

Thursday, November 20, 1997  
Vol. 109, No. 76

# Comment & Opinions

Send your letters  
to the editor  
to the address below

EDITORIAL

## Cautious optimism on healthcare plan

Residents of 905 regions, including York, should be cautiously optimistic about the future of health care in their communities.

The Health Services Restructuring Commission is recommending that the provincial government spend \$329 million to expand and improve local hospitals and health care in the regions surrounding Metro Toronto. That's good news on two fronts.

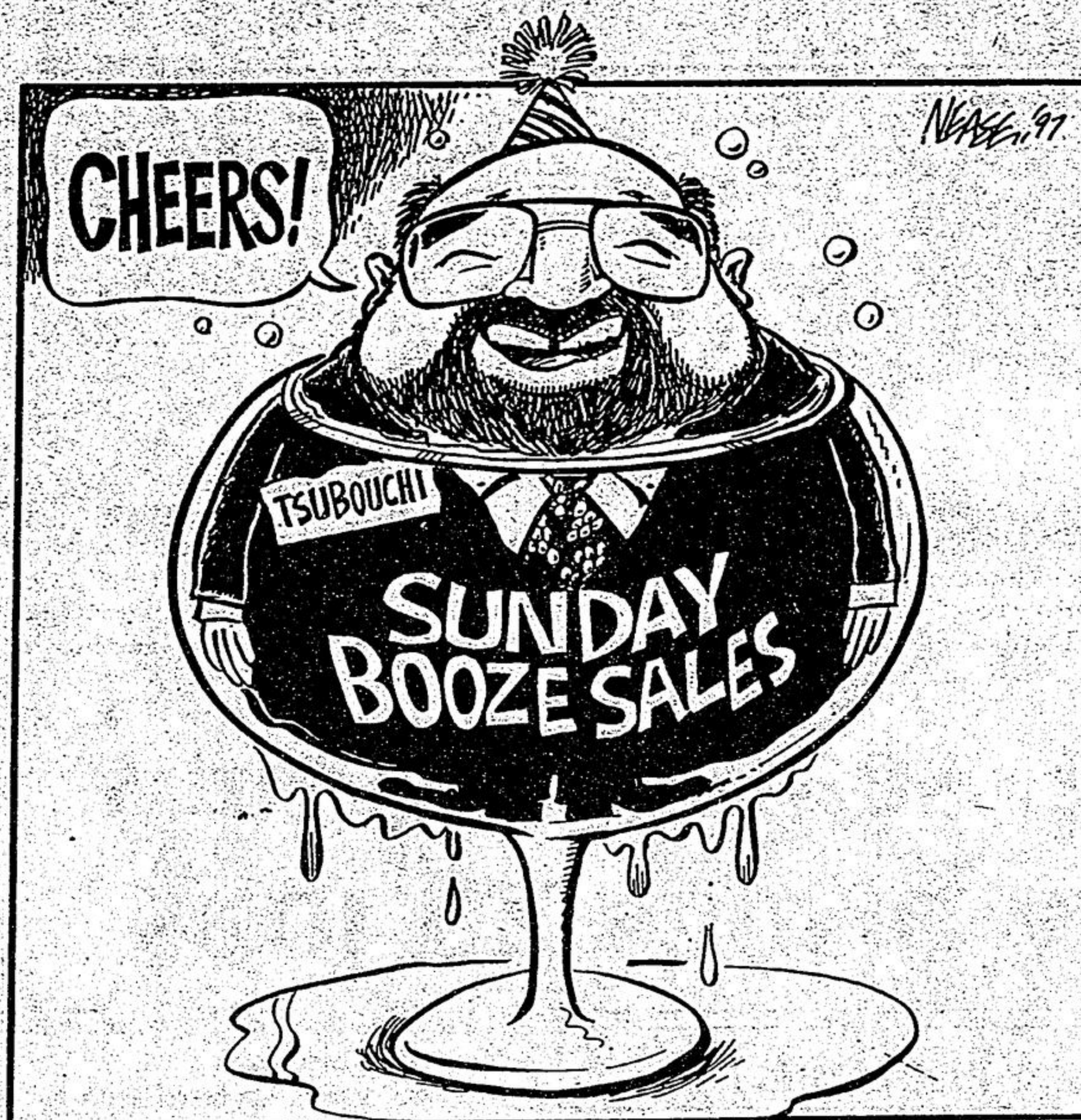
First, the commission recognizes that there's a need to invest money to make physical improvements to hospital buildings and equipment to keep up with the growing populations now living in the 905 regions. But it must be noted the capital investment money is a one-time only payout.

Second, the commission recommends the government spend money to expand or start up critical inpatient and outpatient services in York Region such as orthopedic, cancer care, mental health and long-term care.

But both Markham Stouffville and York Central hospitals are cautious about the long-term effects of the commission's report. They're not sure enough money is going to be available to accommodate the burgeoning populations they serve.

The GTA/905 Healthcare Alliance, representing 16 hospitals in the 905 area, maintains that the province should double the money spent on health care to serve a population which will reach nearly 3 million by the year 2003. The alliance wants an additional \$300 million spent on health care over and above what the commission is recommending.

Hopefully, when the dust has settled, health care in 905 regions will improve in the future. It's a matter of life or death.



## Here are things parents can do to fight Bill 160

Dear Editor,

Many concerned teachers and parents voiced their displeasure over Bill 160 to local MPP, Julia Munro, at a community meeting held on Nov. 13.

These concerns focused on the undemocratic nature of the bill, cuts of \$700 million dollars in the next school year, use of unqualified teachers, and the exclusion of parents, teachers and trustees from decision making which would be the exclusive domain of the premier and the cabinet.

Many parents have asked what they can do to help fight Bill 160.

Here is a list of suggestions that the residents of Ontario can consider to show their objections to this destructive bill:

1. Sign the Referendum Petition at

### LETTERS

your local school.

2. Support the Green Ribbon Campaign throughout the school year.

3. Phone, fax or visit your local MPP (Julia Munro).

4. Contact your local town media to ensure they continue to address this important topic throughout the coming months.

5. Contact your newly-elected local trustee.

6. Help forge an alliance between the parent councils of the seven local town schools to help present a stronger, unified voice.

7. Explain your concerns over Bill 160 to other voters in town who do not have children in the school sys-

tem and may not be aware of the impact of this bill on society.

8. If the bill passes, do not stop your efforts, but continue to campaign for amendments during the coming months.

Only through a united and con-

tinuous effort by educators and parents will we be able to protect our schools from the destructive effects of Bill 160 and from further cuts to education funding.

Steven Kerley  
Stouffville

## Sunday openings will cause family sorrow

Dear Editor,

On my way home last Sunday I picked up two local newspapers at my mail box — The Port Perry This Week and the Tribune from Uxbridge.

The front page stories were 'Mayor arrested for drunk driving' and 'Uxbridge liquor patrons can soon shop Sundays'.

On Monday I received a letter from the M.A.D.D. campaign stating that in 1995 in Ontario alone, an estimated 560 people were killed, and 37,000 injured as a result of what they call a senseless crime.

In her column (Tribune, "Sabbath booze sales a drop in the bucket") Joan Ransberry states that there will be 425 beer stores and 700 liquor stores allowed to open on Sundays, thanks to our government. Is this what the people want or is this what will bring more money for the government?

The government has said in the teachers' strike that they were deeply concerned about our children.

I ask, will allowing more liquor

stores and gambling casinos to open on Sundays benefit our children, and will it lessen the numbers of tragedies on the highways and in the homes?

Openings on Sundays could be the last drop in the bucket that can bring sorrow to many of our families.

Joan remarked that she was an old hippie. Sad to say I am much older and I have seen the slow deterioration of the Sabbath Day over the years from what God designed it to be — a day of rest and spiritual refreshment.

The idea of an open Sunday to buy alcoholic beverages gives me great concern, but the idea put forward by the head of the church that I have a membership in is much worse to me.

It is an attempt to destroy the very foundation of the Christian faith.

To what length are we going to allow things like these to continue before we stand up and say enough is enough?

Don Asling  
Uxbridge

## Reckless driver must pay

Dear Editor,

I read with mixed feelings of both anger and sympathy about the recent traffic accident involving a reckless driver on Kennedy Road in Markham.

There are far too many incidents like this one involving drivers who have either not had proper driver training or who have little respect for the rules of the road.

When will people wake up and realize that the average car weighing in at one ton, moving at high speeds, can be a deadly weapon when handled irresponsibly?

As a licensed driver for more than 25 years with no driving infractions, I am appalled by the drivers on our streets who speed, tail-

gate, and change lanes dangerously. The thought of someone purposely rear-ending a moving vehicle in order to control the road makes my blood boil.

I hope and pray that our legal system will severely punish the driver who so arrogantly and thoughtlessly decided that he owned the road, sacrificing the safety of innocent people.

I would like to extend my sincere sympathies towards the family of Bruce Clark for their tragic loss.

How many more people have to die before people stop using their vehicles as tools of aggression and symbols of power over others?

Ann Vickery  
Stouffville

### STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Patricia Pappas  
Publisher

Andrew Mair  
Editor-In-Chief  
Tracy Kibble  
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 Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald-Courier, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, CityParent, Collingwood/Wasaga Beach Connection, East York Mirror, Etobicoke Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Oshawa Today, Owen Sound This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun Midland/Penningsville Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa Today, Oshawa Whilby-Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, and Uxbridge Tribune. Today's Senior's Contents cannot be reprinted without written permission from the publisher. Permitting the publisher reserves the right to refuse or classify 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.