

Comment & Opinions

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to the editor
to the address below

EDITORIAL

Decision on casinos right where it belongs

Finally some sane thinking from the provincial government on its plan to introduce permanent charity casinos in towns and cities across Ontario.

The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations has stated that it will let municipalities make the final decision on whether or not to allow the casinos.

Minister Dave Tsubouchi said in announcing the move that "the government's position is that it will not impose a gaming facility on a municipality that did not want one."

This is indeed good news.

However, it's only sensible and it makes one wonder why the provincial government took so long to remember that Ontario was a democracy.

Whatever residents' feelings about casinos may be, the idea that these were going to be forced into communities which did not want them was frightening.

Of course, this decision should rest with municipalities. Consistently, local councils had complained they were not getting enough information about these 44 permanent charity gaming casinos across Ontario proposed by the province. It sometimes appeared as if the information was being deliberately held back.

The province has taken a large step to winning back the trust of municipalities by allowing this very important decision to be made by the people on whom it will have the most impact.

Maybe our community wants a casino. Maybe it doesn't.

At least the decision is now in our hands, which is exactly where it belongs.



We all deal with heartaches differently

One of my all-time favourite movies is *Peter's Friends*, a little gem which was released for about five minutes in 1992 and which has been gathering dust on a video store shelf near you ever since.

Most people have never heard of it because its marketing budget didn't rival the profits of one of our big banks, it wasn't engulfed in computer-generated special effects, it didn't make it to theatres north of the treeline and it boasted a witty, intelligent script, great tracts of real acting and not so much as a whiff of gratuitous violence.

It did, however, feature some names which even Hollywood executives — most of whom wouldn't know acting if it bit them in the butt — would recognize, most notably Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson and Rita Rudner.

Produced and directed by Branagh and written by Rudner and Martin Bergman, *Peter's Friends* is a celebration of friendship, a hilarious look at individual foibles and, at times, a deeply-moving story of love and loss.

It also provides an affectionate view of the cultural differences that still divide Britons and North Americans, despite recent revelations which prove the Brits' ability to mourn is down there with the best of them, as they share their innermost pain with talk show hosts and tabloid hacks.

As anyone who heard the Queen's speech following Diana's death will know, however, there is a little bit of starch still remaining in the royal upper lip. This, as subsequent endless analyses have shown, is considered a Bad Thing by the majority of the media, who would doubtless



Kate's Corner

Kate Gilderdale

prefer Her Majesty to emote on Oprah.

But I think she did a splendid job, given the difficult task at hand and the undoubted ambivalence of her feelings.

A similar reticence can be seen in the movie in the character of Peter's housekeeper, Vera, whose dry, uncompromising approach to the raucous, raunchy goings-on at the family mansion hides a depth of feeling

which is subtly revealed at the end of the film.

She may not share, seek closure or indulge in loud expressions of grief, but she does have feelings — she just prefers to keep them to herself. The point is, we all deal with heartache differently, as the movie so eloquently illustrates, and there is no right or wrong way of coming to terms with tragedy.

Malcolm and I have seen this movie so often, our rental fees alone have probably paid for its shelf space.

Like *Antonia and Jane*, *Secrets & Lies*, *The Daytrippers* and various other 'small' films, *Peter's Friends* will resonate long after the big bud-

get blockbusters have faded into oblivion.

I even blew \$25 and change on the soundtrack, only to find that the best song, the cast's rendering of Jerome Kern's 'The Way You Look Tonight,' had been jettisoned in favour of five other pretty average numbers which weren't even in the movie.

From a marketing standpoint, no doubt, it made sense, since the rest of the music was from the '80s, and who cares about authenticity if it doesn't sell the product?

I conclude this week's rant with a quote from Legless in Gaza by Tom Taussik: "The difference between Los Angeles and yogurt is that yogurt has real culture."

Well exemptions not welcome

Dear Editor,

In response to *The Tribune*, Sept. 9 article on page 14 re: "Health problem could get people off hook-up hook," and *The Tribune*, Sept. 11 article on page one re: "Well victory for people against pipe."

It makes me angry to think after all this time of discussion, disagreement, meetings and opinions, that some residents of Musselman's Lake may be exempt from the water-hook-up.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville sent a letter to all residents stating that a mandatory hook-up had been passed. Now we hear of severe allergy to chlorine being a problem and also some still saying that they have good wells.

In all the meetings and discussions in the past year and a half I

don't recall anyone voicing a concern with a reaction to chlorine.

How can the town pass a bylaw and then exempt some from such bylaw? If a bylaw is broken, a fine is usually given. There should be no exemptions.

This water project is a local

improvement project and therefore the cost should be shared by every resident within the improvement area.

LETTERS

The vote was for communal water ... that is what we have ... that is what everyone should help pay for ... no exemptions.

M.A. James
Musselman's Lake

P.S. I also have a good well!

More moraine info available

Dear Editor,
I enjoyed the article on the Oak Ridges moraine (Thursday, Sept 18), and wanted to point out that if anyone is interested in exploring the moraine, the Oak Ridges Trail Association is working on a hiking trail along the moraine.

Further information on ORTA is available from our web page (<http://www.interlog.com/~orta>), or contact me at 642-8877 or e-mail at jpalma@dps.com

Joe Palma
Stouffville

STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

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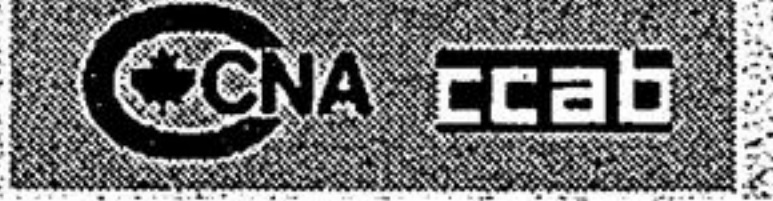
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