is to benefit the community as a whole.

The newly elected Ward 8 councillor (Milliken) must be involved in plans of this nature as his constituents are involved.

Communication and smart tax dollar spending are the keys to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Markham. Is this really smart tax dollar spending at this time?

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