

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q A York Region student trustee says students should be part of the teacher-board contract negotiations because, he says, students are the major stakeholders poised to lose if secondary school teachers walk off the job. Do you think students should have a say in teacher-board negotiations?

Yes, most assuredly. (Students) have a stake in it. All too often in their zest to teach, teachers lose sight of the reason for teaching. That's not my quote — I read it somewhere, but it holds true.

TOM WINTERS, STOUFFVILLE

No. As noble as their aims would be, they are really only coming from a background of being there now, for their own short-term interests to get to the next level — for the most part. The issues are really for the overall, long-term plan.

CLARE HUNTER, MARKHAM

Yes, but as observers only. The two sides probably forget who has the most at stake — the students. If they could look over at real, live students, maybe (the two sides) would be more considerate of other points of view.

NICHOLAS SAM, MARKHAM

No, but the parents should be.

NAOMI ROBINSON, MARKHAM

No. Kids just aren't at that level. The groups that are already involved can't even make a decision as it is. Adding another group is just going to make things more complicated.

ANDREA RIDENOUR, STOUFFVILLE

Yes, it provides them (students) with an important arena to give them a sense of what the issues are about. Hopefully, it encourages them to become involved in community issues so they understand that they can make a difference.

LEWIS COTTAGE, STOUFFVILLE

Yes they should have a say. It shouldn't be a direct say, but through their student councils. You can't have a direct conversation with every Tom, Dick and Harry.

JOHN MOFFAT, STOUFFVILLE

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Vandalism is becoming a big concern in the community and the police chief wants to help stop these crimes. What would you do if one of your friends, or someone you know, vandalized public property? Would you look the other way, or would you report them?

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

OPINION



Roy Green

Dizzy mayor Mel wants namesake on home brew

Mel Lastman, the absurdly dizzy mayor of Toronto, has asked Molson Breweries to consider making a special beer for the city.

"I would love to see a Toronto-only beer and the only place you can buy it is in the City of Toronto," said The Mouth That Roared.

Given the recent problems with smelly water there, many residents can be forgiven for believing Toronto already has its own beer on tap.

And it's too bad he won't let the rest of the GTA (Mel considers everywhere else the Lesser Toronto Area) in on his plans. He could have named it Greater Toronto Ale.

It's too bad he won't let the rest of the GTA (Mel considers everywhere else the Lesser Toronto Area) in on his plans.

His own lame suggestion for the name for the Hogtown-only brew is Toronto's Own. But that's only because he wants us to think he's too modest to suggest the beer be named after a certain mayor.

He knows no matter what it's called, it'll be known as Mel's — "Pick up a case of Mel's Mellow Malt at the Mel Store in Mel Lastman Square."

After all, if Dave Nichol, the guy with the world's worst wig, has his own beer brands, why not Mel?

In fact, I have it on good authority that Nichol was the first guy Mel approached with the idea, but Dave's suggestions for a whole range of Toronto brews — Dave's Honey Brown, Humber River, Leaside Lime Lager, Savoury Suds of Scarborough and Memories of Mimico — were rejected when Mel discovered Dave's ego was bigger than his own.

Mel is convinced tourists will rush to Toronto to taste the 416 elixir, but I suspect the executives he approached this week at Molson don't feel that way.

I'm sure they are, at this very moment, trying to extricate themselves from a dicey situation without raising the ire of a man who, after all, sent a nasty letter to the Spice Girls when they failed to follow his wishes.

I suggest Mel and company look to the McKenzie Brothers — Bob and Doug — for an appropriate name.

Strange Brew.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trade motors for paddles to help protect moraine

In the spring of this year, the proud residents of Musselman's Lake showed to the rest of the people that the environment is of the utmost importance anywhere in this world.

As the saying goes, a small step for the residents, but a large step for the Oak Ridges Moraine.

When I was driving on the Ninth Line, by the lake, to my disappointment I saw a motor boat at least 15 feet in length and an outboard motor not less than 35 horsepower.

I will bet that these people with their motor boats did not participate in the spring lake clean-up. Why should they, obviously the lake clean-up is not important to them.

The Kettle lakes are very sensitive to the environment. If one lake is polluted slowly, the rest will acquire the pollution.

As I see it, these lakes are large tributary ponds that make up the Kettle lakes.

Maybe we should not call them lakes. If we call them ponds, possibly we would respect them more. Then people living around these ponds would turn to canoeing or kayaking and paddling only.

Motor boats of any size disturb the sediment at the bottom of the lake and this disturbance brings the pollution to the surface and travels on.

If owners of motor boats do not change from motor to paddles, then

maybe town council should pass a bylaw to force them to abide by the rules of the conscientious environmentalists.

STEVE PIAKES
COUNCILLOR, WARD 1
STOUFFVILLE

BrainChild raised \$50,000

Thank you Markham and Stouffville. Once again you have shown what a great community we belong to.

You came out in the thousands to show your support to our great cause at the fourth annual BrainChild Summerfest at the Markham Fairgrounds on Aug. 8.

Because of your generosity, almost \$50,000 was raised which will go towards brain tumor research and programs at the Hospital for Sick Children.

A major part of this revenue came from our raffle, the result of which is as follows: Leslie Brams-Baker, Richmond Hill (IV); Dean Maticiw, Toronto (fur coat); Michelle Wise, Thornhill (Honda Civic).

Thanks to The Markham Economist & Sun and the Stouffville Tribune. Thanks also to fellow committee members, to the staff at the Hospital for Sick Children, to the families of BrainChild, to all of our sponsors, and to the hundreds of volunteers, without whom this achievement would not have been possible.

CAROL & MOE MOHAMMED
BRAINCHILD CO-FOUNDERS AND SUMMERFEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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