

Saturday, July 26, 1997
Vol. 13, No. 30

Comment & Opinions

Send your letters
to the editor
to the address below

EDITORIAL

Cuts to health care can take heavy toll

Residents and the hospitals that serve them in York and Durham regions can be excused for finding some encouragement in what the province's Health Services Restructuring Commission has done to hospitals in Metro Toronto.

On the surface it appears that the commission is attempting to redress the imbalance between the number of hospitals in the outlying regions and suburbs of the Greater Toronto Area and the high number of hospitals in Metro proper.

This cause for encouragement must be taken with a grain of salt, however. Next on the list for the restructuring commission is the health service in the regions — York, Durham, Peel and Halton.

Judging by the bloodletting which followed the announced closure of 11 hospitals in Metro, it's far from time to break out the champagne.

The problem with the restructuring commission is that it appears unwilling to look beyond the bottom line.

It seems immune to the arguments about the importance of a hospital, whatever its size, to the community it serves.

In a perfect world, the commission would look at the growth in the 905 regions and say improvements must be made to health care in our areas. However, improvements cost money — and the restructuring commission's mandate seems muddled. Are they trying to improve the province's health care system, or just cut costs?

Yes, there is fat to be trimmed in our health care system. But are we going too far? What everyone needs to remember is that when it comes to hospitals, we're dealing with human lives. There's a price to be paid for keeping people healthy, and in the past it seemed it was one Ontario was willing to pay.



Newspaper boners in black and white

"A reporter is a person who becomes an expert on any conceivable subject between 1 o'clock in the afternoon and a 6 p.m. deadline."

Anon.
Let me declare my infirmity right off the top: I am a newspaper junkie. I love 'em. Dailies. Weeklies. Fat ones. Skinny ones. Prestigious international 'Journals of Record' and lurid, scummy supermarket tabloids.

I read them all just about every chance I get.

And I guess you've got a soft spot for papers, too — or else we wouldn't be meeting like this, would we?

One of the things I find most endearing about newspapers is their fallibility. You never know when you're going to open a paper and discover a tremendous boner in black and white.

Last month, the Globe and Mail ran an illustration of the locks at Sault Ste. Marie. The cutline under the illustration

explained that the locks controlled the water "from Lake Superior as it runs into Lake Ontario."

Grade 7 Geography, anyone?

Newspapers (not this one, of course) get it wrong. A lot. Maybe it's because they're produced in such a rush. Sometimes the error is serious. Sometimes it's even libelous.

But a lot of times it's merely hilarious.

Consider newspaper want ads. The Society For The Prevention of Cruelty



Basic Black
Arthur Black

to Animals could probably win a lawsuit on behalf of the pets in some of the want ads I've read — such as:

"Lost: Apricot poodle, Neutered. Like one of the family."

"For sale: Eight puppies from a German Shepherd and an Alaskan Husky."

"Dog for sale: Eats anything and is fond of children."

Are you looking for someone to hire? If you use the want ads, make sure you get somebody to proofread your plea. Otherwise you might get something like:

"Wanted: Fifty girls for stripping machine operators in factory."

"Wanted: Man to take care of cow who does not smoke or drink."

"Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel."

"Lawyer seeking accomplished, well-recommended deceptionist."

Even travel ads can turn out to be middens of unintentional humor.

"The hotel has tennis

courts, soft beds and other athletic facilities."

"Mt. Kilimanjaro, the breathtaking backdrop for the Serena Lodge. Swim in the lovely pool while you drink it all in."

Some newspaper ads you don't even want to think about. Such as this one plugging the dramatic lineup at New York theatre:

"Featuring three Shakespeare plays: Hamlet, Macbeth and Anatomy and Cleopatra."

Or the Used Furniture Want Ad that offered:

"An antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers."

Or my personal favorite — an ad I actually read in a paper years ago.

"Illiterate? Write today for free help."

Finally, a sobering example of how newspapers trying to do the right thing often wind up making bigger boo-boos. This 'correction' actually appeared in a Thunder Bay newspaper.

"A report in yesterday's Times-News referred to 'Sergeant Blaine,' a 20-year veteran detective of the police force."

"This was an error. It should have read 'Sergeant Blaine,' a 20-year veteran detective of the police force."

Waste depot issue concerns new residents

Dear Editor,

As new residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville, my family and I are definitely not in favor of a waste depot in our backyard, so to speak.

We would like our voices heard but don't know where or when these meetings are.

They are not published with your reports on the meetings.

Perhaps I'm missing them in some other area of our newspaper?

Could this information be added to the end of each update story?

We sure don't want to miss any more. They are important to us, as I worry about poison to our environment; they could determine if I must

buy water for my family and livestock; not to mention the high risk of fire to these highly-flammable waste items, with no immediate water available.

J.S. Lopizzo
Marion Lopizzo and family
Stouffville

Editor's Note: Our reporter is keeping an eye on this issue, and we'll keep readers up to date in upcoming issues of The Tribune.

LETTERS

STOUFFVILLE
TRIBUNE
WEEKENDER
A Metroland Community
Newspaper
Patricia Pappas
Publisher
Andrew Mair
Editor-In-Chief
Julie Caspersen
Editor
Debra Weller
Director of Advertising
Phyllis Ritchie
Retail Advertising Manager
Stacey Allen
Classified Manager
Barry Goodyear
Director of Distribution
Vivian O'Neil
Business Manager
Pamela Nichols
Operations Manager

about us
News
(905) 640-2100
Retail sales
(905) 640-2100
Classifieds
(905) 640-2874
Distribution
(905) 640-2100
Fax
(905) 640-5477
E-Mail
thetrib@istar.ca
6244 Main St.,
Stouffville, Ont.
L4A 1E2

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distribution group of community newspapers which includes: Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald-Courier, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, City Park, Collingwood/Wasaga Beach Connection, East York Mirror, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penningtonville Mirror, Milton Canadian, Claxton, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby Clarion/Fort Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Uxbridge Tribune and Today's Sentinel. Contents cannot be recycled without written permission from the publisher, Permit #1247. The publisher reserves the right to refuse or classify an advertisement. Credit for advertisement limited to space the error occupied.



Letters Policy
The Tribune welcomes your letters to the editor. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Note that letters may be edited for space, libel, spelling, grammar. While we endeavor to print as many letters as possible, we regret that not all letters may be printed.