

## Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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# OPINION

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Roy Green

## Would bank mergers cut back on TV figure skating shows?

I was on my sixth day of watching salchows, axles, triple-quads, lutzes (and occasional klutzes) on TV the other day when the announcer said I was watching the "Bank of Montreal Canadian Championships on CTV."

Funny, I could have sworn I watched the Canadian championships about six days earlier.

Or was that the Royal Bank Canadian Championships?

And maybe it was on CBC. Once upon a time, you'd see about two figure skating shows a year — the Canadian championships and the world championships. And every four years, we'd get the Olympic championships.

Now, between the CBC and CTV and between the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal, there's a salchow around every corner.

*Elvis and Emanuel and  
Shae-Lynn and Victor and  
Kristy and Kris are now on as  
often as Xena, Buffy and  
Hercules.*

When we aren't watching official competitions from regional meets on every iced-over pond in the Dominion, there are all those professional skating events where former world and Olympic champs compete for big bucks.

Brought to you by the Royal Bank or the Bank of Montreal.

On CTV and CBC. Often on both networks at the same time.

I'm beginning to wish the federal government had allowed the Royal and MBank to merge last year, if the result would have been about half as many figure skating shows.

And then I could set my hopes on a CBC/CTV merger. (Hey, they let Air Canada swallow up Canadian Airlines, didn't they?)

And we'd be back to one or two figure skating shows a year. And an extra one every four years at the Winter Olympics.

Hey, I'm as much a patriot as the next guy and it's great to see Elvis and Emanuel and Shae-Lynn and Victor and Kristy and Kris don their silk and lace and pirouette against the Russians and the Yanks.

But every weekend? Elvis and Emanuel and Shae-Lynn and Victor and Kristy and Kris are now on as often as Xena, Buffy and Hercules.

This is one case where I'd like to see Elvis leave the building.

*Hidden in his secret underground command centre, the world's most feared cyber-terrorist plans his next attack on e-commerce giants Yahoo!, Buy.Com, eBay, Amazon.com, when suddenly...*



## LETTERS

### Mayor's pitch to save the moraine doesn't sit well with resident

Lately there have been a lot of articles in the paper concerning the actions of our elected representatives that I find disturbing.

Markham Mayor Don Cousens seems to be concerned about the way the voters view him.

All of a sudden he's worried about the Oak Ridges Moraine and is even prepared to purchase it. I find this hard to believe from a man who fought so hard months ago against a 10-metre buffer to protect the Rouge River.

If we are going to restore honesty and integrity to this fine town we almost have to wipe the slate clean and start fresh. Let's start the new millennium with representatives who do not have to answer to developers for the entirety of their elected post.

Council should represent the people and ensure they have a healthy environment.

**BERNADETTE MANNING**  
MARKHAM

### York Region residents owe debt to those trying to save the moraine

Re: *Buy moraine with reserves*, Feb. 5

There will always be valid concerns regarding affordable housing, health care, etc., but these are issues which will unfortunately always be with us and which will require on-going support and maintenance.

The moraine, however, is a part of our world which is not replenishable. When it is gone, it is gone forever.

Our appreciation to Markham Mayor Don Cousens and others on regional council, and indeed our great debt to the environmental groups which have worked to assist the public in understanding the scope of this concern.

We hold the ultimate responsibility to maintain our environment for the future, for our children and our fellow creatures for generations to come. It is timely that the mayor has made this proposal, and in conjunction with foundations and individual efforts, this is an opportunity to take positive action to ensure the moraine is secure.

**JIM AND PATTY LOVELAND**  
UNIONVILLE

### Emergency medical visit proves health-care system not a disaster

At 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 3, I telephoned 911 for assistance for my wife. The dispatcher, a most efficient woman, after a few seconds of conversation with others, stated, "An ambulance has been dispatched."

It was barely five minutes before the ambulance was in my driveway, followed closely by members of the fire department. The two courteous ambulance attendants confirmed, after examination, that my wife should be taken to hospital immediately.

I asked if the hospital could be Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton, as all my wife's medical history was there. They explained they were being diverted to Newmarket.

However, before leaving the driveway, the driver returned and said, "We're going to Brampton."

Upon arrival in Brampton, my wife received immediate attention, despite the fact the emergency department was extremely busy.

She was later transferred to intensive care and then the cardiology ward where, sadly, she died Jan. 15.

We do not know any politicians personally but my wife still received the utmost care and attention from dedicated, caring professionals. I am most grateful. Our health care is not a disaster.

**FRANK BENTLEY**  
WOODBIDGE

### Cousens gets pat on the back for stand against gay billboards

A letter to Markham Mayor Don Cousens. Kudos for the courage to swim upstream against the raging river of political correctness and liberal fundamentalism that currently dominates the cultural landscape. As a public official, I understand you must exercise diplomacy, circumspection and dignity, but deep down, I know that you see through the disingenuous rationale and the ulterior motives behind PFLAG's signboard campaign.

These redundant lobby groups are self-appointed, self-interested partisans who are completely irrelevant to and unrepresentative of the civilized majority of gays and lesbians.

In fact, we are embarrassed, degraded and endangered by their incessant whining for preferential treatment and their fascist tactics against those who dare to criticize.

Naively, they believe that homophobia will be eradicated by massive and forced education of the benighted, but, in reality, their relentless indoctrination efforts will eventually lead to a societal backlash and guarantee oppression of all homosexuals.

Young people must be taught love and respect for all human beings. Not tolerance for all behaviours. Unconditional love is not equivalent to unconditional approval. And good judgment and wise discrimination are healthy and necessary.

**JOHN MCKELLAR**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR, HOPE (HOMOSEXUALS  
OPPOSED TO PRIDE EXTREMISM) TORONTO

## LETTERS POLICY

Stouffville Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The newspaper reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

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