

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
6244 Main St., Stouffville, Ont. L4A 1E2

Publisher — Ian Proudfoot

General Manager — Alvin Brouwer

Editor-in-chief
Brenda Larson

Advertising Director
Debra Weller

Business Manager
Margaret Fleming

Regional Editor
Brian Kirlik

Classified Manager
Stacey Allen

Office Manager
Vivian O'Neil

Editor
Tracy Kibble

Distribution Director
Barry Goodyear

Operations Manager
Pamela Nichols

OPINION



Dave Teetzel

Time for cops to move past Cousineau affair

The York Region police association says a cop got off too easily and is demanding the police services board take disciplinary action. Guess there's a first time for everything.

Of course, it helps that the cop in question is Bryan Cousineau, former chief and obviously not a favorite of the rank and file.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of breach of trust for taking a \$125,000 loan from Magna International and misusing his cell phone and was given a conditional discharge.

According to the union, the sentence is outrageously lenient, suggests a double standard and will cause the public to lose faith in the justice system. And that goes double for the police board's decision not to lay Police Services Act charges.

Well, I'm not crazy about paying Cousineau's salary till his pension kicks in and I share union president Paul Bailey's concern about what surprises might lurk in that resignation deal.

SLAP ON THE WRIST

But due to time constraints, neither of these issues can be remedied by laying further charges.

And as to double standards and lenient sentencing, where have you been, Mr. Bailey?

Where were you, for example, in March 1996 when two cops who seriously injured three women while drag racing in Newmarket were sentenced to fines and probation? I could find no evidence of the police association objecting to that sentence — although no civilian would have gotten off so lightly.

Toronto's police union is taking out ads trashing the province's Special Investigations Unit for charging officers who were involved in a chase that resulted in the death of an innocent man.

Cousineau made personal calls on a police cell phone and made a questionable deal with a private company. Nobody was killed, although he did serious injury to the morale and image of his fellow officers.

He got a slap on the wrist and that should come as no surprise.

Now, in the words of another guy who knows the consequences of making bone-headed mistakes when you hold high office, it is time to move on.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Decision to withhold suspect's name was just

I'm proud to say that the Stouffville Tribune is my local newspaper. You ran a story Saturday, Aug. 6 about a teacher charged with sexual assault.

Thank you for not printing any names for if this man is innocent, his life would be further ruined by your broadcast.

Stouffville Tribune — the paper that is just.

MARION LOPIZZO
STOUFFVILLE

No more airports needed

The experts in Transport Canada, politicians and those boards of trade members who advocate a second International Airport for Pickering have short memories.

Twenty-five years ago, a second airport opened in Montreal. It was called Mirabel and it is universally recognized as a billion-dollar white elephant.

In Toronto at the same time Transport Canada informed us that by the year 2000 60 million passengers a year would be using Pearson so they expropriated enough land in Pickering to house London Heathrow, O'Hare in Chicago and Atlanta. By 1996, the number of passengers using Pearson is approximately 30 million annually, or half of what was so confidently predicted.

At present, Pearson is being upgrad-

ed at a cost of \$5.2 billion and when finished, will handle an extra 20 million passengers annually.

Last week, Hamilton airport announced it will expand its main runway to take jumbo jets and cargo which will also relieve Pearson.

In 1975 the provincial government stopped Pickering International Airport from going ahead because it could not afford the huge cost of the roads and infrastructure.

Now, the present provincial government is quibbling about retaining a subsidy of \$1.5 million to keep Buttonville airport open. Is it likely they or future provincial governments will come up with the mammoth amount of dollars for roads and services to an airport in Pickering?

All of us who have to drive to Pearson would be better served if the federal and provincial governments would collaborate on a rapid transit system connected to Pearson which would cost a fraction of the money needed to build Pickering and its infrastructure. This summer London Heathrow opened a new rapid transit line to central London which enables passengers to be downtown in 15 minutes after clearing customs.

What is wrong with our planners and politicians? It seems, alas, they are prepared to make the same costly mistakes in transportation in the 21st Century as they have done in the 20th, and they are still confusing want with need.

A second major airport is not needed in Toronto, neither can the taxpayers afford it.

ISOBEL THOMPSON

Q: The owners of Buttonville Airport are looking for financial help to keep the facility open past the end of this year. Should taxpayers' money be used to keep planes flying in and out of the airport?

This airport has been subsidized for the past seven years, and if it is as important to the people who use it as is suggested, then the user pay principle should apply. We are not concerned about whether the airport is there or not — we live extremely close to it and while we are bothered by the helicopters which fly low over our home, the other airport traffic doesn't bother us. We are, however, concerned that it apparently cannot pay its way without taxpayers' money to subsidize its operations, and this we feel is a misuse of taxpayers' dollars.

— RUTH AND GARY LEAK

The Siftons are among the more rich people in this area. I think it's nice that they have the airport. But they are making money out of it, so why should the taxpayer, middle-class, pay for it? The rich are just getting richer, they're the only ones who use it. None of our family, and we all live in Markham, have ever used it. So let those who use it pay for it, and let the Siftons, if they are going to run a business, pay for it, too. They are taking the profit off the top, not the taxpayer.

— JOANNE GREENLAW

No way. They're just rich people wanting government handouts again.

— MICHELLE BRITAIN

No. They've been complaining about lack of funding for years. Either find a way to make it work privately or let it shut down. Very few of us (taxpayers) actually use it. Let those who do use it pay for it.

— STAN TOSKI

Yes, why not? It supports the community by bringing money into the area. It hasn't been detrimental. There's the flight training school and people coming in use merchants in the area.

— JEFF KUSHNER

No. It's really for the wealthier people, so shouldn't they pay for it?

— CHRISTINA CARLIN

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

York Region is facing a waste crisis unless an alternative is found to the Keele Valley landfill site in Maple, which is expected to close as early as 2002. Do you think the region is responsible for finding a solution to the problem within its borders, or should we send our garbage elsewhere — northern Ontario or the United States, for instance?

Submit contributions to
Views on the News, fax: (905) 640-5477
E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community
since 1888

Phone: (905) 640-2100 • Classified: 1-800-743-3353 • Distribution: (905) 640-2100 • E-mail: thetrib@istar.ca
Fax: (905) 640-5477

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd. group of newspapers, which includes the Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Farnborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Action Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetang/Shene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora, Georgia Era Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Onllia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Claughton/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, Uxbridge Tribune and City of York Guardian.



Subscription rates by mail: 1 year, \$69.55 (Tuesday only), Canadian Publications Mail Agreement Number: 1247