

Comment

Is regional government working?

The big three in York Region are hanging tough on their bid for more tax dollars. Mayors Bell, Jackson and Duffy say they simply can't run their respective municipalities without more money.

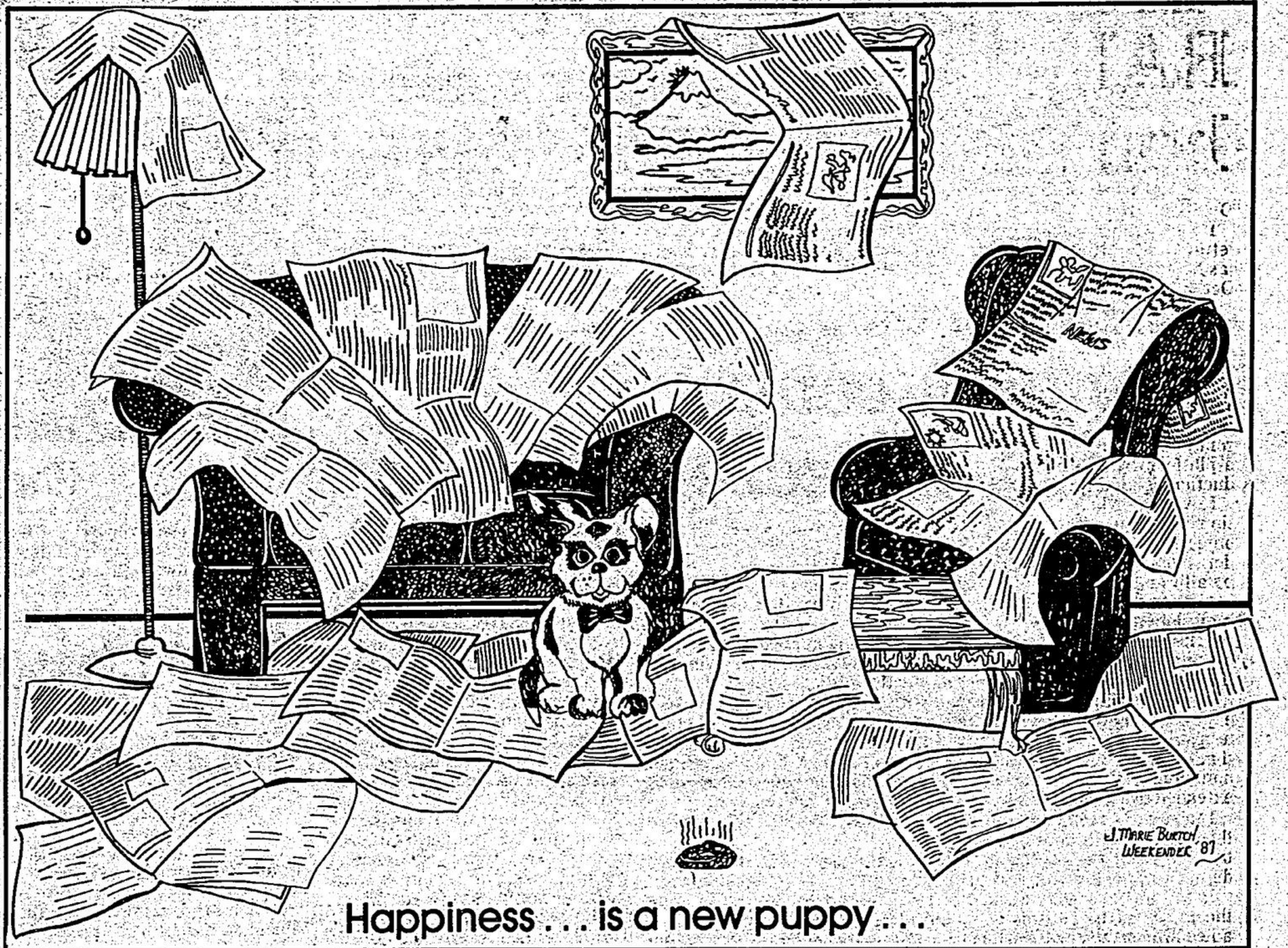
The trio will petition the province to take a responsible look at the way tax dollars are proportioned and send more to those who are paying a lion's share.

Urban services such as roads, schools, sewers and social services are lagging behind while tax-generating growth in housing and industry escalates.

Something is wrong. If the plea to the province is unsuccessful, perhaps we should ask some serious questions about regional government. Does it serve us well? Should we be asking our elected representatives to consider the pros and cons of pulling out?

What about starting with a public referendum on building a multi-million dollar regional headquarters in Newmarket?

— Jo Ann Stevenson



Happiness... is a new puppy...

No loneliness in strife-struck Lebanon

Bob Burkholder, the Mennonite missionary who became a news item because of his being kidnapped and briefly detained several years ago in Lebanon, has two rather noteworthy impressions of that strife ridden country.


In an interview conducted at Wideman Mennonite Church on Highway 48 last Sunday night, Bob chose to downplay the abduction issue as an innocuous incident at the hands of people who really couldn't be classified as every day terrorists.

What really stuck with him was the radical difference between the Lebanese people, and our society, with regard to the seemingly unrelated issues of violence and loneliness. Lebanon has much of the former, but very little of the latter.

It would appear the constant state of siege and uncertainty that has come to characterize that part of the world has served the

From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley



purpose of bringing about great unity and interdependence among the people there.

Loneliness, reports Bob, is almost non-existent. The Lebanese tend to live life a day at a time, preferring to share experiences and activities with others. For all they know, tomorrow may never come.

World War Three, the ultimate nuclear horror, is an idea they rarely have time to consider, let alone fear. For them every day sees them exposed to good old fashioned conventional warfare, along with the high tech terrorist

approach to combat.

The constant confusion, fear, and confrontation by the unexpected is for them a way of life that they have gotten used to. Compared to that, a global conflagration would at least bring with it a sense of finality.

Contrast that with the North American approach to life. The preoccupation with tomorrow and what it may bring, whether we'll have enough money to continue to live in the manner we have become accustomed.

It would appear that in many respects, we have become a soci-

ety of individuals bent upon 'personal' growth, and the accumulation of as much 'stuff' as is possible. Like the bumper sticker says, "He who has the most toys at the end, wins."

And the price that has been paid for this obsession with the furtherance of self is loneliness. The inevitable isolation that accompanies the seeking of one's own personal betterment and security has become a trademark of our society. The North American male, we are told by analysts, is a friendless being; the result of years spent trying to 'get ahead'.

Only time will tell if women, long seen as being much better than men in terms of maintaining same-sex friendships, will be able to continue this tendency in light of their becoming more a part of the corporate scene.

Bob Burkholder claims that his kids developed a real understanding of the nature of violence in Lebanon. In Canada, he says, kids

see the "A" Team, and violence is almost glamorized.

Over in the middle east, his children, came to realize that when the guns started blazing; there would inevitably be dead bodies in the aftermath, and that the victims were gone forever.

It was suggested in a conversation after the interview that it would probably require a major catastrophe of some sort to both alter our perceptions of violence, and to help dispel so much of the loneliness in our society.

Calamity tends to bring people together, to force them to rely on one another, as is the case in Lebanon. And any disruption of a violent nature tends to produce a much more realistic understanding of violence in a society.

Bob Burkholder feels that we shouldn't let the lessons of Lebanon go unheeded.

Food for thought, if nothing more.

Economist & Sun

The Tribune

9 Heritage Rd.,

Markham,
L3P 1M3

294-2200

495-9440

640-2100

649-2292

DON BERNARD

Editor in Chief

JIM THOMAS

Editor

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT — Managing Editor Jo Ann Stevenson. Reporters: Paula Crowell, Steve Houston, Denise McDonald, Alan Shackleton, Paul Pivato, Sports Editor Frank King, Photography Sjoerd Witteveen, Bill Lanning.

CHRIS BERTRAM

Manager

BUSINESS OFFICE — Bobbie Boylan, Irene Cinq-Mars, Doris Easthope, Sharon Graham, Sheri Handy, Bonnie Hart, Paulanne Wright.

JENNIFER HUTT

Promotions/Distribution Manager

PATRICIA PAPPAS

Advertising Manager

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT — Retail Advertising Manager Charles Canning; Retail Terri Bernhardt, Laura Goodwin, Chris Johanssen, Susan Pitt, Susan Berry. Real Estate Manager Dorothy Young. Real Estate Karen Heise. Classified Manager Debra Waller. Classified Phyllis Ritchie, Joan Marshman, R. Stephen Mathieu, Cathy Carter, Brenda Marshall, Shirley Lee.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT — Assistant Distribution Manager Barry Goodyear, Jean Middleton, Doreen Deacon, Sandra Kiteley, Lea Kitler, John Rigsby, Donna Saxon, Phil Walton.

Distribution Dept. 294-8244
640-2100

Published every Saturday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3. Tel. 294-2200.

Second class mail registration number 1247.

The Markham Economist and Sun, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornton/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville Tribune, Topic Newsmagazine, Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE — Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.