

Comment Page



DEAR MR. MULRONEY:
I HAD EVERY INTENTION OF MAILING IN MY TAX RETURN EARLY THIS YEAR, BUT SINCE I HAVE BEEN SO HEAVILY TAXED, I CAN'T AFFORD THE STAMP.

AMAR'90

War of words unnecessary

The war of words being waged between Whitchurch-Stouffville Council and the Business Improvement Area isn't doing much to foster a sense of community these days.

And local politicians made a prudent decision last week in its bid to call a cease-fire in the issue by not providing a letter to the local press.

The BIA, which champions the cause of the downtown business area to help it thrive, was recently reprimanded by Stouffville Council over a number of so-called shortcomings.

For its part, the BIA had a few words of its own for Council and its deficiencies.

Unfortunately, no one benefits from the friction - especially the people of Stouffville who like to promote their downtown core to visitors or friends.

Both parties - who have a common goal in ensuring the success of Stouffville's main shopping core - must put aside the ill-feeling and work for a better atmosphere.

The first step to defuse tension has been taken by the Town. If cooler heads prevail, a better downtown will result.

Grappling with perceptions of 'news'

I received a letter last week from a Stouffville Tribune reader who took issue with a story which appeared on the front page of our March 21 edition.

The story covered recent troubles at the Deer Park Inn on Hwy. 47, and extensively quoted a former employee who claimed the owners of the establishment reneged on pay cheques for himself and others at the Inn.

Written by Stouffville reporter Tracy Kibble, the story was accurate and fair but it showed a negative side of the operation.

Our reader believes the story was written "in very poor taste" which is an opinion to which she is clearly entitled.

Her letter also states that, as a small-town newspaper, the Tribune should "reflect more posi-



at random
steve houston

tively on local businesses."

It is a point well taken, but consider this:

If the story didn't run, what would happen to people in the area who have a wedding or other event booked there? What about those who decided they would take in a play or a meal? What of the local suppliers who may have been unaware of the situation?

Clearly, the story has a far-reaching impact and, as a newspaper, the Tribune responds to issues and occurrences in its coverage areas in Stouffville and

Uxbridge.

In this case and others like it, we provide a service to readers to let them know what is happening in the town. If no story were to appear, many readers would call or write to ask why.

It is true that newspapers often champion one cause or another, and the Tribune is no different. We often promote the downtown business core which is represented by the local BIA and chamber of commerce. Each of those organizations work hard to make Stouffville a better place to live.

So too do we cover the controversial issues which occasionally arise within those groups.

Last year, when the Deer Park Inn was involved in Strawberry

Festival celebrations, the Tribune reported its involvement as part of the coverage.

Yet another part of newspaper coverage which often raises the ire of readers is car accident photographs.

The word sensationalism is bandied about, and many believe graphic photos are used to sell newspapers.

But photographs and stories are merely a mirror of what is happening in our communities.

It may not be nice to look at, but often provokes thought and action.

Motorists want to know where there are trouble spots on the roads in which they drive. Is there a particularly dangerous intersection where extra care may be needed? Is there a section of road somewhere (the 9th Line comes to mind) that is in need of repair?

These are the things a newspaper wants to know. And what we

know, our readers know.

It's true there are two sides to every story. If we were to cover only the positive things, we would be doing our readers a disservice.

And despite the fact many readers may disagree with the issues or content of a given news story, it is their own conclusion they are drawing, not ours.

Some stories may be tragic, others are inspiring. Some provoke anger, still others might make a reader smile.

You might disagree with what you read, but that's the beauty of the society in which we live.

If something you see in these pages make you angry, write us a letter just like the one about the Deer Park Inn story.

If you have a beef about something else, put it on paper and drop it in our mailbox - that's what we're here for.

And it's our readers who help make the Tribune better.

Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune

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Editor's mail

Volunteers great

Dear Editor,

April 22-28 is National Volunteer Week.

Let us salute Whitchurch-Stouffville citizens, who generously volunteer their time and talents to improve the quality of life in the community.

Volunteers can be found everywhere in the community, schools, our new hospital, working with children, seniors, etc.

During this special week set aside time to recognize volunteers who give so generously of their time and themselves.

Let us make Volunteer Week a

particularly special event for our many volunteers and the organizations that support them, and to all those many organizations and associations that promote community service, let us express our deepest appreciation.

Stouffville's tradition of voluntary service is well worth celebrating. On behalf of Home Support Services for Seniors and all the other organizations, hats off and gratitude to all of you.

Ginny Burrow
Stouffville

FILL OUR MAILBOX

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers on current topics. Letters should be 500 words or less and typed or neatly printed. They may be subject to editing for length at the discretion of the editor.

They must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday to appear in the Wednesday Tribune.

Letters may be submitted to the office at 54 Main St. W. Stouffville, P.O. Box 40, L4A 7Z4.

In Uxbridge, letters can be addressed to 59 Albert St., Uxbridge, P.O. Box 1538, L0C 1K0