

# 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** Stephen Mathieu  
**Office Manager** Vivian O'Neil

**Editor** Tracy Kibble  
**Distribution Director** Barry Goodyear

# OPINION



Roy Green

## It's never too late for a funeral

I know you've been busy lately — too busy to pay much attention to what's been going on in the world. The following, then, is another in our occasional series of news digests to bring you up to speed:

- Prime Minister Jean Chretien apologized for missing this weekend's United Alternative convention in Ottawa, saying he needed 24 hours notice to get back from a funeral held for the Progressive Conservative Party.

- Canada promised to contribute 800 troops to a NATO peacekeeping force in Kosovo — as long as we're given 24 hours to round everybody up, find their rifles, get them on a plane and stop to refuel in Whistler.

- Finance Minister Paul Martin gave the provinces \$11 billion to hire extra police officers to direct ambulance traffic around hospital emergency rooms.

- The citizens of Nunavut elected their first government this week. Finance Minister Paul Martin gave them \$11 for health care.

- Time Magazine reported that Hillary Clinton will run for the U.S. Senate. Time's Canadian edition ran a centrefold of Sheila Copps.

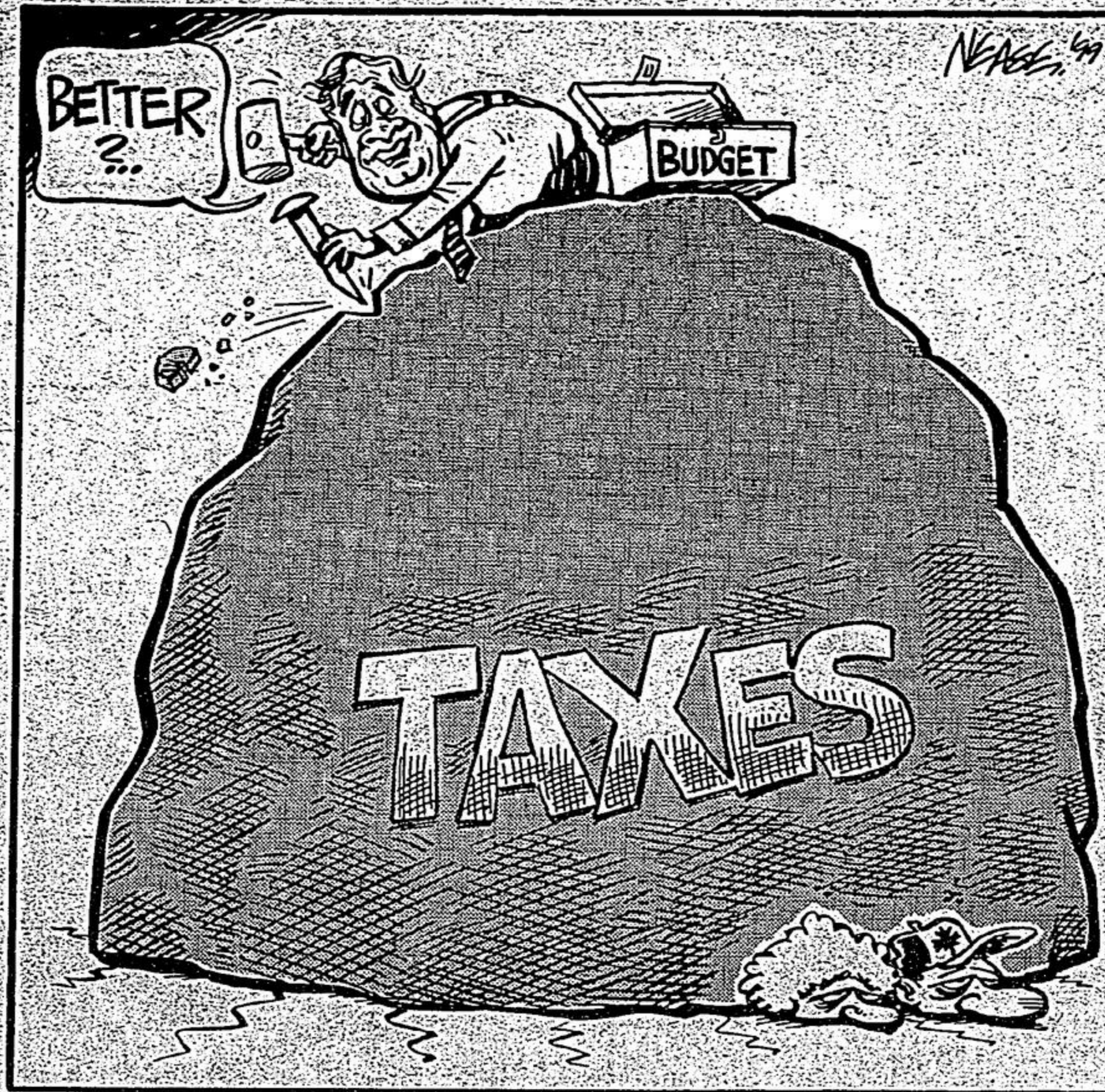
- The U.S. Senate, to mark the Year of the Rabbit, acquitted Bill Clinton.

- Prime Minister Chretien apologized for not attending the last game at Maple Leaf Gardens, saying he was late returning from Harold Ballard's funeral.

- Ontario Premier Mike Harris, upon learning that the *Beavis and Butthead* TV show had been cancelled, offered to let them attend school in Ontario as long as they wear uniforms.

- CBC technicians went on strike. Global Television offered to loan its entire Canadian content library — 3,600 hours of promos for *Traders* — to the CBC.

- The federal government was criticized for lack of preparedness on the Y2K problem. Prime Minister Chretien apologized, saying he won't be here for Y2K because he'll be attending a ski funeral.



## Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

**Q:** If we had a national holiday in February, what would you call it and how would you celebrate it?

On Feb. 14 we could have Heart and Art Appreciation Day, celebrating Valentine's Day and a love of the arts.

JUDY LIVINGSTON

Call it Nature Appreciation Day. We could stay home and feed the birds, go for hikes or winter nature walks...enjoy our own backyards.

KURT CHRIST

We could have National Family Day, a day off for everyone to enjoy, with families doing things that make them happy.

CHERYL MUCHA

I would like to have Mid-Winter Break Day. I'd spend the day at an elegant spa, get a massage, a facial, the works. Then I'd lie by the pool sipping fancy cocktails, pretending I'm in Florida.

AUDREY MEARS

How about a holiday called something like National Justification Day. All government, bank and liquor store employees have to work and the rest of us get the day off.

K. CONNOLLY

Why can't Flag Day be a national holiday, like President's Day is in the United States? It could be a day to consider and appreciate all the wonderful things about being Canadian. We really need a long weekend between New Year's and Easter. It's a long winter.

SAM MCDUGALL

How about a Global Friendship Day to tie together the special celebrations in February, such as Valentine's Day, Black History Month and Chinese New Year. It would remind us all of the importance of different races and cultures celebrating unity together in harmony.

HELEN GAIDATIS

## THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you feel the presence of coyotes and foxes in the community is a danger to children and pets? What measures would you suggest to control the wildlife population in urbanized areas?

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pool would keep people, and their cash, in town

The indoor pool has been a long time coming.

I have lived in Stouffville for 14 years and have seen very little growth besides roads and housing.

I have a family and we all love to swim. I do not have a pool. We go to other communities to enjoy the use of an indoor pool all year round.

When we go to these towns we often bring other people from Stouffville. Not only do we swim but we spend money in that community, often purchasing food as the kids are always hungry after a swim.

I often pick up groceries, liquor, toiletries or get gas. But, I would rather spend my money in the community where I live and pay taxes.

With the pool being close to the library I would not be surprised if there is an increase in library members, and in turn, revenue.

If we intend on keeping people in Stouffville to spend their money in the community, we need to offer more.

NANCY DIGIOVANNI  
STOUFFVILLE

### SDSS deserves pat on back

Late in 1998, the Stouffville Bowling Centre was the target of a break and entry. Among the items stolen was a relatively large sum of fundraising money belonging to the youth bowling program.

The students and teachers at Stouffville District Secondary School took it upon themselves to help recoup

this lost money. Just before Christmas I was presented with a cheque from SDSS for \$400.

On behalf of the youth bowling program, I would like to thank the students and teachers who organized and contributed to this fundraising effort.

Stouffville should be proud that the majority of the town's youth are caring and concerned citizens.

JOHN WHITE

### Trapping inhumane

Due to the loss of wildlife habitat as a result of rapid housing and industrial development, the presence of animals like raccoons and coyotes in our backyards is not unusual.

Mankind has encroached on to territories that were once their principal domain, and it is unfair of Sylvia McFarland to say that they are endangering the lives of our family, children and pets (*Trapping Common Sense*, Feb. 18).

Wild animals do not attack unless provoked. We should instead learn to understand them or keep our distance.

Hunting and animal trapping were once our culture and heritage but not anymore. It is time McFarland evolved into the age of computers and cyberspace. Hunting is a dated pastime and animal trapping is not only illegal but inhumane and ruthless.

The next time you intend to shoot a raccoon or coyote, I would encourage you to do so with a camera, keep your distance and common sense will tell you that no one is going to get hurt.

LINDA ELLIOTT  
MARKHAM

## 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

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/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket/Aurora, Georgina 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.

