

Comment & Opinions

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Send your letters
to the editor
to the address below

EDITORIAL

Let's honour hero

This Sunday we all have a chance to honour a true Canadian hero. Along the way we can also make strides towards beating cancer.

The event is the annual Terry Fox Run. The run was started in 1981 as a tribute to Fox, who died in June of that year.

Fox started his Marathon of Hope, a bid to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research, on April 12, 1980 in St. John's, Newfoundland. Interest in the run was minimal at first, probably because a lot of people simply did not believe a one-legged runner would ever make it across Canada.

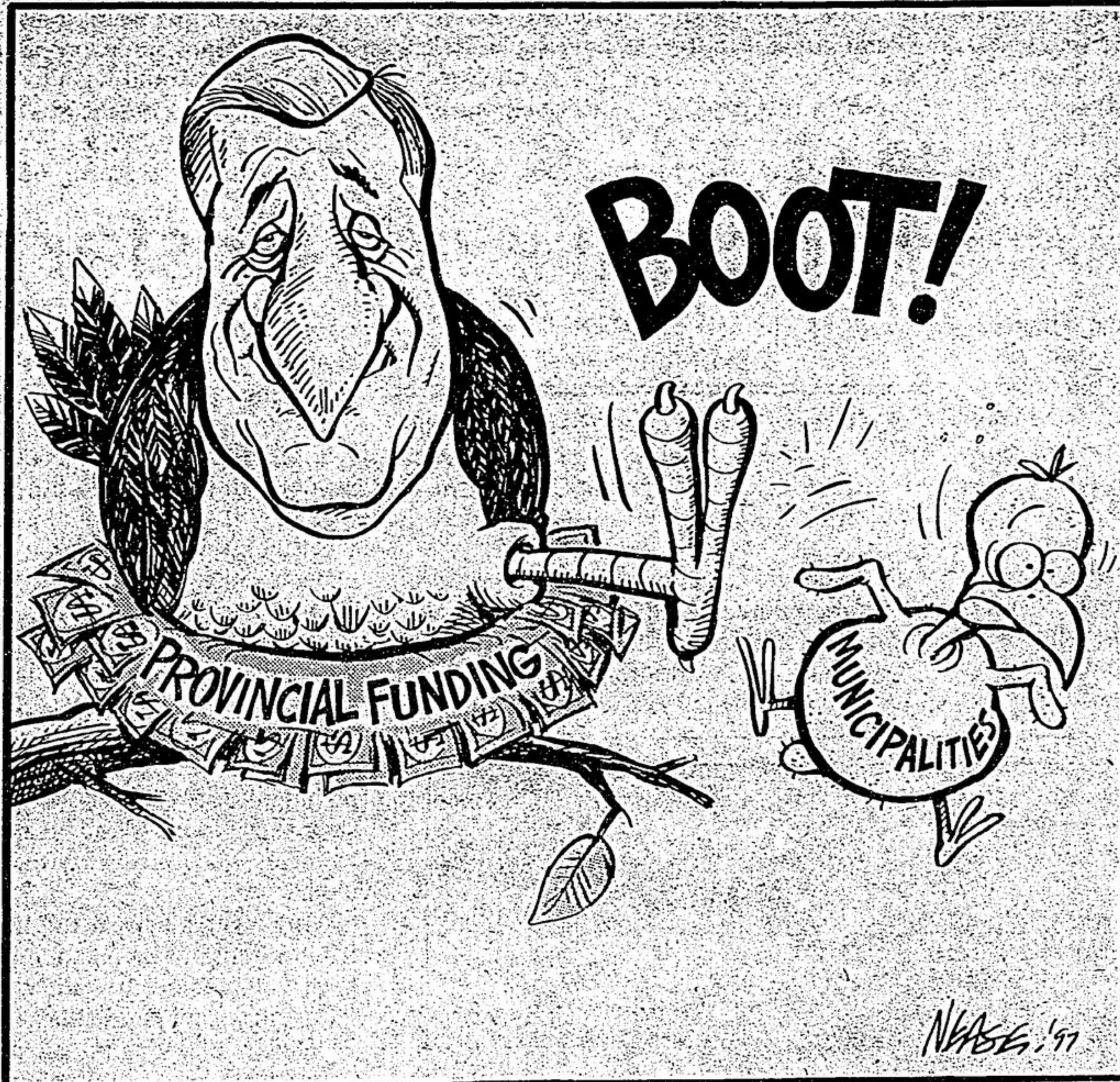
However, by the time the run hit Ontario, Terry Fox was the most popular man in Canada during the summer of 1980. His courage and commitment stood as a symbol to everyone who has had to triumph in the face of adversity.

Sadly, Fox had to stop his run on Sept. 1, 1980 just outside of Thunder Bay. It wasn't the rugged terrain of Northern Ontario which beat him, though, it was a recurrence of cancer in his lungs which finally stopped Terry Fox.

Though the Marathon of Hope ended and Fox himself died less than a year later, the worldwide run named after him stands today as a tribute to the man and his dream.

Since 1981, Terry Fox Runs have raised more than \$180 million for cancer research in Canada. In Stouffville alone, participants have raised \$184,000 since 1982.

This year's Stouffville 10-km run will start Sunday at the Stouffville Recreation Complex at 1 p.m. Participants may run, walk, or ride and pledge sheets can be picked up at any public library, Scotiabank, TD Bank or at the town's offices.



Increase order to tolerate large classes

Dear Editor,

Some comments about class size

I was in education for 54 years, 35 as a teacher and 19 as a student. Some of these years overlapped because I went to university at night. I have seen vast changes in class size.

In elementary school, there were 40 seats screwed to the floor, and in most classes the enrollment was 35 to 40. If students misbehaved, they were sent to the office to be strapped.

In high school there were 48 seats screwed to the floor in the academic classrooms.

Most of the seats were full academic classes holding up to 48 and the shop classes up to 24.

Colonel Dean was the principal. He ran Danforth Tech like the army. Misbehaving students were expelled, not suspended.

In university some of the first year classes had 400 students. This was done so that second and third year classes could be around

12 to 20 students.

Misbehaving students skipped class.

When I first started to teach in the early 1960s, class size varied from about 32 up to 40. If a student misbehaved he was sent to the office and strapped.

In one school where I worked, the principal told us in September that in the morning of the first snowfall, we were to all be on duty in the yards and write down the names of all children throwing snowballs.

He then announced to the students, in September, that there was to be no snowballing on the school property.

Those who threw snow would be strapped.

On the morning of the first snow, 75 names were recorded. Seventy-five kids were strapped. There was no snowballing at that school for years.

In the late 1960s, the desks were unscrewed from the floor, students were encouraged to follow a

Woodstock approach to learning, man. We now have a generation of teachers who've never experienced the order of "sit up straight, fold your hands and stop talking."

Because of the noise and confusion in many classrooms, 24 students in a room seems worse than the 36 in a room in the '60s.

Also the paperwork has increased. A set of school reports used to take about an hour and a

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half to do. The last set of reports I did (a year ago) took 30 hours to do.

My point? Increase order in the classroom, reduce the paperwork to more reasonable levels, and larger class size can be tolerated.

Ron Brownsberger
Stouffville

Red Cross appreciates support

Dear Editor,

On behalf of all the staff of the Canadian Red Cross Society, Region of York branch, we would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for the support given by so many people in our community over the summer.

More than \$42,000 was donated for Manitoba Relief by the people in York Region.

The branch itself was also able to deploy four people — two volunteers and two staff — over the

last few months to assist with relief efforts in Manitoba.

We have held several fundraising events, including our Fun Fun Fundraising Bowl-a-thon and Summer Tastes of York Region at Southbrook Farms.

The success of these events was due to the hard work and dedication of a group of outstanding volunteers and to the generous support of the community.

Money raised will help to provide Red Cross programs and services in the region and enable the branch to provide assistance to the vulnerable people in our community.

As the summer comes to a close, we invite the community to come out and support the United Way kick-off — Ducks for a Difference — on Sunday, Sept. 21 at Boyd Conservation Area from 1 to 4 p.m.

As a member agency of the United Way of York Region, we thank you for your continuous support.

Donna Chanda
Branch Manager
Canadian Red Cross

Parents responsible for children

Dear Editor,

To those parents who don't know where their children are, how they behave, or what they are doing when they leave home.

These children are boys 14 to 16 years old, skateboarders who roam Stouffville in the evening until after dark, drawing as much attention to their activities as possible.

Their manner is rude and aggressive and disrespectful to others who wish to enjoy the quiet comfort of this community, including parents with toddlers, younger children and other teenagers, older men and women who wish to share this community

with each other.

These youths wish to take away this enjoyment, by disruption.

I say to those responsible for these children: Do you know where they are? Do you know how they behave in front of your neighbours, your ministers, priests, the police?

Find out, get a grip of your responsibility. Do not expect the writer, the police, the school, your neighbours or others to bring up your kids for you.

John Lewis
Stouffville

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