

# Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland Community newspaper  
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## EDITORIAL

### York Region must act to fix its waste woes

On the surface, trash collection is among the most basic of municipal services.

Each week without fail, we place our trash on the curb, then thankfully watch it leave the neighbourhood in the back of a truck.

Out of sight, out of mind.

No wonder many York Region residents are either not aware or concerned about the fact that one day — perhaps as early as 2002 — there will be no place for our garbage to go.

But once our politicians convey the message that this looming waste crisis is legitimate, the issue of trash collection will take on a life of its own.

By then, however, it may be too little, too late.

Which is why the region and its municipalities must act quickly to resolve the issue once and for all.

York Region residents have been down this road before. In the early 1990s, the provincial NDP government established the Interim Waste Authority to confront the garbage crisis head-on.

#### NO PLACE TO GO

The government's solution was to build a network of dumps across the Greater Toronto Area to replace the Toronto-owned Keele Valley landfill site in Maple — a concept that turned thousands of ordinary York residents into anti-dump crusaders.

Premier Mike Harris was quick to dissolve the IWA and its messy strategy when he was elected. Since then, however, little has been done to determine a long-term waste solution.

Which is why Markham Regional Councillor Gord Landon, chairperson of York's waste management task force, believes it's time to act.

Landon wants the region to develop a plan for its own trash without relying on Toronto's concept to send garbage by rail to an abandoned mine in Northern Ontario — even if that means opening a new dump somewhere in York Region.

As unpalatable as that may seem, it may be the most practical solution. When you get right down to it, there are only so many ways to dump your trash — bury it, move it or burn it.

Miracles are not part of the equation.

Which is why those bags beside your driveway will some day have no place to go and we will have nobody to blame but ourselves.

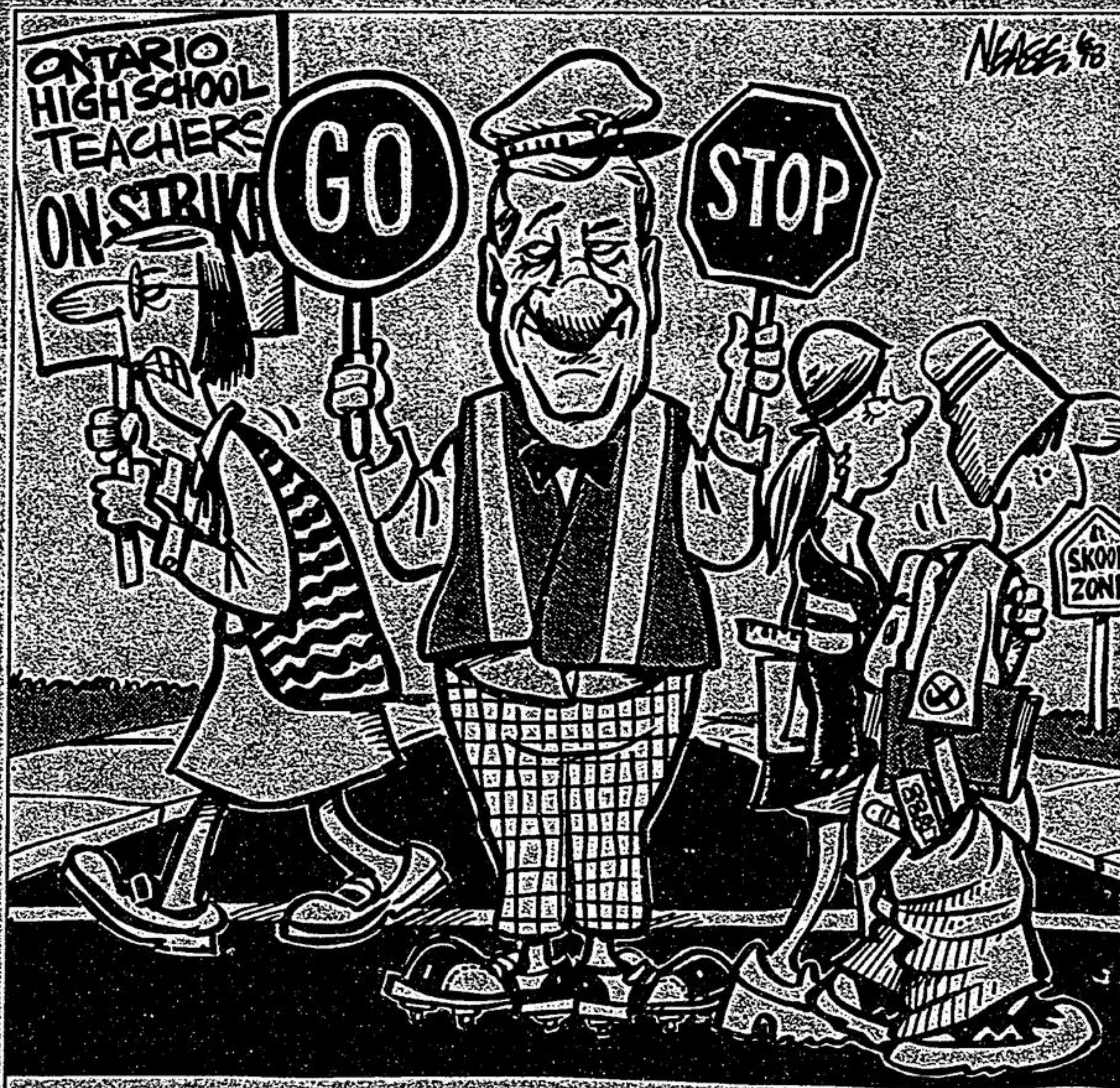
## CHEERS & JEERS

■ **CHEERS** to York Regional Police constables Julie Adamson, William Goetz, Martin Lennon, Robert Papineau, Bryan Shea and Kevin Torrie for their work on Project Moustache — a joint forces operation to apprehend organized criminals who were actively committing commercial break-and-enters in the Greater Toronto Area.

■ **JEERS** to the person or persons responsible for stealing two bicycles from the home of Stouffville resident Dianne Pepper last Thursday. Dianne was entertaining children as Pepper the Clown during an event on Main Street when the bicycles were pinched from her garage.

■ **CHEERS** to former Markham resident and composer Jefferson Kent for creating a CD titled Lost Angels. The disc will serve as a fundraiser for the families of Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French, who are fighting an expensive court battle to ensure video tapes of the girls' sexual torment are never released to the media or public.

# OPINION



THE CROSSING GUARD

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't squander tax dollars on Musselman's Lake

I find The Tribune article from Sat., August 22 edition, entitled "Solution is clear, most disturbing."

Musselman's Lake is essentially a private lake. The residents there are not sociable and they have put this in writing by way of no trespassing signs.

It is not reasonable, in my opinion, that the councillor in question (Mark Carroll) should waste even one second of his time on this problem, while he is on the public payroll.

I don't see any benefit by allowing the town, York Region and the conservation authority to squander our tax money on Musselman's Lake, particularly at a time of fiscal restraint and increased taxation.

The solution to the problem is clear. Remove every residence within one half mile of the lake.

Landscape the entire perimeter of the lake and declare it fully open to the public.

The lake will clean itself and the hundreds of millions of dollars that are lost because tourism has been denied by a handful of owners will soon be recovered.

The parties involved in this proposed cleanup should realize that tax dollars should not be spent on this project, especially since we, the public, are denied what should have been our privilege all along: the right to take our children for a walk along the shoreline.

OLIVER L. BRASSEUR

### Dogs a problem in park

It was glad to read in the Aug. 18 Tribune that the Town of Stouffville is looking to nearly double the fine for dog owners who don't keep their pets on a leash in public.

As the mother of two small children, I wish the Town of Markham would do something about the proliferation of unleashed dogs at Milne Dam Conservation Park.

Both my children and I love dogs. However, as every "responsible" owner knows, even the friendliest dogs can never be completely trusted around small children.

I am particularly concerned about notoriously unpredictable breeds such as pit bulls and rottweilers, as well as irresponsible owners.

Case in point: the couple who ordered their Rottweiler to attack a 50-year-old blind man simply for asking if their dog was on a leash.

In all the times I have visited Milne Dam, not once have I seen the leash-by-law enforced.

Last summer, a German Shepherd ran out of nowhere and knocked over my two-year-old son while we were playing ball.

The dog was only being playful and the owner apologized, but what if it had attacked instead?

By the time I could get to him, my son could have been seriously injured or killed, as in the tragic case of 8-year-old Courtney Trempe of Stouffville.

JENNIFER JANSEN



Brenda Larson

## Cameras the best solution to fight red-light runners

I'm a firm believer in red-light cameras.

You know the ones I mean. They're designed to help officials catch cars speeding through red lights at intersections.

Since the Greater Toronto Area has one of the worst records in North America for this type of offence, and 16 people died in the GTA last year because motorists ran red lights, anything that can be done to help alleviate this problem should be welcomed by citizens.

Last week's announcement, however, that the province could soon employ a private group of enforcement officers to catch red-light runners in the act seems to be much like using a sledgehammer to kill an ant.

It's not that I'm opposed to the concept.

A roving team of dressed-in-black enforcers, armed with handcuffs, batons and dreaded fines, could seriously discourage red-light runners from doing that deadly deed.

#### TAKING CHANCES

If they happen to be at the right intersection at the right time when the red-light runner is going through.

While government officials say the private officers would generate \$24 million a year in fines, which would adequately cover the costs of the program and its salaries, I believe the cameras are an easier, more cost-effective solution.

They would force drivers to be aware of their actions at intersections at all times, not just when a scary enforcer with a highly visible van is standing there.

The intersection could have large signs that indicate a camera is recording the traffic movement. "Smile, you lousy driving habits are on camera!"

And those who would argue it's not fair to target the car — it may not be the owner who is operating the vehicle, after all — I say, tough.

If you're going to lend your car to your brother, your mother, your teenage daughter or son, you better make sure they're following the rules of the road, too.

I think it would only take one red-light fine mailed to mommy or daddy to ensure that daughter or son won't be taking chances at intersections again.

## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

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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 (Herakl/Courier), Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bohon, Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown (Independent/Action Free Press), Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora, Georgina Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Carrington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, Uxbridge Tribune and City of York Guardian.

