

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: March Break is just around the corner and many parents are scrambling to find activities to keep their children occupied. Do you have suggestions that would help families plan inexpensive but fun days off?

I'm going to take my kids to the zoo on one day and to a rock climbing gym on the other.

JOE PALMA

Oh, Geez. I work. It'll be street hockey. In all their spare time my kids play hockey. Plus two hockey tournaments in the March Break.

DEBBIE STRETTON

Stick around the house. Play video games. Go dome golfing and sleep in. And bug my brother.

TIM LOUGHLIN

My kids go to the Catholic school so they'll only have the Thursday and Friday off. It's disappointing. I'll probably take them skating.

PATRICK BAUER

It seems there are a lot of special activities going on for kids in the March Break — special classes at the library or skating at the rinks. An ice show or the circus might be a great event to take in.

JEANETTE HEPBURN

I am a teacher who got legislated back to work, so I've only got two days. I have crafts at home to do with my two boys in the morning and I'll take them to public skating at the arena in the afternoon.

STEVE SWAN

Probably the Metro Zoo and public swimming and skating, and library programs. They're all inexpensive.

JANICE WALKER

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

If a provincial election were to take place tomorrow, who do you think would win? Who do you think should win?

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

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let the digging begin

The indoor pool has been an issue for 20 years. Let's get on with it.

Thousands of taxpayer dollars have already been spent on feasibility studies and surveys. It is not necessary to spend any more.

The indoor pool will bring jobs and patrons who will spend their money in town, rather than in Uxbridge, Aurora, Markham or Newmarket. It will attract people to visit Stouffville for recreation and to live.

The pool is something people of all ages can use and enjoy. Swimming has numerous health benefits for all.

I would prefer the indoor pool and library be treated as separate projects. However, if it will save the town money, then it makes perfect sense to combine them.

BRENDA LOBRAICO
STOUFFVILLE

Onus is on dog owners

Staff writer Joan Ransberry has dispensed her views on the subject of dogs (*Banning vicious dogs: the only answer*, column, March 2) with all the black-and-white rigidity of the true zealot, deciding which breeds must die and which must be allowed to live.

Her conclusions are strong and clearly emotional, and she herself admits they are rooted originally in a traumatic childhood experience.

She ends up with a pointed hint that her father took the law into his own hands and shot the offending dog.

Thank God her traumatic experience

was not with a human being, otherwise we might find her using the pages of *The Tribune* as a personal sounding board to advocate banishing certain races or social classes from Stouffville.

I was bitten on the face by a collie dog at age three, an event which I remember clearly. It has not left me with a phobia against collie dogs (or any other breed).

Even at that age, I knew it was that particular spoiled animal, not all dogs, that had attacked me. I've known a neighbour's rottweiler I would happily trust anywhere. I've also seen some I would not.

Ransberry's awful childhood experience was with a German shepherd. I have had two female German shepherds during the last 30 years, both of whom lived to a good age.

Both were delightful, loving, reliable, intelligent, happy dogs who never once offered the slightest aggression to any human being.

On the other hand, both were well-trained, well cared for, respected as dogs, kept under proper restraint and never allowed to roam loose.

Whatever happened to personal responsibility and common sense in dealing with animals?

The death of Courtney Trempe is one of the most awful tragedies I have ever read about. As a mother myself, I cannot tell you how heartbroken and haunted I have been by it, and I will never forget her picture in the paper.

Let's get the responsibility back where it belongs — on dog owners.

M. MILLER
STOUFFVILLE



Roy Green

Banks have eliminated all human contact

Some Saturday morning musings to take your mind off more important issues.

• Strategy, a Canadian marketing magazine, reports this week that we used our debit cards more than anyone else in the world last year — 1.36-billion times to pay for more than \$58.5 billion in goods.

"Canadians are world leaders in their use of the Interac system," said Interac's vice-president.

But there's no mention in the story of why it is we swipe more than anybody else.

Could it be because Canadian banks have pretty well eliminated tellers, and every other personal touch from branches, for all but a few minutes a day?

• With the Oscars coming up this month, the inevitable arguments over who really deserves to win have already begun.

Just in case you think the people who actually do the voting — members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — know any more than you and I, consider that Mel Gibson and Kevin Costner have won Oscars for best director. Alfred Hitchcock and Martin Scorsese have not.

Consider that Mel Gibson and Kevin Costner have won best director Oscars, while Alfred Hitchcock and Martin Scorsese have not.

• The Canadian Bar Association says Canada is losing prospective immigrant millionaires because of the lengthy delays and extensive background checks they are subjected to under the immigration investor program.

Meanwhile, thousands of crooks and illegal immigrants manage to sneak in every day without any apparent difficulty.

• No one — not even the tobacco companies — seems interested in a recent study by the National Bureau of Economic Research which shows that, when all costs and taxes are taken into account, tobacco saves the U.S. government about \$20 billion annually.

The tobacco companies aren't interested because they don't like to point out that the savings come from dead smokers who aren't around to use up expensive geriatric health care.

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