

Comment & Opinions

Thursday, August 7, 1997
Vol. 109, No. 46

Send your letters
to the editor
to the address below

EDITORIAL

Welfare pooling plan flawed from start

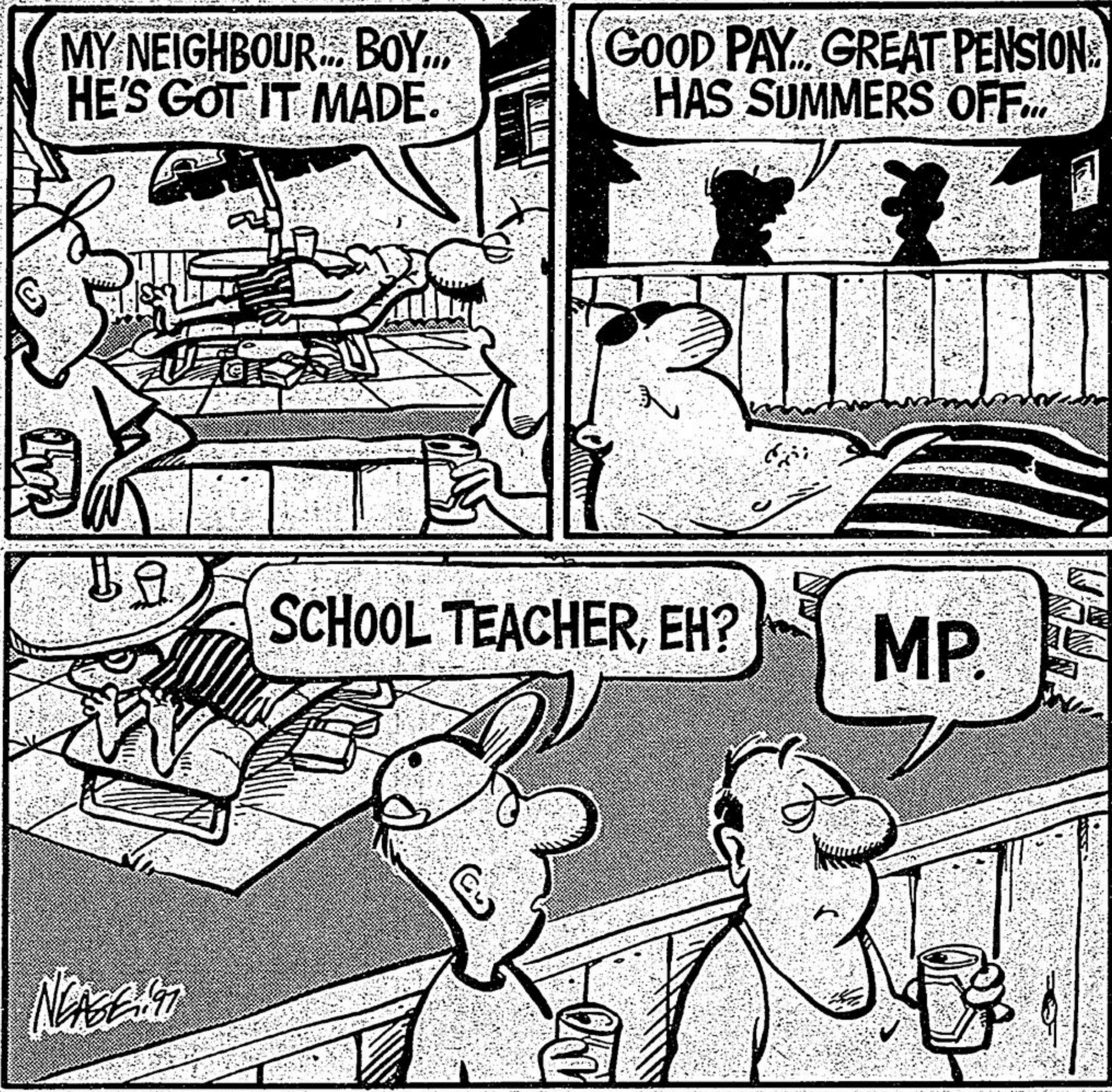
Greater Toronto Area politicians are reeling from the provincial government's plan to pool welfare costs with those of Metro Toronto. This is, of course, because it just got a lot more expensive to live in the GTA.

The province claims that because many GTA residents work and use the services of Metro, they need to pay more of their fair share. There may be an argument for this, but the Harris government's mega-city legislation is going to force thousands of people from the heart of Metro into the suburbs and beyond. The city, by most experts' accounts, will develop the blight that afflicts so many modern cities — an abandoned downtown. When this occurs, those who cannot afford to live in the GTA will be forced into the inner city, creating the definite polarity that exists in places like Detroit, Los Angeles or Buffalo. The GTA residents will then be carrying a far greater financial burden.

Another sticking point will be the cost of GO Transit, for which Metro will pay just \$16.8 million of the annual budget. GTA towns will pick up the other \$92 million.

The whole issue came about as a result of the province's downloading of welfare costs onto municipalities in exchange for a bigger bite of the education costs. Yet, the plan is flawed and obviously has not been thought through: There is still no formula for the collection of those new school taxes.

GTA politicians are reeling. We all will be soon.



Lessons learned from city to the south

Our friend Mr. NIMBY is back. Mr. NIMBY first came to town back in the early '90s during the province's search for a site to dump our trash.

No one wants a garbage dump in their backyard.

The province's Interim Waste Authority (IWA) originally selected 57 sites across Ontario — one in Markham — to replace our overflowing landfill sites.

I remember the signs screaming "No Dump Here" and "RUTH GRIER NOT HERE" about the then-minister of the environment.

Enter Mr. NIMBY — perhaps you know him by his other name Not In My Back Yard?

Well, he's back, only this time the issue isn't landfill — it's amalgamation.

It'll never happen here, nadda — no way.

That's what many politicians in Stouffville and Uxbridge say about the possibility of their small piece of the global pie being gobbled up by a larger urban municipality.

Amalgamation — Not In My Back Yard!

Recently, Uxbridge Council decided to ask the province for a



Viewpoint

Jordan H. Green

full term waiting period before joining the Greater Toronto Services Board (GTSB) — that's a whole three years. Several other rural Greater Toronto Area (GTA) municipalities are asking for similar grace periods so that they can decide whether or not they want to participate in the GTSB.

Other rural municipalities have decided not to create an urban-versus-rural war and not ask for an extension. Stouffville Council is in this camp.

Still other rural municipalities are considering far more drastic measures to protect their turf — withdrawing from the GTA altogether. The town of Clarington is one of these radicals.

Vive la Clarington?

What does the future hold for small town Ontario?

Who can tell — but what I do know is we can learn a lot by

watching the mega-city fiasco in Metropolitan Toronto.

Despite all the protests and petitions, former Toronto mayor John Sewell's campaign to stop Premier Mike Harris from merging Metro's six area municipalities into one megacity has failed.

Metro's mayors even held a pseudo referendum — North York used a dial-a-vote system where voters could push 1 for yes or 2 for no to the mega-city — many people couldn't get through. In Scarborough, the ballots were run in the local papers not only asking people to mail their ballots, but to put their names and addresses on them. So much for secret ballot.

Many people no longer residing in Metro were mailed ballots — including some people that have been deceased for years.

Whatever we think of the process, the results of the referendum didn't make much difference to Harris — 76 per cent voted no to the megacity.

Will Stouffville and Uxbridge be the same five years from now? Who knows.

Instead of tossing on their fortune teller hats and glaring into

their crystal balls trying to predict their chances for further employment, our politicians should watch and learn.

Watch the mega-city south of Steeles Avenue unfold and learn from it.

Watch the issues develop, the problems that arise and the reasons for these problems.

Amalgamation has been a non-stop roller coaster running through our cities, towns and villages since the beginning of democracy. Remember the Village of Yorkdale? Now it's part of North York. Willowdale and Agincourt also once were independent of North York and Scarborough, as were many other municipalities in many other cities.

The amalgamation rollercoaster will run through towns again and again.

While it's stopped in Metro, why not study it? We'd be better prepared for the amalgamation rollercoaster if we said good-bye to Mr. NIMBY, and just watched and learned.

Clean up the weeds, please

Dear Editor,

Just a note to whom it may concern. We have a new railway station built. Out front on either side of the walk was placed some nice clean black dirt.

As I walked by on Tuesday — what a mess of weeds! Who is to keep this clear now that it is there. Those weeds will have to be pulled so the seeds will not ripen. Then it must be worked once a week to keep weeds down.

Next year hopefully it will look lovely with flowers. Which also help to keep the weeds out.

Dorothy Wagg
Stouffville

New depths reached: Reader

Dear Editor,

I had just finished reading A. Barry Hulst's letter to you about the offensive remarks you made about Americans, thoroughly agreeing with him, when I looked over the page and there was this very offensive cartoon you had printed (on Thursday, July 31).

Letters to the Editor

Isn't it amazing how you wouldn't dare think of printing a cartoon referring to any special race of people, or anything pertaining to homosexuality, but it's quite alright to make jokes about churches.

Well as a regular church-goer, and a mother of a minister, I think the cartoon was in poor taste.

I can't imagine how much lower you can sink in your humor.

Brenda Hamm
Stouffville

STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Patricia Pappas
Publisher

Andrew Mair
Editor-In-Chief
Julie Caspersen
Editor

Debra Weller
Director of Advertising
Mike Rogerson
Retail Advertising Manager
Stacey Allen
Classified Manager

Barry Goodyear
Director of Distribution

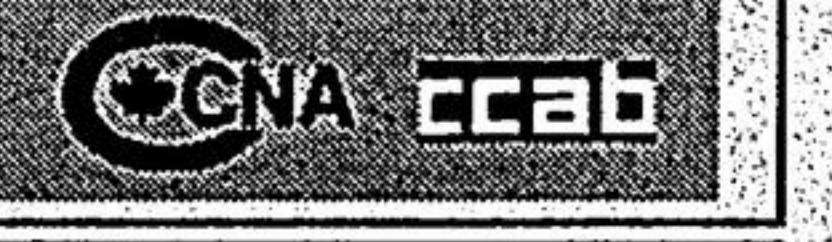
Vivian O'Neil
Business Manager

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: Ayr, Pickering, Newmarket, Aurora, Unionville, East Gwillimbury, Brampton, Burlington, Mississauga, Oakville, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Stouffville, Uxbridge, and York. The Tribune is a member of the Canadian Newspaper Association, the Ontario Newspaper Association, and the National Newspaper Association. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Permit #1247. The publisher reserves the right to refuse or clarify 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.