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# Comment & Opinions

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## EDITORIAL

### Bill is worth hassles

A private member's bill targeting pedophiles and those who abuse children moved one step closer to reality last week.

Tory MPP Jim Brown sponsored the bill, which will require anyone working with children to get a criminal background check. It received second reading in the legislature last week and could become law by spring.

Anyone who cares about children and their welfare should support and hail the new legislation, which really targets repeat pedophiles, people who prey on innocent children who trust them.

The bill would require employers such as school boards and sporting groups, plus community groups like Scouts and Guides to obtain background checks on anyone who works with children.

Those given authority to work with youngsters, like teachers and volunteer coaches, would have to sign a waiver giving police the right to do a criminal background check on them.

The down side of the bill is that it will invade people's privacy and represent more red tape for someone simply wishing to volunteer their time to their community as a Brownie leader or soccer coach.

But the bill is worth some extra paperwork and potential embarrassment, with its lofty aim of protecting children. Let's hope for the sake of our kids, it doesn't die when the Legislature takes its Christmas recess, and becomes law.



## Postal 'elf' made boy's wish come true

Dear Editor,

In this time of ill feelings and complaints about our national mail service, I would like to make a public acknowledgment of the special efforts of one of our local postal employees.

I'm not sure that many people

### Teachers should decertify unions

Dear Editor,

I am in agreement with Tracy Kibble's column "are we really afraid of teachers". I think it is true that the government and the public are being weak and cowardly in not directly attacking the cause of our overpriced education system.

Bill 160 makes a fluff attempt to decrease the cost of education when we should be directly addressing the issue of the abusive power of the teachers unions. We all agree that unions served an almost noble purpose in the early 1900, improving working conditions and redistribut-

know that at our post office there is an elf whose happy job it is to collect and sort all the mail addressed to Santa Claus and see that it gets to the

ing wealth and creating a solid middle class which is important for a healthy society. However, there is nothing noble in their current self serving behaviour. Their demands are now crushing that middle class.

My respect for teachers, who I believe to be a truly well-meaning and hard-working group, will be completely restored when they move to decertify their unions and join the rest of the society whose wages are determined based on the demand for their services combined with their ability and ongoing performance.

Heather Hodgson

## Santa event cherished tradition

Dear Editor,

This week I asked our seven year old daughter Tara what tradition meant to her.

Tara's answer was very simply put. "The things we do together every year, like Santa's breakfast." There were many others but this was at the top of her list.

For this reason I feel compelled to write this letter of thanks to the service organizations responsible.

Year after year the Optimist Club continues to outdo itself by

hosting a very special breakfast for the children in our community.

Optimist Club volunteers have donated their time and efforts to create an extraordinary morning. A morning which, in our home, has become the traditional Christmas "kick-off" and I am sure in many other Stouffville homes.

Whether it be the volunteers who annually greet visitors like guests in their own homes, an entertaining magician, the anticipation of the pending arrival of

## LETTERS

attention of that jolly old man. This elf also helps in the answering of those letters so that every child who writes to Santa gets a letter in response.

This Christmas season there was a little boy who was very concerned that if the postal workers were out on strike his letter wouldn't reach Santa.

He was assured by his older brother and sister that Santa would know what to bring, but the little boy still worried.

Then his mother read in the newspaper that all letters to Santa Claus could be hand delivered the parade. This made the little boy very happy.

He wrote a very nice letter, and this wasn't easy because he is only six and doesn't know how to spell many words.

He put his name at the bottom of the letter, and to show Santa just how

much he had grown this year, he put in his school picture.

He found a bright red envelope and wrote Santa Claus in his best printing.

At the parade he was so excited about the floats and the horses and especially the bands that he almost forgot to give his letter to the nice people who were collecting them.

But just as Santa's sleigh came by, he dropped his red envelope in the bag.

Now, what the little boy didn't know was that when you send a letter — even to Santa Claus — you need to put your family name and return address on it.

When the letter arrived at the post office, the elf opened it. I think she liked the red envelope. She read the letter and wanted to help address the envelope for Santa's answer, but she didn't know where to send it.

She could have just put it away and forgot about it, but she didn't.

She looked closer at the picture and thought, "I know that face. This little boy has grown up a lot since last year, but he still looks familiar."

Then, just to be sure, she called the little boy's mother and asked if he had sent the letter.

So the story has a happy ending. The little boy's letter will get to Santa. He will get a letter back. Someone's belief in Christmas magic has been renewed.

All because the elf, Maryann, made an extra effort at a most busy time of year to see that it all turned out right.

Merry, merry Christmas to all this year, and especially to Maryann.

Kathi Phillips  
Stouffville

## STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE

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