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Sidewalk cyclists not welcome

Stouffville area pedestrians downtown to shop or stroll may soon need protective gear to shield them from roaming cyclists who prefer to use the sidewalks instead of Main Street.

And though bicycles are subject to the rules and conditions governing any vehicle driving on area roads, not enough of the cyclists in control of those vehicles are taking heed.

Some area merchants have experienced first hand the run-for-cover reaction necessary to escape a sidewalk cyclist.

But York Regional Police officers, mired with other daily duties, can do little to discourage the use of bicycles on downtown sidewalks.

In most cases, says one York Regional police officer, a cyclist breaking the law is only cautioned and not subject to a fine.

Much public money has been spent to make Stouffville's downtown core a people place. It's hardly worth it if pedestrians can't walk freely along its sidewalks.

From fax paper to politics, mail is fun

It doesn't take long for the mail to pile up at the ol' Tribune. After wading through a recent stack, I decided to sort what arrived from where and break it down into categories.

Of the lot, only two or three pieces of correspondence were actually sent or dropped off by local readers.

The bulk of Tribune mail is sent by various federal and provincial ministries to boast of wonderful new services and initiatives. Just to make sure the newspaper receives said notices, they often send them two or three times. How's that for government efficiency?

The rest of the mail is sent from public relations agencies



at random

steve houston

hired — for lucrative fees, I presume — to promote various and sundry commercial products.

After reading it, I learned a lot, to wit:

The federal government's big, bad goods and services tax (GST) is doing much to besmirch Finance Minister Michael Wilson's already awful public image.

Mr. Wilson, displaying keen political judgment, admitted last week the new tax will cost the Tories some voter support. His is indeed a shrewd approach.

It seems to me the federal government's propaganda machine is simply spinning an old record (The Free Trade Agreement polka) and dubbing in GST over FTA in the chorus.

They must be counting on the

laissez faire attitude of Canadians to do little about the new tax. I suspect they know we'll grumble a lot without taking any effective action.

And even if David Peterson had a kiddie-tantrum on the steps of Parliament, the new tax would come into effect anyway.

I also learned, from reading the mail, that fax machine paper suppliers aren't that smart.

We received a letter from a supplier asking if we would be interested in purchasing their products.

Wouldn't it be wise for such a firm to advertise their products over the fax machine? Well wouldn't it?

Receiving mail from them is like getting a letter from a marketing firm saying you've won a trip, but you have to fly to Miami to claim it.

And then there are those so-called health and lifestyles articles that are sent in, but which are truly written to promote an indoor gym, rowing machine, etc. They don't fool us.

I guess that's the print media equivalent to those half-hour commercials they now have on television to sell food processors or Ginsu knives.

But if the truth be known, reading the mail keeps me on the leading edge of new trends. I bet I'm the first person on my block to own a pet-rock.

Stouffville / Uxbridge Tribune

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Reader lauds town's civic centre decision

Dear Editor:

I am surprised at the stand both the BIA and the Chamber of Commerce have taken with respect to the future location of the municipal offices.

Both organizations consist of business people who are supposed to have foresight and vision. I would expect them to have the interest of all Whitchurch-Stouffville at heart, not just the merchants on Main St.

At present, the municipal offices are crowded, dislocated and scattered between four buildings. The council chambers are too small for the town of today.

What about 10 years from now, or 20 years? Is council supposed to pay \$250,000 for every house with a lot space of 1/8 of an acre

that comes on the market around Civic Square? Are taxpayers supposed to foot the bill to acquire 10 such lots at a minimum cost of \$2.5 million?

I understand that council paid \$400,000 for 10 acres. That is what I call foresight. That is why we elected council.

Unionville Village, Markham Main St. and many other towns have survived commercially without the municipal offices on their Main Street. Why not Stouffville?

Whitchurch-Stouffville is going to grow, like it or not, and some day people in Stouffville must realize that there is a Whitchurch as well as a Stouffville.

Casey van Maris, President
Parklane Nurseries Ltd.

Stapleys say thanks

Dear Editor:

We would like to express our gratitude to John Heaton, Wayne Simpson, Dave Wood, Jean Peters and all the others who helped organize the special golf tournament for Shane last Tuesday.

Special thanks also to operators of the Firefighters Rolling Hills Golf Course, who donated the course, and to all the Markham-Stouffville businesses whose sponsorship made the benefit such an overwhelming success.

We are truly overwhelmed. And thanks, finally, to the 60 golfers who took part.

Yours Truly,
Shane, Valerie, Bruce
and Marissa Stapley