

# Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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## EDITORIAL

### Parents deserve more daycare options

Every day, across York Region, working moms and dads leave their children to be cared for by someone else.

Perhaps it's a professional daycare centre, with trained early childhood educators and government subsidies available to those who need them.

Or it could be at a private, in-home daycare with some other youngsters. Maybe it's with a relative or a family friend.

And these parents, like many across the nation, aren't always satisfied with their situation.

Some don't like the options of care they are offered. Some can't afford the level of care they really want for their child.

Some simply don't want to leave the child with someone else, but have no other financial options.

A study, prepared by Canadian Policy Research Networks Inc. and released last week, states three-quarters of Canadians want a new child-care system that works better for everyone.

They're asking for economic support for parents during the first three years of a child's life.

#### CHILDREN'S ISSUES COME TO FOREFRONT

They'd like the option of working part-time. And they'd like the government to provide economic support for parents who choose to stay home with their children, rather than going out to work.

The release of the study's results coincides with the federal government's preparation for this fall's Throne Speech, which could focus on children's issues.

That, combined with an expected \$5-billion federal surplus that the Liberals are itching to spend on some new mega-project, could launch children's issues to the top of the government's agenda.

The government's commitment to studying the options — everything from providing universal daycare to providing partial funding, with other levels of government and the private sector sharing the burden — is commendable.

It's an acknowledgment that we are all responsible for caring for our children and that we should strive to provide the best possible services to them.

However, providing universal daycare is not the solution to Canadians' dissatisfaction with child care.

#### TAX CUT BENEFITS WOULD BE ENORMOUS

Instead of examining how budget dollars and this year's surplus will be divided up to buy public support, the Liberals should be allocating the cash into tax reductions for citizens.

Whether it's a direct reduction, such as a lower income tax rate, or indirect, such as being able to claim a portion of a mortgage as a tax deduction, the benefit to Canadians would be enormous.

Rather than launching some super-program that would require billions of dollars in funding — the estimate for one universal daycare option in the study was \$8.7 billion over five years — the government should determine how best to ease each citizen's tax burden.

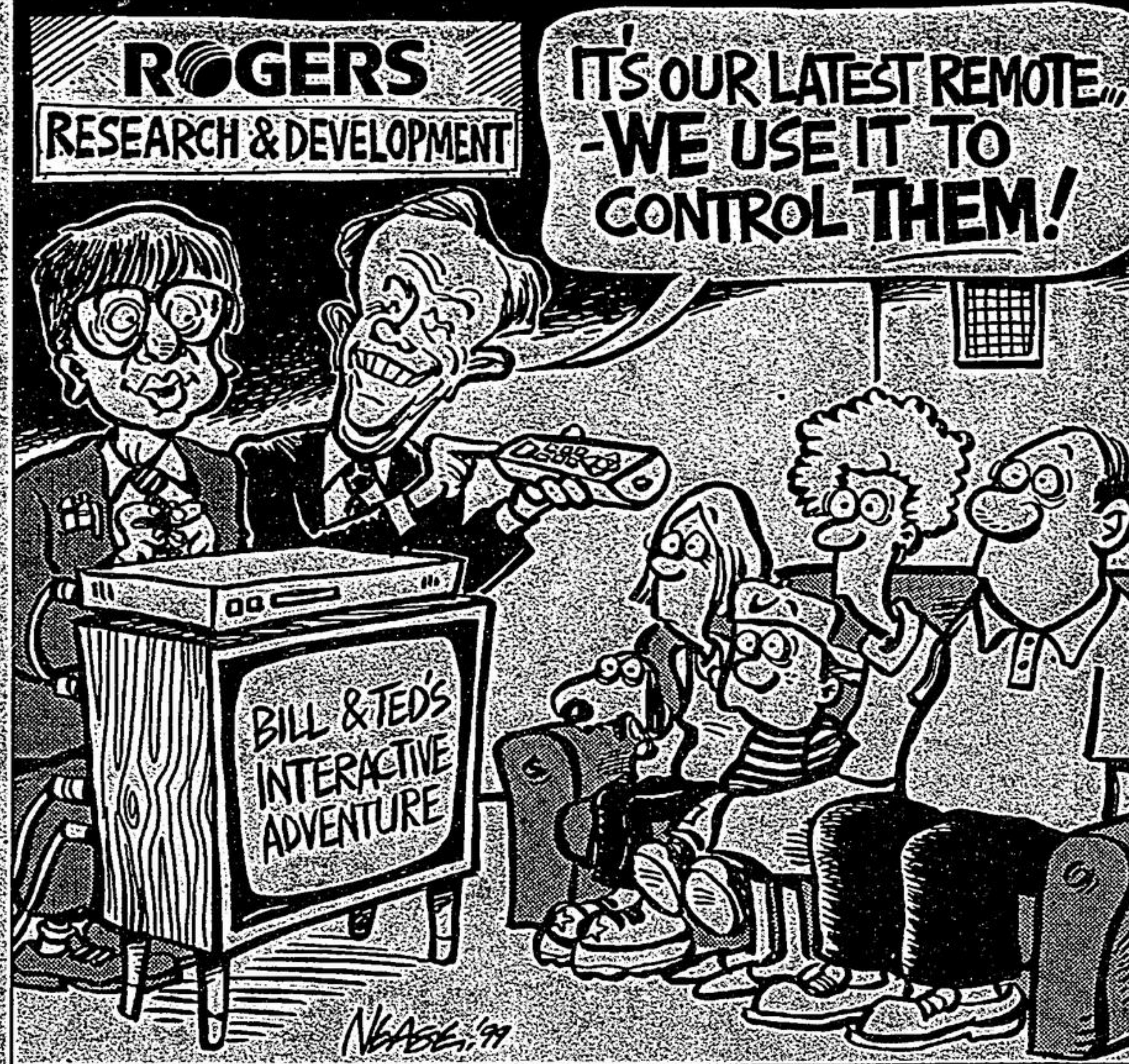
Perhaps tax relief will allow parents who would prefer to stay home and care for their own children to do so, rather than having to earn two incomes just to make ends meet, then spending a large chunk of that second paycheck on child care.

Perhaps it would allow some parents to make better child-care decisions, because they could afford to do so.

While it is noble of our government to want to ensure quality care and a great start in life for our children, establishing a system of universal daycare may not provide anything other than an increased tax burden to parents.

# OPINION

Microsoft invests \$600 million in Rogers Cable...



Doug Devine

### Time to change laws on speeding

**W**hen more than two-thirds of society is routinely breaking the law, it's time to change the law.

That's exactly what the OPP found this year when they began cracking down on speeders on Hwys. 400 and 401.

Not only did they find that 65 per cent of the cars were travelling more than 120 km/h, they were amazed to find almost a quarter of them racing along at more than 130 km/h.

Noting that the 400 highways are designed for faster speeds — and that we were allowed to drive at 70 mph (112 km/h) until the gas shortage of the late 1970s — OPP officials have suggested the limit be raised to 120 km/h on some highways.

However, critics are quick to predict carnage on the roads, insisting that if most drivers are driving 20 km/h over the limit now, raising the limit will increase the average speed to about 140 km/h.

But, as the OPP stats show, thousands of drivers are already clipping along at speeds of 130 to 140 — creating a dangerous mix with drivers trying to obey the artificially low speed limit.

It's that wide variance of speed which poses the greatest threat on our highways, as York Regional Police Const. Dave Mitchell said to reporters this week.

The other big problem is drivers not adjusting their speeds to match traffic and weather conditions.

OPP Supt. Bill Currie has an answer to that concern — variable, electronic speed limit signs.

In addition to raising or lowering the limit based on traffic and weather, the electronic signs could be used to warn drivers of traffic jams, accidents or dangerous conditions such as whiteouts and icy roads.

If the OPP can convince our reluctant politicians to implement these ideas, driving on Ontario highways could become a lot more enjoyable for all residents.

How refreshing to have police officials lobbying to change bad or outdated traffic laws instead of taking advantage of those laws to pad their enforcement stats.

Maybe York Regional Police could now explain to our municipal councils how artificial speed limits and a sea of four-way stop signs do nothing but frustrate local drivers and create a dangerous and false sense of security for pedestrians.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### What do older reporters know about teen festival?

The spirit of Woodstock was alive this year.

It was in the form of everyone in the mosh pit sharing their water with those who needed it, people giving money and sharing food with others, and what surprised me the most was the lack of prejudice.

People from around the world came together at Woodstock and in many cases that could be a plan for disaster, but I didn't hear a bad word thrown aimlessly at anyone because they were different.

People stuck together and realized they weren't all that different from one another.

Yes, there were riots, but they were not about injuring people. It was not about crowds taking out their misguided frustrations on everything they could see.

There were no people destroying camp sites or stealing from each other.

Their frustration was aimed at those who were selling bottles of water at \$4 U.S. (\$6 Canadian) or a chicken nugget on a dinner roll for \$6 U.S.

Woodstock vendors were ripping off every person in the park for the full three days.

Yes, there were fires. Fires of hope and fires that served as a rallying point for everyone to focus on. They were controlled, contained and hurt no one, no different than the bra-burning fires of the past.

I saw no physical fights. Everything was focused on standing up for what's right — the spirit of Woodstock.

People should not believe everything they read, especially when it's written by older reporters at a teenage festival.

That would be the same as the teenagers of today reporting on the Woodstock of '69.

It's a different generation, a different society.

The spirit was the same at heart, but that can only be seen when you look past the obvious and the few sensational incidents that were reported.

MICHAEL BARTROP, 16

#### Research proves pesticides are dangerous poison

Re: *Lawn pesticides meet strict safety standards*, Letters, July 27

You've got to be joking. The Weed Man tells us the application of pesticides produces environmental benefits such as noise reduction, air purification and temperature moderation.

How stupid do you think people are?

If pesticides were so healthy, scientists would not be spending time looking for more effective and less damaging ways to eliminate undesirable plants.

Weeds are plants indigenous to the geographical area in which they grow. Most of the grasses you spray with toxic chemicals are not.

This is the reason why weeds have a tendency to take over our yards if we choose not to pull them out. Lawn care is a euphemism for environmental destruction.

There are all kinds of documented research that proves this.

M. HERMAN  
STOUFFVILLE

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