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Comment & Opinions

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to the editor
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EDITORIAL

Developer listened

The developer of the new Ballantrae community is treading very carefully. The company knows the area is sensitive and that residents who live in the area now do not want their neck of the woods turned into another Milliken-like subdivision.

The developer has kept an ear open to the environmental concerns of the residents and the company should be applauded for this. So many times, a developer will make grandiose promises and once approval for site development is completed, the result is often not what's promised. In many cases, requests of the development's neighbours go unheeded, and in other cases, disregarded entirely.

But it appears the open houses and meetings with residents have paid off in the case of the Ballantrae development. Schickedanz, a developer with a conscience? Perhaps. But it's also good business.

If a developer can make peace with neighbours, develop a rapport with the town, and establish a clean, healthy community subdivision extension, then chances are that developer will get to build again. Success begets success. This is especially true in the case of large-scale projects like Ballantrae. If it can be pulled off with aplomb, our town will benefit from the growth, and the developer enhances the reputation of the firm as a builder in tune with '90s sensibilities.

We are not necessarily in favour of development. We are in favour of development that takes the time and money to respond to the concerns of longtime residents.

If we might offer a suggestion: The plan to make the new development a "gated community" benefits only those who will live there. It is isolationist, elitist and asking for trouble. 'Remember Milliken' should be the clarion call.



Teachers should 'get in the real world'

Dear Editor,

Mr. Leonard, the principal of Stouffville District Secondary School, in referring to his teachers, was quoted as say-

ing, "They just feel they can't give as much as they did in the past. They haven't had a raise in five years." Mr. Connell, a physical education teacher,

indicated that he was withdrawing from coaching due to the loss of two 75-minute "administration periods" every four days.

During the last contract dispute, I recall the teachers saying that they were striking for the betterment of the children's education.

The statement by Mr. Leonard, and Mr. Connell's reason for withdrawal from coaching, shed new light on what teachers mean when they hold up our children as their sole reason for involving themselves in a labour dispute.

It would appear that some teachers and their unions are looking to extort more money from the taxpayer by holding our children's extra-curricular activities hostage. They are using our children and manipulating parents into protesting the cutbacks.

Mr. Leonard refers to the lack of extra-curricular activities as "a crisis." I agree, the lack of teacher support for students at SDSS is a crisis and is indicative of a

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union mentality and not the professionalism we expect as teachers. Incidentally, how are other York Region high schools able to run after-school activities?

I find it difficult to understand how someone with a better-than-average wage, benefit, and vacation-time package, someone who should be dedicated to the education of children, would have any problem spending some extra time with these same children.

Get into the real world. Many of us who are not entrusted with something as precious as a child's education work many extra hours without pay. We call it dedication.

Mr. Leonard, Mr. Connell, teachers of like mind, understand this: I'm a taxpayer who doesn't feel I can give as much as I did in the past. I haven't had a raise in five years.

Name Withheld by Request

Stouffville: donut capital?

Dear Editor,

I am a lifelong resident of Stouffville, and have always savored the bucolic tenor of our neighbourhood.

Sadly, in the past few years, much has changed. Board and batten has given way to brick facing, gravel to asphalt, and old walnut to young, hopefully fast-growing red oak.

On the other hand, some developments have been for the better. To my mind we have a fine choice of establishments in which we can enjoy fine dining; our selection of nightspots is probably unparalleled in other towns the size of Stouffville, and the "immigrants" to Stouffville have proven to be astonishing in the extent of their musical talents.

But the most distressing aspect of our growth is the almost unbelievable selection that Stouffville residents now have in the area of donuts.

Anyone counting the donut shops on a walk from 10th Line to Hwy. 48 cannot help but notice that we must be second only to Aurora, Illinois in the wealth of chocolate double-dips, crullers and dutchies that we enjoy.

Frankly, Canadian cuisine should be more than this! I note that we have only one fish and chip restaurant, and no store selling fresh fish. Fresh fish would be best (it's the only thing that draws me to Unionville).

Owen Nepirly
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
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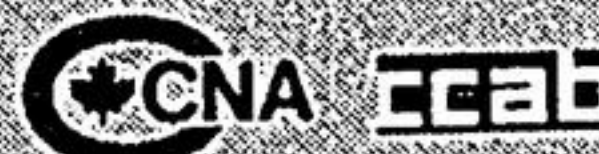
Vivian O'Neil
Business Manager

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

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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.

Stouffville's Terry Fox Run raises more than \$33,000

Dear Editor,

A tremendous effort was put forth by the residents, businesses, and schools of this great community in supporting the 1997 Terry Fox Fun for cancer research. Our total for the run day sits at \$28,952.95, with additional donations coming in daily.

Four local schools elected to have their own Terry Fox day this year and put forth a tremendous effort. Their contributions are as follows:

- Orchard Park & Glad Park Public Schools: \$1,924.75
- Dickson Hill Public School: \$1,900.00
- Children's House: \$459.

This brings our 1997 total to \$33,234.75.

Summitview Public School came out in full force on run day and captured the

school plaque once again. All schools in the community had a terrific participation level.

We cannot run an event of this magnitude without the dedication of many volunteers. As well, the business community assisted in a variety of ways and we thank each and every one of you.

The \$33,234.75 expresses considerable generosity and caring by all who are involved, including participants, volunteers, sponsors, and of course those who donate to this worthy cause.

I am very proud to be a member of this community, who in taking one step at a time, is making a very big difference in the fight against this dreaded disease.

On behalf of the Fox family and the Terry Fox Foundation, I thank you.

Sandy Schell Kennedy
Organizing Committee

Lions barbecue a success

Dear Editor,

The Ballantrae and District Lions Club wish to express our thanks for the support shown for our Steer Roast, which was held at the Ballantrae Community Centre on Aug. 23.

The winners of our Steer Roast Draw were: First Prize, TV set, Steve Murray, Uxbridge; Second Prize, CD player, L. Halladay, Uxbridge; Third Prize, portable grill, Pam Davie, Stouffville; Fourth Prize, air balloon ride, Simon White, Sunderland; Fifth Prize, air balloon ride, Joan Tulloch, Cedar Beach Park.

We hope to see you again next year.

Ballantrae & District Lions Club
Stouffville