

# Comment Page

## Train service looks up

Residents in Stouffville received welcome news from the Government of Ontario just prior to Christmas.

The government announced that a second GO train would be added each morning and evening. Currently there is one train running from Stouffville through Markham, Unionville, Milliken and Agincourt.

As of Jan. 29 a second early train will be added. It will give commuters more flexibility in using public transit to go into the city each day — and that has to be a plus in improving traffic conditions in the area.

It's encouraging to see the provincial government improve transit services. Recent widening of 14th Ave. and 16th Ave. by the Town of Markham should also improve traffic flow.

Although more is required to relieve severe overloading of Hwy. 7, at least a start has been made to alleviate traffic congestion.

The GO train decision is an encouraging start to wooing commuters out of their cars and onto public transit.

— Don Bernard



# Feds gave me odd Christmas gift

In this season of giving, the federal government dropped an unexpected gift on my lap this month and had me running for cover.

A letter from Revenue Canada addressed to yours truly, said officials there received information that I had cheated on my tax return in 1985. It seems I had earned \$10,300 in undeclared income and boy, was I going to pay the price.

The letter went on to say the money was paid to me by a firm I had never heard of and even hinted that I, gasp, should hire a lawyer.

I phoned those nice people at Revenue Canada the day after receiving the letter and was



at random

steve houston

essentially told that they knew I was guilty and should just admit it, so they could get on with my tax reassessment.

And the letter didn't beat around the bush. It didn't say that I may have earned this money, or even that their records indicated I did. The letter bluntly stated that I made an extra \$10,300 and would be given 30 days to respond to the charges.

Following that, the nice people at Revenue Canada allowed me into their offices for an interview in which I offered access to all my bank accounts, etc. and invited them to investigate further.

Several phone calls later, I was sent a letter stating that my file would be closed at this time.

For the record, I did not earn \$10,300 which I failed to declare, I had no previous knowledge of the

firm which allegedly paid me said earnings, and I did not take Ricky Buttons' tennis ball in Grade 4.

So there! And while I'm angry with the federal government, an interesting booklet published by a group called the National Citizens' Coalition arrived at the Tribune recently.

In the booklet, called Tales from the Tax Trough, the group highlights some of more ridiculous ways Mr. Mulroney's Tories waste our tax dollars, to wit:

- \$13,500 for a study called "Yard Art: The Social Value of Lawn Ornaments."
- \$160,000 to "Buddies in Bad

Times Theatre, which has produced, among other things, "Drag Queens on Trial."

Tales from the Tax Trough offers humorous reading, but behind it there is a sobering message for taxpayers who are increasingly shouldering a larger tax load.

And there's the rub: I'm an honest guy whose biggest crime against the federal government was filing a tax return one year late.

Later, I began receiving nasty letters based on erroneous information, while the feds gave \$160,000 to groups who produce plays about drag queens.

Is this a great country, or what?

### Editor's mail

## Columnist's viewpoint lauded

Dear Editor,

I wish to thank Kate Gilderdale for her article Dec. 20 in which she expressed so well the outrage I feel toward those few fanatical feminists who trivialized the tragedy of that horrible massacre in Montreal in order to promote their extremist viewpoints.

If I may paraphrase part of Kate's column, there will always be the Marc Lepines and other fanatics who twist the facts to suit their own inadequacies.

My father is an ordinary man and like most ordinary men, he grieves deeply for the families and the victims.

The more radical element of the movement seems to think that all men are the enemy, whereas I have found the vast

majority of men completely support equality for women.

It will not serve our movement well if a wedge is driven between women and their male sympathizers. These self-appointed extremists do not represent me.

I strongly disagree with the words and the timing of Erin Graham, a counsellor at the Vancouver Rape Relief Centre who said, when speaking at a mourning vigil in Vancouver, "Lepine's carnage was not an individual act. It is not just one man hating women. It is the social and political reality we live in." I see these murders as the deed of a single madman and not the deed of all men.

Another example of the hypocrisy was the exclusion of

men from a vigil in Thunder Bay. How can we seek equality with men when we do not see them equal enough to join us in mourning the loss of these young women? That was not a vigil, it was a political rally.

One cannot but suspect that the more fanatic elements of the movement are "men haters" trying to get even with the "women haters" in our society. They seem to feel that slandering all men will, in some strange way, improve our lot in life. Surely their mandate, if indeed they have one, is to raise the stature of all women. This cannot be accomplished merely by lowering the stature of all men.

Roslyn Beer  
Claremont

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