

## Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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### EDITORIAL

## Horse killings carry clear motivation

Someone obviously has a serious problem with the owners — or the persons running a horse boarding business — at Greenwinds Farm.

For the second time in four weeks, two horses have been shot at the Stouffville stable.

In the first incident, on Dec. 14, someone snuck into the barn at the Hwy. 48 and Bloomington Road facility, stuck a shotgun through the stable bars and shot two horses in the head at close range.

Both Chance, a thoroughbred stallion, and Guinness, a nine-year-old thoroughbred gelding, had to be destroyed after surgery the next day.

At the time, it appeared to be a sick act of random violence, which could not be explained.

However, with yesterday's shooting of two more horses, there can be no doubt another motivation is behind the attacks.

In yesterday morning's incident, the culprit broke a back window of the barn, stuck a shotgun through the glass and opened fire.

These cowardly massacres now seem to be a plot to sabotage the horse boarding business at Greenwinds. And it looks like the shooter will get his wish. Yesterday, on the scene, the operator announced he would indeed shut the place down and move his operation to an undisclosed location.

Somebody, somewhere in the community knows who did this, but for some reason a \$10,000 reward, issued by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, doesn't seem to be incentive enough to turn the suspect in to police.

No business or personal dispute can be worth what this shooter is doing — killing animals.

The deaths of Guinness and Chance in December devastated the owners, one of whom was a 12-year-old boy. Yesterday's shootings will have a similar impact on the owners of those horses.

Not only the person who committed this crime, but those who know who did it, have the blood of these horses, not to mention the pain they have inflicted on those who loved and cared for the animals, on their hands.

Last month, York Regional Police said they had interviewed a number of people and were hoping to make an arrest.

Unfortunately, the police couldn't find the person responsible in time to stop yesterday's tragedy. Now they must have some help from the public.

Detectives were combing the area for clues for most of the day, yesterday, and with the help of the OSPCA should be able to identify the suspect.

Someone reading this newspaper knows who shot those horses. With the help of the media, including national newspapers and television crews, the moron who did this will almost certainly be found.

Let's hope soon.

### CHEERS & JEERS

■ **CHEERS:** To Markham council for considering a permanent ban on smoking in all of its community centres. This is a bold but necessary first step.

■ **JEERS:** To the bureaucracy within the hospital system across Greater Toronto which is putting the lives of mothers and their premature babies at risk. With only two neonatal care facilities in Toronto, both of which are usually full, unacceptable risks are being taken. We should be putting a far higher value on human life.

■ **CHEERS:** To M.A.C. Cosmetics which recently donated \$6,500 to the AIDS Committee of York Region.

# OPINION



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Photos not appropriate

Regarding your photographs in the Jan. 3 Year in Review, do you not think it more appropriate to show a picture of Courtney Trempe when you chose to list that tragedy?

Showing a picture of the dog was definitely not appropriate.

The Trempe family has suffered enough, but some of the pictures you choose to display are tasteless.

I refer also to the picture of the Trempe's coming out of the funeral service back in May. Why would that picture even be taken?

SUSAN DEKKER  
STOUFFVILLE

*Editor's Note: The Tribune published a picture of Courtney Trempe in our Sunday, Dec. 27 issue, along with a brief tribute. The Tribune stands by its decision to cover all newsworthy events, tragic or not.*

#### Postal workers not to blame

That residents along a rural route in Whitchurch-Stouffville have not had mail delivered for over a week is almost unbelievable. I was brought up in a rural community, and I know how important that mail delivery is.

This sad state of affairs, I am told, is the responsibility of rural mail supervisors, not our local post office. I have found David Glover and his staff to be courteous and obliging, and I would hate to see any blame attached to them in the minds of the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville in a misunderstanding of the situation.

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LENORE HAWLEY  
STOUFFVILLE

#### Remark offends customer

We, the residents of R. R. 4 are deeply offended at the reference (Sunday Sun, pg. 5) by Ms. Gadsby that she was "thrown to the dogs." What dogs?

We resent being accused that somehow all this mail delay is our fault. For the past seven years we have enjoyed the best postal service in the country, bar none. So why, all of a sudden, is this whole mess our responsibility?

Many of our residents depend on Canada Post for business and pensions, even medication delivery, an interruption of nearly two weeks in rural mail service is unacceptable.

MARION WELLS  
STOUFFVILLE

#### Grieving family grateful

On Christmas Eve our husband and father, John Ward, passed away. It was sudden, he was 61.

My reason for writing this letter is to say what a wonderful community we have. At such a busy time, hundreds of people in Whitchurch-Stouffville and Markham rallied to help us.

They wrapped us in love, visited, hugged, fed hundreds, sent donations, cards and flowers. Thank you for being there while we needed you.

DIANE, MIKE AND WIFE PATTY,  
DOUG, SUSAN AND HUSBAND DAVE.  
NEWMARKET



Roy Green

## Mike's popular for some very good reasons

If you're looking for the reason Mike Harris scored a slight edge over the provincial Liberals in the last popularity poll, I have the answer right here.

An Environics telephone poll released last week showed that 43 per cent of decided voters in Ontario would vote for the Conservatives if an election were held today, compared to 41 per cent for the Liberals and 14 per cent for the NDP.

The surge — it's the first time the Tories have been in front in the past three years — has nothing to do with the flurry of radio ads promoting Tory policies that Harris has been doing lately.

I believe Mike's newfound popularity has more to do with a couple of recent news stories.

I believe Mike's newfound popularity has more to do with a couple of recent news stories.

Like the one about the backlog in Ontario's justice system.

The story said the lineup of cases was so long that Paul Bernardo still hasn't got the transcripts from his trial, even after more than three years. Which means he can't get started on the appeal of his conviction.

Talk about a story that made my day.

And if that wasn't enough, along came the ruckus about Harris dismissing the president of the Trillium Foundation because, apparently, they preferred to have a "card-carrying Tory" in the post.

#### WHOLE NEW MEANING

But the story took on a whole new meaning for me when a spokesperson for one of the organizations that gets money from the foundation took a hissy fit and suggested cutting off the money trail.

"(We) have to stand up and say we won't take money from Trillium until a public inquiry has gotten to the bottom of this," said the spokesperson.

I ask you, can it get any better? Well it could. But only if the backlog in the justice system means it'll take years and years and years before a public inquiry could be launched.

Keep up the good work, Mike.

## Stouffville Tribune

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