

## Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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## LETTERS

### Evergreen Hospice says thanks for article on day program

On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers of Evergreen Hospice, I wanted to personally thank the *Markham Economist & Sun* for the fine article written by Mike Adler, *Club for the Living*, Nov. 23, about our day program.

We enjoyed having Mike with us on several occasions researching the story and appreciate the way in which he presented us to the community.

It is good to know the *Markham Economist & Sun* continues to be committed to presenting stories that are positive and demonstrate the concern and compassion of a community.

Again, allow me to let the community and Mike Adler know how deeply we appreciate your continued interest in our efforts to provide support when caring counts.

**CYNTHIA H. PAYNE**  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
EVERGREEN HOSPICE

### Remembrance Day ceremony failed to observe 11th hour silence

On the last Remembrance Day of this century, I attended the ceremony at Markham civic centre along with many others.

At the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month, the scheduled program continued until approximately 11:15 a.m. when two minutes of silence was finally observed.

Somehow, it didn't have the same meaning. I'm sure a two-minute interruption at 11 a.m. would not have taken anything away from the excellently planned program.

I hope to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony in 2000 at the civic centre and trust this error will not be repeated.

**MARGARET CAMPBELL**  
MARKHAM

### Parents need to make kids aware of consequences of crime

As much as I sympathize with Shaheen Kamadia's loss, I'm looking at this issue from a

# OPINION

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different perspective.

Parents should set reasonable expectations, boundaries and limits, and gently guide our children toward acceptable behaviour when they are still at a tender age, as we have in our absolute power, the molding of their characters.

It is also our duty to educate our children to become law-abiding citizens and to impress upon them the consequences of committing a crime.

**LINDA ELLIOTT**  
MARKHAM

### Province's education cuts show lack of respect for teachers

Two weeks ago, Premier Mike Harris announced more budget cuts, but none to education.

Then last week, he changed his mind and announced \$800 million more cuts on the way to education, just so that his books balance.

A number of promises made last year will be clawed back as well.

The government-appointed Education Improvement Commission has already stated that the current funding formula could not support the collective agreements that already exist, never mind future ones that may be made.

It may interest Ontarians to know most teachers in this province have not had a pay increase in nine years, and some even earn less than they did nine years ago.

When you add to that the much larger work

load given to teachers by Bill 160, the already chronic lack of resources, and now more cuts along with continued frozen wages, it shows how much our government values its educators and our education system.

I guess former education minister John Snobelen's famous "create a crisis in education" speech was right on.

**R. GREENWOOD**  
STOUFFVILLE

### York Region municipalities to blame for moraine's destruction

Regarding the stories on the destruction of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Where does the blame lie?

I suggest with every municipality involved in the subject lands. As a resident of Richmond Hill for more than 30 years, I have seen the destruction of farmland by developers who want to create ghettos on the moraine, such as will happen to Bond Lake, Drynoch, Oak Ridge and Mitchell Farms.

Make no mistake, ravines and forests will be done in, as well as all possible parkland potentials. If you visit Oak Ridges you will find very few woodland trails, but you will find plenty of forests disappearing and paved streets.

When you forget to lock the barn door, there will always be someone who will want to steal your horse.

**RICHARD V. WOOD**  
RICHMOND HILL



Brenda Larson

### Schools show courage by banning Pokemon

Hats off to students and administrators at Richmond Hill's St. Charles Garnier Catholic elementary school and Sixteenth Avenue Public School.

Flying in the face of popular culture, they've demonstrated true courage — they've implemented a Pokemon ban on their property. No Pikachu, No Mewtwo, No Onix. No hundreds of other little characters with special powers or skills to memorize.

The idea is to prevent schoolyard fights over trades and distractions from work caused by the collectibles. It's a great idea.

Described as a cultural phenomenon, the Pokemon craze includes trading cards, figures, posters, a television series and, of course, a movie. I'd say it's actually more than a cultural phenomenon, it's a financial phenomenon, a multi-billion-dollar industry that shows no immediate signs of abating.

But it will.

Eventually, Pokemon will go the way of Tickle Me Elmo — they'll still be around, but moms and dads won't be fighting each other in store lines to get one (or two or three) at Christmas time.

York public school board chief psychologist Glenn DiPasquale is on the mark when he says we're not teaching our children the difference between what is truly valuable in life and what is largely irrelevant.

Parents have to spend some time with their children telling them that if something doesn't matter five years from now, it's not that important, he says.

He's so right. The kids who are up to their necks in Pokemon today will move on to another fad tomorrow, whether it's baseball and hockey cards, comic books or a new set of action figures.

My daughter's a little too young to care about Pokemon, but she recognizes the caricature of Pikachu when she sees it (ahhh, the power of mass marketing).

My nephew has a vast collection of cards and figures and can tell you everything about them and their powers and who they can beat in a fight. He hasn't run into any confrontations over trades because his mom and dad won't let him take the goods to school.

At best, he's learning patterning, memorization, logical thinking processes and how to organize items based on their similarities.

At worst, he's falling victim to the media pressure we have all experienced.

But kids shouldn't have to deal with the uneven playing field collectibles can bring to their schoolyard — whether it's haves versus have-nots, or a fight over an unfair trade, or a stolen figure or a classroom disruption.

There's plenty of time after school to play Pokemon... or any other game.

## LETTERS POLICY

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Write: Letters to the Editor, 37 Sandiford Dr., Suite 306, Stouffville, Ont. L4A 7X5  
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## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888



Canadian Circulation Audit Board Member



Ontario Press Council

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement #1403419

Subscription rates by mail: 1 year - \$69.55 (weekdays only)

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/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Midland/Penetangishene 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, Stouffville Tribune, Today's Seniors, Uxbridge Tribune and City of York Guardian.

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