

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: Will you spend more money buying gifts this holiday season than you spent last year. Why or why not?

Yes. We do put dollar value limits on adult family members so we can concentrate more on the children. I have two children, and it is always fun to buy more presents for them. Christmas is for them anyway.

KATHRYN ENDUGESICK

No. I can't get too enthused to tell the truth. It's definitely the weather. Instead of shopping, we're going for a walk in the park. We don't want to miss one hour of this weather.

ELSIE AND GEORGE BECKINGHAM

No. I'm spending about the same as last year. It doesn't vary too much in our family from year to year.

ANNE NICHOLSON

When I am out and about with my family members and friends, I watch for things that they like, items that catch their interest or things they happen to mention to me. Then I go back later and purchase that item when they aren't around, no matter what time of year it is, even February or March.

Then at Christmas when we are exchanging gifts, they are often pleasantly surprised that I remembered them this way. Sometimes they forgot all about the item. It makes for an enjoyable and often exciting time. That to me is what Christmas is all about. Not worrying if you spent more this year than last.

KAREN LACROIX

No. We have too much. Less is more. Sentimental, emotional things and acts of kindness give you more dividends than spending money at the mall. We are a society that has everything in abundance anyway.

CHARLOTTE SCHULTZ

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

The scheduled execution of Canadian Stanley Faulder in Texas has brought the issue of capital punishment to the forefront. Do you think capital punishment is a deterrent to murder, and should it be re-instated in Canada?

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

OPINION



A Canadian Christmas Carol

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jeers to Santa Claus parade

Well, I am disappointed. As, I'm sure, are at least 200 others, who, like me, waited patiently at the end of the (Stouffville Kinsmen) Santa Claus Parade route at Weston Produce.

What we saw, instead, was roughly one quarter of the parade participants turn off at either Stouffville Veterinarian Clinic or Subway/KFC, leaving us to see them pack up.

My 11-year-old daughter, my mother-in-law and I waited for over an hour hoping to see what was being billed as a great parade.

We did not see the wonderful Newfoundland dogs. We did not see the Uxbridge Legion Pipe Band.

We did not see the Rameses Band. We did not see the 78th Fraser Highlanders Youth Pipe Band. And those are only the floats we know about.

Who knows what other floats turned off before they reached us? We saw many, but have no way of knowing to whom they belonged.

First, I would like to say thank you to all of those floats and marchers who did continue down to Weston Produce.

Although we waited several minutes between floats, it was still nice to get a Merry Christmas.

And jeers to the poor parade organization of the parade. Participants should have had clear indication to continue to the end of the route, and been made to do so, despite where their buses were parked. For that matter, all transportation should have been parked at Novopharm.

This way the parade would have finished where it was supposed to.

I'd like to emphasize that I do not blame individual participants for their early departure.

As one marcher told me, "I only follow, I don't lead." I thank them for wanting to participate at all.

After more than an hour, my family and I decided to leave. It was clear that there was no promise of how much of the parade would come our way. I couldn't even be sure that St. Nick himself would make it this far.

I missed last year's parade, but was told it was great. I have no idea what else will be said about this year's parade, but from my point of view (and many of the over 200 spectators around me, young and old), it could do with improvement. Let's hope next year's parade is better.

SHARON BAXTER
STOUFFVILLE

Thanks for relief donations

On behalf of Mennonite Central Committee and The Care & Share Shoppe, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Stouffville and the surrounding area for their generous donations to our Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund.

We have received \$4,500 and 25 complete kits, along with 136 combs, 123 tubes of toothpaste, 68 toothbrushes, 20 bottles of acetaminophen, 14 bottles of cough syrup, seven tubes of anti-fungal cream, 25 pkgs. of sanitary pads, 70 bath towels and 177 bars of soap.

The relief kits provide personal items designed specifically for areas where water-borne diseases and dysentery are causing serious health hazards. Items for the kits can still be dropped off at the Care & Share.

DONNA MCDOWELL
OFFICE MANAGER
ON BEHALF OF THE CARE & SHARE SHOPPE



Dave Teetzel

Harris should spin productions into full-length programs

Having loaded every Canadian TV station with so much political advertising that we're all ready to scream, Mike Harris has taken to the American airwaves.

We've been told the American commercials are an economic development venture, intended to lure business to Ontario — stealing a page from Vaughan's book to do a "province above New York" campaign.

But I caught one of them the other night on a Buffalo station and couldn't help but think these commercials are really aimed at those of us who live in Ontario, but like to catch Sabres updates with our *Third Rock* episodes.

I can see American corporations being interested in those 60 tax cuts Mike Harris mentions in his ads.

But then he goes on to talk about our great education and health care systems.

Modern, progressive companies consider these things assets when they choose a location.

But honestly, if you give a hang about quality of life, would you be in Buffalo now?

No, I think these ads are based on the truism that Canadians won't accept anything Canadian until foreigners buy it.

MIGHT BE CONVINCED

If we don't believe Harris' message now, we might be convinced when we hear him saying the same things to Americans.

But if the government is going to spend all this money making high-quality infomercials and "public service" announcements, maybe it should try a different tack.

They could spend a little more and spin their productions into full-length programs.

I'm seeing a prime-time soap based around that kid with the Band-Aid and his mom — sort of a younger version of *Dawson's Creek* meets *ER*, featuring a laissez-faire June Cleaver.

Sure, it would stink. But there are so many American cable networks, they'll buy just about any programming. That's the basis of the entire Canadian TV industry.

Harris would then be making money off his commercials instead of spending it, and people would believe every word he said because it's on American TV.

Coming next, Al McLean in *Men Behaving Badly*.

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