

# Comment & Opinions

Thursday, August 28, 1997  
Vol. 109, No. 52

Send your letters  
to the editor  
to the address below

## EDITORIAL

### Take care to avoid holiday tragedy

At the end of every long weekend it seems to happen. The carnage from the holiday, be it on the roads or on the water, makes us shake our heads.

Prior to every long weekend, the Ontario Provincial Police issue warnings to motorists and boaters to take care. And it seems as sure as the sun sets in the west that at the conclusion of the holiday Monday there will have been a number of meaningless deaths.

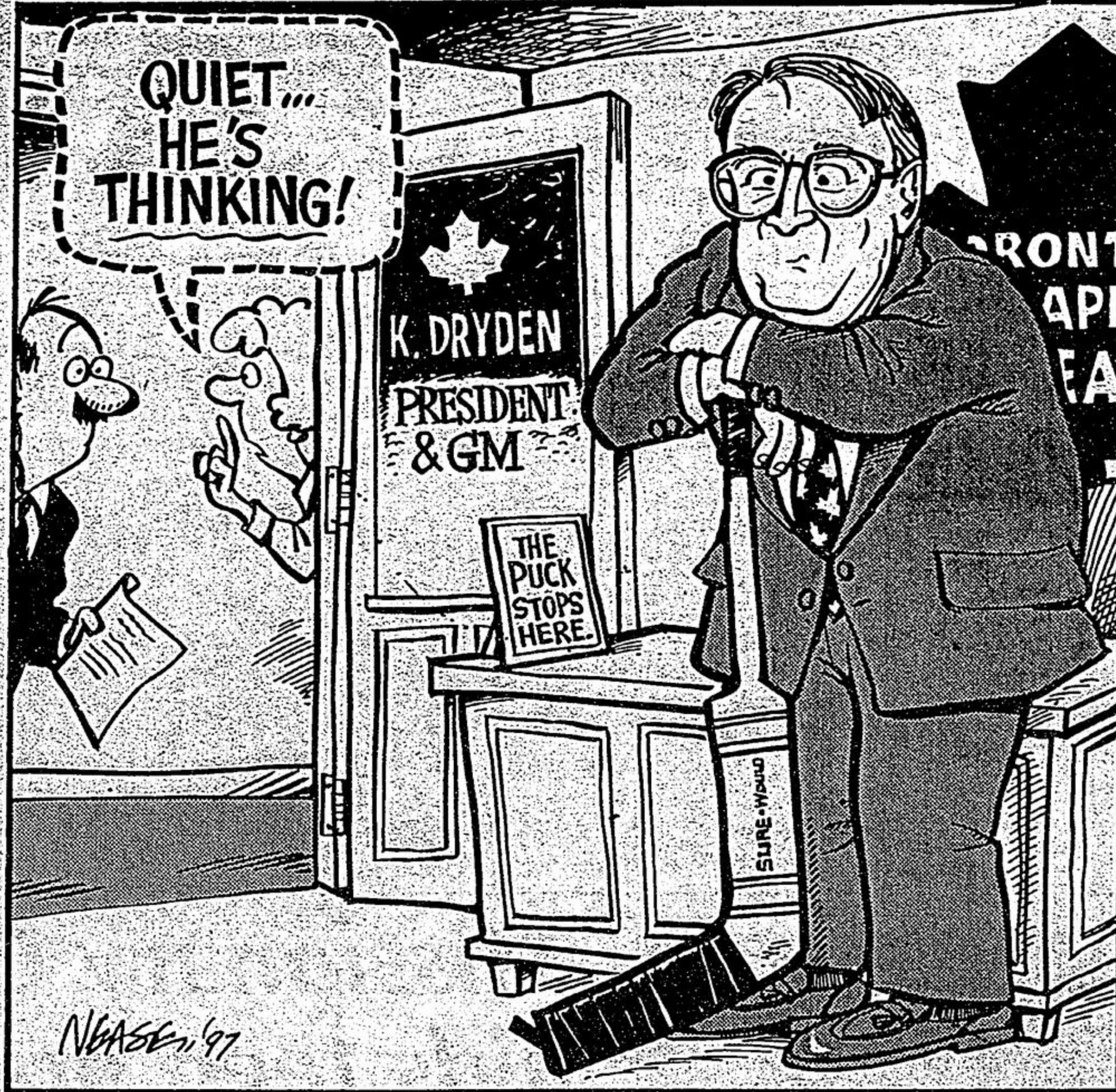
The message cannot be any clearer. Be careful. The highways will be especially busy this weekend. There is no point in trying to pass every car on the road in an effort to be the first person at the cottage or campsite. What's the hurry? Take care and arrive alive.

The same holds true for boaters and swimmers. On the August long weekend there was a tragic crash between two people on personal watercraft. As anyone who has spent time near water knows, these machines are extremely powerful and dangerous if not handled responsibly.

Lifejackets are another frequently ignored safety device among boaters. Far too many people overload boats, and don't have enough lifejackets. These people are gambling with their lives and the lives of others. Is it really worth it?

And then there's alcohol. If you're planning on having a few drinks this weekend, park the car and sit on the dock.

Here's wishing everyone a fun and safe Labour Day Weekend.



## Parking lot not skateboarders' turf

Dear Editor,  
Re: Aug. 21, 1997 front page news? Frustration comes to mind upon receipt of Thursday's *Tribune*.

Stouffville skateboard heaven. Well not in my backyard. Mayor Emmerson has issued an invitation to local skateboarders to help set the "wheels" in motion to promote more skateboarding options to our community.

It would appear that about 20 teenagers would like to have more skateboarding options. Why not add to the half-pipe ramp site already in existence?

This particular ramp had been originally located on the Stouffville Recreation Complex on the Ninth Line, then moved to Memorial Park because of offensive noise to the nearby neighbourhood.

Within the *Tribune* article one teenager has spoken out in favour of the town investing some money into an existing "skateboard area," this being the newly asphalted parking area for use by the additional cars expected since the completion of the second ice pad.

This to me is not a skateboard area but a much needed parking lot, or so I have been told, that has yet to be line painted to accommodate parked vehicles.

I am a homeowner within the condominium complex, Stouffville Mews, and was put in the position of not being able to use my patio for the sole purpose of relaxation and personal enjoyment since the commence-

ment and the ultimate completion of this new parking site. Skateboarding begins as early as 9 a.m. and usually continues well after dusk. In fact there were many evenings that it would continue until 10 to 10:30 p.m. depending on the weather.

The mayor has indicated that any interested skateboarders may call him at 640-1900, hopefully this also will apply to non-skate-

boarders as well. Next stop the town's parks and recreation advisory committee, but please don't call Cliff Dunkeld as he says that the noise created by the skaters is not an issue with him because he can't hear it.

Guess not, his property does not back up to the area in question, close but not close enough to make a difference.

I believe that local taxpayers should have some input into this possible project.

Making the town's sidewalks safer for pedestrian traffic by removing the skaters to another location such as the Recreation Centre parking lot is not and should not be the next move to solution.

Susanne Hall  
Stouffville

### Visit to native reserve appreciated by youth

#### LETTERS

Dear Editor,  
I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Stouffville Missionary Church staff and especially our Youth Pastor Mark Pratt.

On the week of July 20, Pastor Pratt accompanied eight youth to Manitoulin Island on a mission trip to Shaguindah native reserve.

We provided the youth with a day camp of crafts, games and snacks which they appreciated.

It was also a lot of fun camping and cooking out. It was an experience of a life time and if people like the Stouffville Missionary Church didn't care what would youth like me do?

Lindsay Sherban  
Stouffville

### Front page photograph thrills Alice

Dear Editor:  
Thank you very much for putting our daughter Alice's picture on the front page of *The Tribune* this week (Aug. 23).

She was thrilled when she saw it Saturday morning and she couldn't wait to show her friends.

I am sure it is a memory of Stouffville that will stay with her. Thanks again.

Tom Donoghue  
Stouffville.

### Local say needed in Harris downloading

Dear Editor,  
Well, Mr. Harris, our autocratic Premier, wants to download welfare and other social costs to the taxpayers.

Watch out folks! Have we the makings of another "Boston Tea Party" here! Taxation without rep-

resentation?  
Taxpayers must be made aware that they have no vote in the new City of Toronto. Therefore, they must reject this Harris idea with all their might.

And, any councillor must also reject Harris's plan!

Gord Laurie

## STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

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