

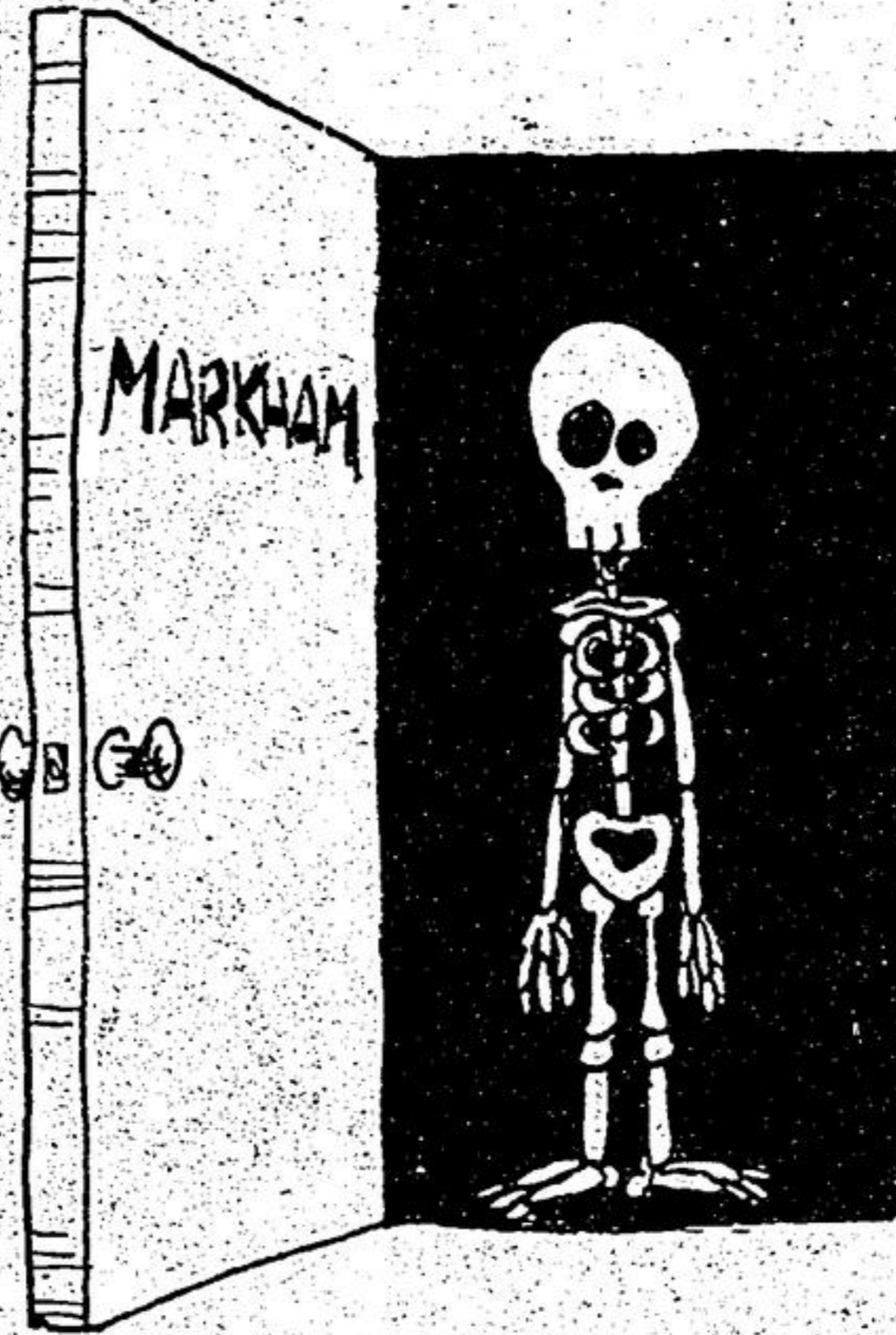
# stouffville comment

## Users will have to get used to it

It is easy to sympathize with those opposed to the fee structure for public skating in Stouffville. When it costs \$8 for a family pass here, it is frustrating to see Scarborough residents paying \$2.50. Still other towns still put up outdoor rinks and are free of charge.

But residents are going to have to get used to the fact that the well is drying up for many of these services. Scarborough can afford \$2.50 skating passes because there are half a million people living there. Stouffville's tax base can not support as much, and to keep the taxes down, user fees will be the rule, not the exception in future.

Eight dollars may be extreme, and there might be room to maneuver on the cost, but don't look for .50¢ admission tickets anymore. Those days are gone.



AMAIR '93

## Recession not over for many local people

Don't kid yourself: the recession is nowhere near over.

In fact, as many local workers and companies discovered last week, hard times are just beginning. Despite national economists' predictions that the toughest recessionary times are behind us, people should hold on tight to their savings account if they're lucky enough to stash one.

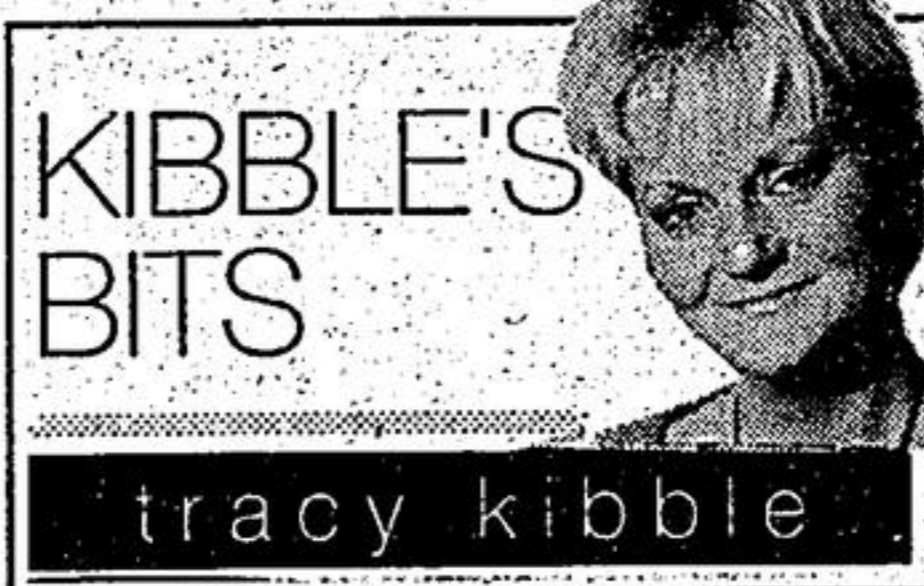
Proof that challenging times are here to stay was more than evident last week as more than a handful of now-unemployed Uxbridge and Stouffville workers lost jobs.

There were 73 people from all different facets of employment thrown out of work from both communities recently - victims of company "restructuring" plans - brought on by this decade-long recession that will continue to

clutch the 90s in a tight-fisted stronghold. A new brand of fierce market competitiveness has already begun to bring once-powerful companies to their humbled knees.

Sixty-eight people lost their jobs at Uxbridge's 50-year-old Coca-Cola Bottling plant on Franklin Street; five more jobs were axed from the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital; three Whitchurch-Stouffville civil servants kissed their jobs good-bye last week and the town's physiotherapy clinic, serving both communities, was threatened recently with door-closing Ontario Hospital Insurance Premium (OHIP) cuts.

That doesn't include those quiet 'pink-slip' incidents which are being handed down to local employees each and every week as companies struggle to survive.



These are just a few of the local signs that the recession is anything but over.

Many companies and government agencies are going to be doing a lot more restructuring to meet economic and competitive demands which will have spin-off effects to small towns across the country. And while the notion of restructuring threatens otherwise life-time security and lucrative benefits for many people, it will unfortunately be used as the col-

lective road to recovery for most businesses during the next few years.

We have only seen the tip of the iceberg as far as lay-offs are concerned because it is only now that companies are realizing they must streamline their highest expense (salaries and benefits make up between 75 to 80 per cent of a corporation's budget) in order to survive and compete during this turn-around 90s.

This is a time, more than ever, to encourage young people to learn a trade or a skill in order to land good, solid jobs, hold onto careers compete and survive in the business world.

As technology continues to hammer away at labor-type jobs, people will have to earn strong skills - jobs that can't provide a vital ser-

vice will be abolished.

As Uxbridge Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor said last week after learning of the Coca-Cola lay-offs: "...I understand in today's economy that decisions must be made that are going to hurt."

And Stouffville's chief staffer said in a release after the town laid-off three people: "...The overall need to belt-tighten has forced municipalities across Ontario to take a good hard look at what services they are providing..."

Uxbridge Cottage Hospital board chairman, John Milnes said it all:

"Unfortunately we have reached a stage where we can no longer afford everything that we had..."

As the song goes, "The first cut is the deepest."

## Dreading one day at a time

If I had a dollar for every time someone said 'Are you ready for Christmas?' I could afford to get someone else to do my shopping for me.

During the first week of December I discover I've missed all the gift catalogue deadlines for my family in England. By this time it's several weeks too late to send anything by surface mail and air mail costs more than the hastily chosen gifts I'm now forced to dispatch myself.

Meanwhile I'm trying to find time to read all those helpful articles on how to avoid stress at this time of year. A quick perusal reveals they all agree on one thing: the only essential ingredient for a trouble-free 'holiday' season is forward planning. This adds immeasurably to my stress. I comfort myself with the knowledge that Christmas will come whether I'm ready or not and



that worrying about my lack of readiness will not make the slightest difference.

Another thing I've discovered is that it's useless to shop for teenagers until 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This is because their list of extortionate demands changes on an hourly basis and what was essential for their survival yesterday will be terribly five minutes ago tomorrow.

Make the mistake of shopping early for Christmas and you'll find yourself lining up at the store on Boxing Day, hoping to get your money back for the gift that was

lusted after so mightily in October, and for which you've long since lost the receipt.

Another depressing aspect of the season to be jolly is that it highlights my chronic inability to emulate the beautiful festive atmosphere so effortlessly created on the pages of Canadian Living.

Their Christmas trees look like something out of a Victorian fairy tale. Mine are a dead ringer for Charlie Brown's half-dead sapling in the Peanuts' Christmas television show.

I start out with all the recommended ingredients but, alas, I am to design what Don Cherry is to reticence and the end result is about as professional as the British tabloids' pursuit of the Princess of Wales. This Christmas, I'm following Charles Schulz's lead. "I have a new philosophy. I'm only going to dread one day at a time."

## Stouffville Tribune

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Publisher</b>            | Patricia Pappas  |
| <b>General Manager</b>      | Andrew Mair      |
| <b>Editor-in-chief</b>      | Jo Ann Stevenson |
| <b>Advertising Director</b> | Debra Weller     |
| <b>Business Manager</b>     | Vivian O'Neil    |
| <b>Operations Manager</b>   | Pamela Nichols   |

**STAFF: Reporters;** Tracy Kibble, Julie Caspersen, Roger Belgrave. **Photographers;** Sjoerd Witteveen, Steve Somerville. **Real Estate Ads;** Joan Marshman. **Classified Ads;** Doreen Deacon. **Retail Sales;** Joan Marshman, Doreen Deacon. **Distribution;** Arlene Maddock.

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #439010

Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario L3P 1M3 Tel. 294-2200. The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday, at 6244 Main St. Stouffville is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Collingwood Connection, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland Express, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era Banner, North York Mirror, Northumberland News, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa-Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, and Uxbridge Tribune.

NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.

640-2100

640-5477 (fax)