

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
37 Sandford Dr., Suite 306, Stouffville, Ont., L4A 7X5

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	Production Manager Pamela Nichols

EDITORIAL

Hunger forum
a wake-up call

People are going hungry across York Region and the issue can no longer be treated as if it were a problem for cities such as Toronto.

That's the bad news.

The good news is that perhaps officials will take the growing hunger issue more seriously as the gap between the rich and poor widens.

York Region held its first-ever forum on hunger last Friday to discuss how lower incomes are affecting more and more children each year.

The results are shocking.

Census statistics show between 1991 and 1996, York Region households with annual incomes of less than \$10,000 grew by 64.5 per cent. And households earning between \$10,000 and \$20,000 grew by 50 per cent.

Meanwhile, middle-class incomes, with households earning between \$20,000 and \$40,000, fell in York Region by nearly 39 per cent during the same period.

This growth boom in the lower-income bracket means a larger hunger problem across the region.

The forum heard nearly 4,000 children go to school hungry each day and their parents admit it's difficult to ensure their kids are getting regular, proper meals.

This is an issue that can't be ignored. Studies have proven children perform better in school if they've eaten a good breakfast — they're more alert and more energetic. What will be the social ramifications if these kids carry poor nutritional habits into their adult lives?

York Region is considered to be a wealthy member of the Greater Toronto Area. But behind our two-car garages, our picket fences, and our social calendars lurks a serious problem that isn't going to go away just because we can't necessarily see it, yet.

York's population is expected to swell to more than 1.2 million people in the next 20 years, and with such growth can come poverty.

We already have 65,000 people going to bed hungry every night, Friday's forum was told.

Officials have a huge job ahead of them if they are going to keep York Region on the map as one of the most admirable places to live and work.

We must allow a greater number of affordable housing units to be built, and we must improve a poor cross-municipal transit service so people with out vehicles can live and work in York Region.

York's hunger forum, which attracted more than 100 officials, is a positive first step in admitting the problem exists.

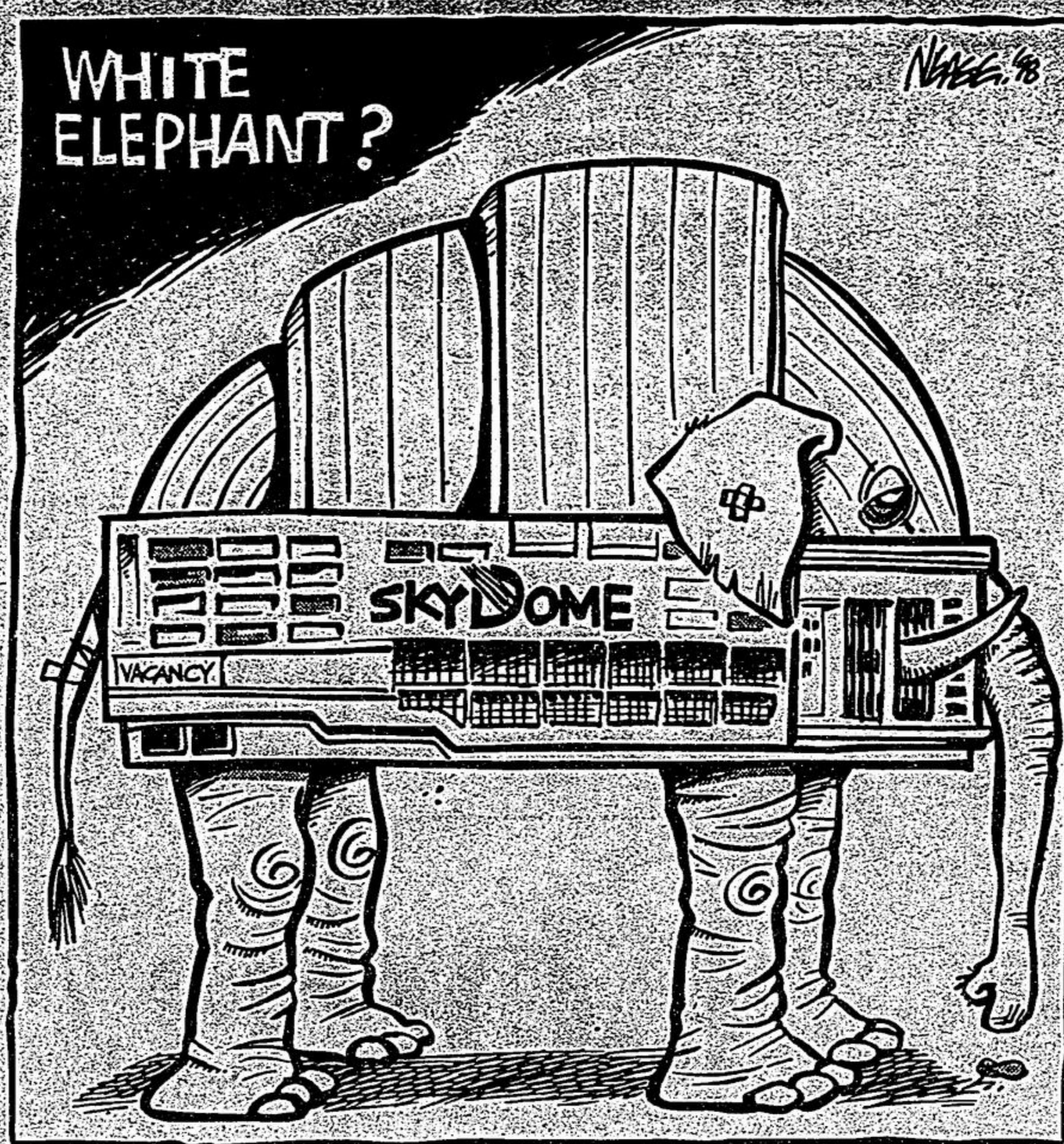
Now we must take action.

CHEERS & JEERS

■ **CHEERS:** To all of our veterans who fought for our freedom, and to all those now serving our country with distinction in the Canadian Armed Forces. Tomorrow at 11 a.m., remember to pay tribute to them all.

■ **JEERS:** To the misguided impression created by fashion houses, advertising companies and the media that young people can't look cool unless they are wearing the name of some high-profile designer on their clothes. What's worse, some York Region teenagers have resorted to shoplifting to procure the latest trends in fashion, forcing us all to pay for this silly notion that a person is measured by the label on his or his clothing.

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Food bank gifts appreciated

To the people of Stouffville who have supported the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank during this past Thanksgiving, we want to say a big thank you.

We appreciate your generosity in helping us meet the needs of our clients in this area.

Thank you to all the school children who donated food, to the churches, businesses and service clubs who held food drives. Every item donated is important and appreciated.

H. GREEN
ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE
OF THE WSFB

Amnesty International
supporters thanked

We wish to thank all those friends and supporters of Amnesty International, Group 54, who, by their presence, helped to make our Oct. 20 celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the 25th of Amnesty International in Canada such a success.

Their participation made this a joyous occasion.

MEMBERS OF AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL, GROUP 54,
MARKHAM-STOUFFVILLE

Big Sisters raise \$18,000

Big Sisters of York would like to sin-

cerely thank everyone who played a part in the success of this year's event which raised approximately \$18,000 for the Little Sisters of York Region.

We had a wonderful sunny day that brought out about 300 participants in the walk or run with extraordinary prizes and gifts that were generously donated by many local businesses.

NOREEN BROOKS
FUNDRAISING CO-ORDINATOR
BIG SISTERS OF YORK

GST not a Mulronev legacy

Some readers will be surprised to learn that the hated GST was not contrived by Brian Mulronev. That honour goes to a high priced un-elected bureaucrat, David Dodge.

The Chretien government has now placed Dodge in the exalted position as deputy health minister.

Dodge's job is to reorganize our beleaguered health care system.

This should be a very easy task for him to complete.

All the deputy minister has to do is to inform the prime minister to instruct his finance minister to release the billions of our tax dollars the government is holding in the form of transfer payments.

The citizens of Ontario badly need the return of our share of these tax dollars.

Can we expect to pay more taxes now that Dodge has his hand in our health care?

J. SHAW
MARKHAM



Brenda Larson

We should
remember all
soldiers' missions

It seems only fitting that this week, of all weeks, Canadian soldiers have been mobilized to do what Canadian soldiers do so well — help others.

In this week, our week to remember Canadian soldiers whose lives were lost or changed irrevocably by their service to the world, our forces are arriving in Central America to bring humanitarian aid to victims of Hurricane Mitch, one of the five worst storms ever to hit the Caribbean.

Capt. Brian Colgate, a Canadian Forces spokesperson, announced over the weekend that the situation in Central America is one of the "biggest humanitarian needs" the world has seen in a long time.

Think of some of the numbers for a moment.

In Honduras, almost two million people are homeless and have nowhere to go. Initial reports from the region indicate about 12,000 citizens are likely dead. Whole towns are lost, blown away or covered in mud.

We should be thanking them.
And remembering those who
went before them.

What are the tasks that Canadian soldiers face?

They're ready to treat patients who are sick or injured. They can purify water. They can rebuild roads. They bring blankets and clothing and high-protein cookies and bars.

They're ready to help Central American nations start to rebuild their communities.

The circumstances for these soldiers are different than they were for soldiers who looked down the barrels of machine guns as they arrived to do their jobs.

But the end result is the same — it's service to the world, something of which we should all be proud and supportive.

The Canadian military has endured a year of bitter criticism for its operation, its lack of discipline, its administration, its treatment of females within its ranks.

But when it comes down to a crunch, the men and women who serve are there to do just that around the world. We should not only thank them, we must also remember those who went before them.

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, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Action Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Pennington/Sheehy Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket-Aurora, Georgian Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/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