

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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Views ON THE News

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC OPINION

Q: York Regional Police Chief Julian Fantino is lobbying regional council to make funds available for a helicopter. Do you think York Regional Police needs a helicopter to perform its duties? Why?

No. We don't need helicopters. Why? It is the wrong solution based on empire building. The correct solution is to spend the money on more officers to increase police presence and to send "chase offenders" camping in Northern Ontario's hinterland. Ensure that their sentence includes black fly season.

LORNE LLOYD DAVIDOFF

Everybody likes the goodies, but who is going to pay for it? It is beautiful to have everything, but we need to figure out how much taxes will go up to cover expenses.

JAMES PAPPAS

I'm not sure. We'd have to see how efficient it is and if it is worth putting all this money into. I think it's better to take the money and try to invest in improving what we have now.

SARAH ANTHONY

It's a good idea, provided it doesn't interfere with taxes. The money has to come from somewhere.

KEN HANSON

York Region is growing fast. If the police need the equipment, then yes, it would be worth it for safety reasons. If something happens to you and your family, you want the police to do all they can. A helicopter can help. You feel it more when something happens to your own family.

NICK GOUGOULIAS

I think it's a great idea. High-speed chases are rather dangerous, not only for the police but for innocent bystanders. If even one life can be saved it'll be worth it.

GINA PACE

With the growing crime rate moving north, we certainly need a helicopter. It is just as necessary as other equipment the police will be spending their money on.

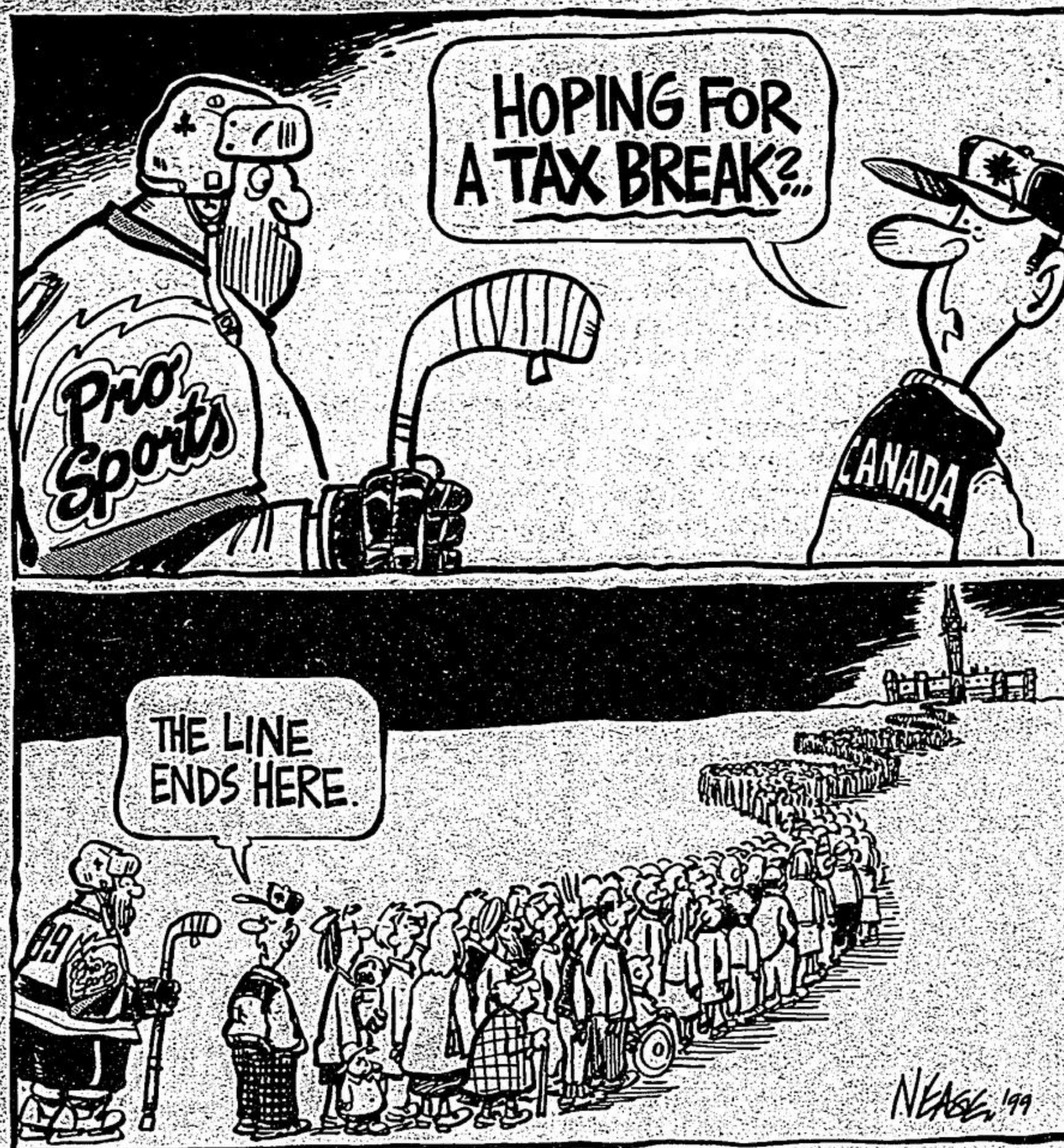
HARVEY AGGETT

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

York Region is investigating a two-stream (wet/dry separation) garbage collection system which would eliminate blue boxes. Would you give up your blue box in favour of another method of collecting recyclables?

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

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No one speaks for majority

Re: *Taxpayer rip-off not registering with politicians*, by Doug Devine (Thursday, March 11, Tribune.)

I was intrigued by Devine's outspoken article. We need more journalists who are prepared to speak for the public. I used to think we had public apathy. Now I believe it is more a situation that the public has become accustomed to not having a voice to express their discontent. The silent majority is only that because no one will speak for them.

Last June, we formed our association to help consumer/investors. Today, SIPA is incorporated as a national non-profit organization with over 100 members in eight provinces. Our membership includes many consumers who have lost all or a substantial part of their life savings when they trusted their financial advisor. Some of these people are prepared to tell their stories in the hope that this will help other people avoid potential disaster.

The impact of extreme financial loss goes far beyond the loss of money. It can destroy careers, relationships, families and lives.

STAN BUELL
SMALL INVESTOR PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Spirit had great year

Thanks to the Stouffville Spirit hockey team for a great year. I enjoyed most home games and a few away ones, but to see you make the playoffs was special.

MOUNIR SAHYOUN

Thanks also to Bruce Stapley for the great coverage and pictures of the games, and a big thank you to all involved for the team jacket presented to me at the game on Feb. 25. I will wear it proudly next season. Good luck in 1999-2000.

ALICE VAGUE
STOUFFVILLE

No sympathy for malls

Every time I read an article or see a silly sign posted at the entrance of a mall opposing the Vaughan mega mall, I laugh.

Have the managements and/or owners of malls forgotten that:

- It's their lack of vision and overbuilding that lead to their crash in the '90s.

- When they were in their glory, they really cared less about the welfare of the "little guy" retailer. They set the rules, the rent and specified what a retailer could and couldn't sell. And they still do, atrociously sometimes.

- Between the superstores and the mega malls, the regional mall formula is not as viable as it used to be.

- Competition is healthy and we live in a free market economy.

Instead of whining, crying wolf and trying to eliminate the competition, Vaughan mega mall opponents should go back to the drawing board and figure out their mistakes and correct them.

If it still doesn't sink in, perhaps, they should enroll in Marketing 101.



Roy Green

Introducing fast trucks for those with a death wish

Ford Canada has introduced "the world's fastest" pickup. The new SVT F-150 Lightning, which began rolling off the production line in Oakville today, has a top speed of 225 km/h and will go from 0 to 100 in less than seven seconds. Ford plans to manufacture about 4,000 of the trucks annually over the next six years. They will be available in Canada for \$39,995. "It's a lifestyle truck — a real toy," said Al Suydam, program manager for Ford's special vehicles team. "We're going to sell most of them in the southern U.S."

— THE NATIONAL POST, MARCH 17

And that's only the beginning. The Stouffville Tribune has learned that if this SVT (special vehicles team) version of its popular F-150 pickup proves successful, Ford will follow it up with a series of even speedier trucks and vans.

First off the line will be the VVF-WNK-250 (Very Very Fast-We're Not Kidding) pickup that will go from 0 to 500 in a nanosecond.

Because of the cost — about \$230,000 — Ford says it will manufacture only 300 VVFs annually.

By 2005, Ford expects to roll out the ultimate speed machine, APOLLO 13, which will go from 0 to 8 million faster than hell and will cost more money than there is in the entire world.

"It's a rich man's truck — a toy for someone who doesn't have a life," said a Ford spokesperson.

Next up will be CM-SM-10,000 (Cruise Missile-Street Model) that doesn't even have a 0 to go from.

At \$1.8 million, only the military will be able to afford them and Ford expects an order for millions of the suckers.

"It's a money-making truck — for someone with a short life span," said a Ford spokesperson.

By 2005, Ford expects to roll out the ultimate speed machine, APOLLO 13, which will go from 0 to 8 million faster than hell and will cost more money than there is in the entire world.

"It will go so fast your trip will be over before it's begun — it's for someone with a death wish," said a Ford spokesperson.

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