

# Comment Page



## Peace

*Peace is ours  
a timeless gift  
delivered by winged  
beings  
dazzling and dream-  
like*

*A priceless gift  
cocooned in gossamer  
crated with feathers  
that delight in their  
cargo*

*Peace is ours  
it awaits our discovery  
as one by one  
we unravel the ribbons  
and unwrap reality*

*Peace is our purpose  
it's purple, it's poetry  
pervasive, persuasive  
precious and promised  
love it to hold it  
Peace is prayer*

# Police officer, freeze...please?

I approached the house cautiously and reached for my nine-millimetre semi-automatic handgun.

The police radio said a possible break and enter was underway and I wasn't going to take any chances.

A man came out of the house holding a white bag.

"Police officer, freeze!" I yelled, gripping the weapon firmly and pointing it at the suspect.

"Hands up and walk real slow toward me," I commanded.

"Nice and easy, come over here by the car and drop the bag," I said. He did.

Hey, this police business is a piece of cake. I'm in control.

All of a sudden, while my attention was on one man, another bolted out of the car and started firing at me.

I fired back. Pulse rate: 140. Sweat rate: beyond human limits.



kibble's bits

tracy kibble

Career choice: not to include policing as a line of work.

Fortunately, the whole scenario was part of a modern laser computer training program called FATS - Fire Arms Training System, where you approach a scene and try to figure out what is going to happen.

This is one citizen who won't be quite so critical when I read of a police officer shooting a suspect.

Because now I know the stress involved in making 10 quick and experienced decisions in a three-second time frame.

Was my life threatened? Is the

suspect dangerous? Is it safe to act without harming innocent passers-by? Oh, woe is me - I'll take my Mac and my desk anytime, thank you.

I was included in a Firearms Media Day last Tuesday afternoon at the impressive Aurora OPP detachment, where more than 45 newspaper reporters and editors took place in 5-District's second annual exciting, challenging and eye-opening event.

My team of four, including a Globe and Mail reporter and a Chestley reporter, entered the shooting range to begin the hands-on exercise.

This is a professional range where training officers practice sharp-shooting.

Since I had never held a gun before, (except for my orange water squirter) I was quite nervous and intimidated by the Smith & Wesson Model 10, .38 calibre, four-inch, six-shot revolver with a swing-out cylinder.

Eye and ear protection in place, I carefully loaded my semi-wadcutter ammunition into the cylinder, which fires 1,000 feet per second.

This first round of six bullets went nicely into the centre target and I was quite proud.

But as the target was taken further away from my gun sight, and OPP Officer Bob Lewis forced me to make quick decisions, I didn't fare as well.

At a 23-foot distance, I had to fire three shots in four seconds - and hit the target. Not bad.

But what if my gun was in my

holster and I was approaching a suspicious car and someone fired a gun at me?

I've gained a newfound respect for police officers and the stress they face and the split-second decisions they are forced to make.

Who am I to judge why an officer shoots someone in the line of duty if his life (or someone else's) is threatened?

I certainly wouldn't want to be an OPP officer and find myself looking down the barrel of a gun. Would you? I think not.

Although firearm defence is a last resort, it is nice to know the protection is there if need be.

I thank OPP officers Peter West, Bob Lewis, Mark Prance and Kim Peters for the exciting day. You can keep your jobs.

Next year I hope to win the shooting range competition so I can go home with a new 'beverage container'.

## Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune

<b>Publisher</b>	Patricia Pappas
<b>Editor-in-chief</b>	Jo Ann Stevenson
<b>Editor</b>	Stephen Houston
<b>Advertising Director</b>	Debra Weller
<b>Business Manager</b>	Chris Bertram
<b>Promotions/Distribution Mgr.</b>	Jennifer Hutt
<b>Operations Manager</b>	Pam Nichols

Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3 Tel. 294-2200. Second class registration number 1247. The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday, at 54 Main St. W. Stouffville 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, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist and Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa-Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic Newsmagazine, Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.

640-2100  
852-9741

### Editor's mail

## SDSS volleyballers given boost

Dear Editor, Recently our team was fortunate enough to advance to the Senior Boys All-Ontario Volleyball Championships in Chatham. On behalf of the team I would sincerely like to thank the administration, namely Alan Dickson and Jay Hooper, for their positive support throughout the season. Our

regards also go out to the student council guided by Mr. Chenkas, Mr. Tooker and Mrs. Eastman for their financial assistance. We cannot forget the student body, and booster club who gave us a memorable send off at the pep rally.

In closing, I sincerely wish to again thank Williamson Motors, namely

Sales Representatives Kevin and Richard Bartley, for supplying the team with a van for the trip to the OFSAA Championships.

Yours Truly,  
Jim Fletcher

### 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.

Submit letters to the office at 6291 Main St. Stouffville, L4A 1G5.

## Fun day a huge success

Dear Editor, The staff and students of Orchard Park Public School would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Parent/Teacher Home and School Association for the successful fun day in November.

The sale were brisk, the activities were fun and challenging, and the atmosphere was warm, friendly and lively. Effort, organization and enthusiasm were evident. Three cheers to Maggie Street and her committee for a job well done.

Sincerely,  
Norma Luks, V.P. Orchard Park P.S.