

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q 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?

I would first very nicely ask my neighbour or friend to refrain from vandalizing. If I found them at the job again, I would definitely make the necessary phone call and report them.

MINNAT AHMED

Oh, I'd report it. I certainly couldn't look the other way. It all depends on the nature of the crime and the magnitude. If it was dumping over the garbage can, I'd yell at them.

SUE HENDERSON

I'd report them. I'm tired of kids lounging around like that. My kids won't be hanging around like that when they are older. When I was their age, I wasn't allowed.

GLENN HARGRAVES

I'd report them and have them charged so they can suffer the consequences.

DARLENE MCGILL

I would definitely report them, depending on the seriousness of the situation. As an exhibitor at an art show, you assume some of that risk when you put stuff in the public domain, but it would be nice to think there is some civility. If it is someone I know, I would talk to the parents to have them make the social corrections in their behaviour.

TOM FORRESTER

I would (report them) because vandalism can hurt people. I wouldn't dream of doing such a thing.

NEIL MACDOUGALL

I would go tell my mom or if there was a policeman around I would tell him. I would give a description if I could.

MELODY CHIU

It would depend on the nature of the vandalism. There is a difference between chipping paint off a desk or spraypainting racist slurs on a wall. That's disgusting, serious and I would report it.

KATHY MASTERTON

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Property reassessment has created financial hardship for hundreds of York Region businesses. Should local, regional and provincial politicians find some way to offset the burden of skyrocketing property taxes, or should the business owners be forced to pay up?

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

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student has had enough

An open letter to the York Region catholic school board.

I am a Grade 3 student at St. Mark school in Stouffville. I don't understand why you can't sit down with the teachers and make a deal.

I think that the teachers are the most important people, because they are the ones in the classroom teaching, not you.

They deserve to have a good deal. I have had enough.

I want to go back to school.

ALANNA J. SMITH
STOUFFVILLE

Theft no laughing matter

I have loved Stouffville for 12 years. It's a small size, people are friendly, it's a great place to raise children and I have always felt safe and secure... until now.

While working the Moonlight Madness Sale in Stouffville this year, I was robbed of two bikes — a fuchsia pink ladies' 26-inch, and my son's 24-inch red bike.

It was not just the bikes, but the invasion into our garage, our space, our home and taking something that was not theirs. I feel sick inside, just thinking about it.

What is it with folks today, that they feel they can steal and get away with it. Don't parents wonder where the bikes come from, if they are not their kids' bikes? Parents are responsible for their kids. Be there, talk to them, share, hug and pay attention to what your kids say.

If kids are stealing then there is a great need for love and a lack thereof.

Charity does begin in Stouffville, however. Friends (with three sons of their own), offered to buy my son a new bike.

Thank God for friends in our neighbourhood. Joe and Alison Calderia were so upset that I was robbed, they offered to help.

A giant hug and thanks again to the Calderia family. You have restored my faith in humanity.

DIANNE PEPPER (PEPPER THE CLOWN)
STOUFFVILLE

Striking against the law

Open letter to the minister of education.

My name is Patrick. I am eight years old. I am in Grade 3.

I am supposed to be in a classroom, but instead I am at home.

I am not at school because there is a teachers' strike. My mom has taught me never to strike anyone, it is against the law. So why have my teachers gone to strike?

My school was on strike last year, too. I would like to tell you that I am mad because I wanted to go to school to see all my friends.

I would like you to take off the strike so I could go to school and learn. I have learned too much about strikes already, now I want to learn about real important stuff.

PATRICK SALVAGNA
STOUFFVILLE



Roy Green

Here's hoping the Old Farmer is off his rocker

The winter weather forecast for southern Ontario in the 1999 edition of the Old Farmer's Almanac is enough to make you contemplate suicide.

Above normal precipitation and snowfall, it reads. "Though November may start mild, much colder air will move in fairly early and will dominate through early January."

There's more.

"After a January thaw in mid-month, cold weather will return and persist through much of February. Cold weather will dominate March, despite brief mild periods."

And if that isn't enough to have you reaching for the hemlock, the forecast continues: "Several major snowstorms are expected during the season, with a blizzard around Christmas."

Thanks a lot, Scrooge!

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, southern Ontario includes Sudbury and Thunder Bay

Nor does the miserable Old Farmer hold out much hope for next spring. "April and May," he writes, "will be unusually chilly with temperatures 4 degrees Celsius colder than normal. Some areas will see snow as late as the latter half of May."

But before you begin searching for a tall building, there are a few points you might want to consider. Last year's edition of the Old Farmer's Almanac, for one. It called for:

- above-normal precipitation and snowfall — WRONG

- snowiest periods in early November, (WRONG) early and late December, (WRONG), mid-January (correct) mid and late February (WRONG) and early to mid-March (partially correct)

And though eastern Ontario and southern Quebec went through one of the most extraordinary weather events of the century — January's incredible ice storm — the 1998 forecast doesn't say a single thing about freezing rain.

Even more significant is the illustration contained on the page with the forecast for southern Ontario.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, southern Ontario includes Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Don't write that suicide note just yet.

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