

# Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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## LETTERS

### Councils must protect moraine

The Oak Ridges Moraine stretches about 160 km from Cobourg to the Niagara Escarpment. It is easy for the province to say each municipality should govern within its jurisdiction, but not all municipalities feel and think alike. Developers are everywhere, lobbying local councillors, and their priorities are money, greed, ego — they call it challenge. Development does not take place everywhere at the same speed. The greatest development area stretches from west of Uxbridge to as far west as Caledon.

Uxbridge is the first community that fought development on the moraine. Richmond Hill is second. Now that leaves Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville. If Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville follow the steps taken by Uxbridge and Richmond Hill, we will have an open green space, which would be a definite corridor. We would keep Toronto from gobbling more land by sprawling itself northward like volcanic lava. We could create walking trails for hikers and campers.

If the people of each municipality are to decide the future of the Oak Ridges Moraine, then it is up to the local council to follow the wishes of the people.

STEVE PLIAKES, COUNCILLOR  
TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

### Were young lovers engaged?

I hate to sound picky when it comes to anything so romantic as Valentine's Day, but I'm afraid the wording on the caption under the photo of two lovebirds in front of the helicopter belies its proposal-inducing claim.

Rather than stating that Jennifer and Jeremy were engaged while on a romantic helicopter flight, it should have read that they became engaged while on it. The implication that they had already pledged their troth before boarding sort of takes the romance out of the junket.

Hey, don't get all huffy at this no longer young damsel griping about improper word usage, especially around Valentine's Day. I'm as young at heart as any of the stary-eyed passengers on those helicopter flights and I loved reading about them.

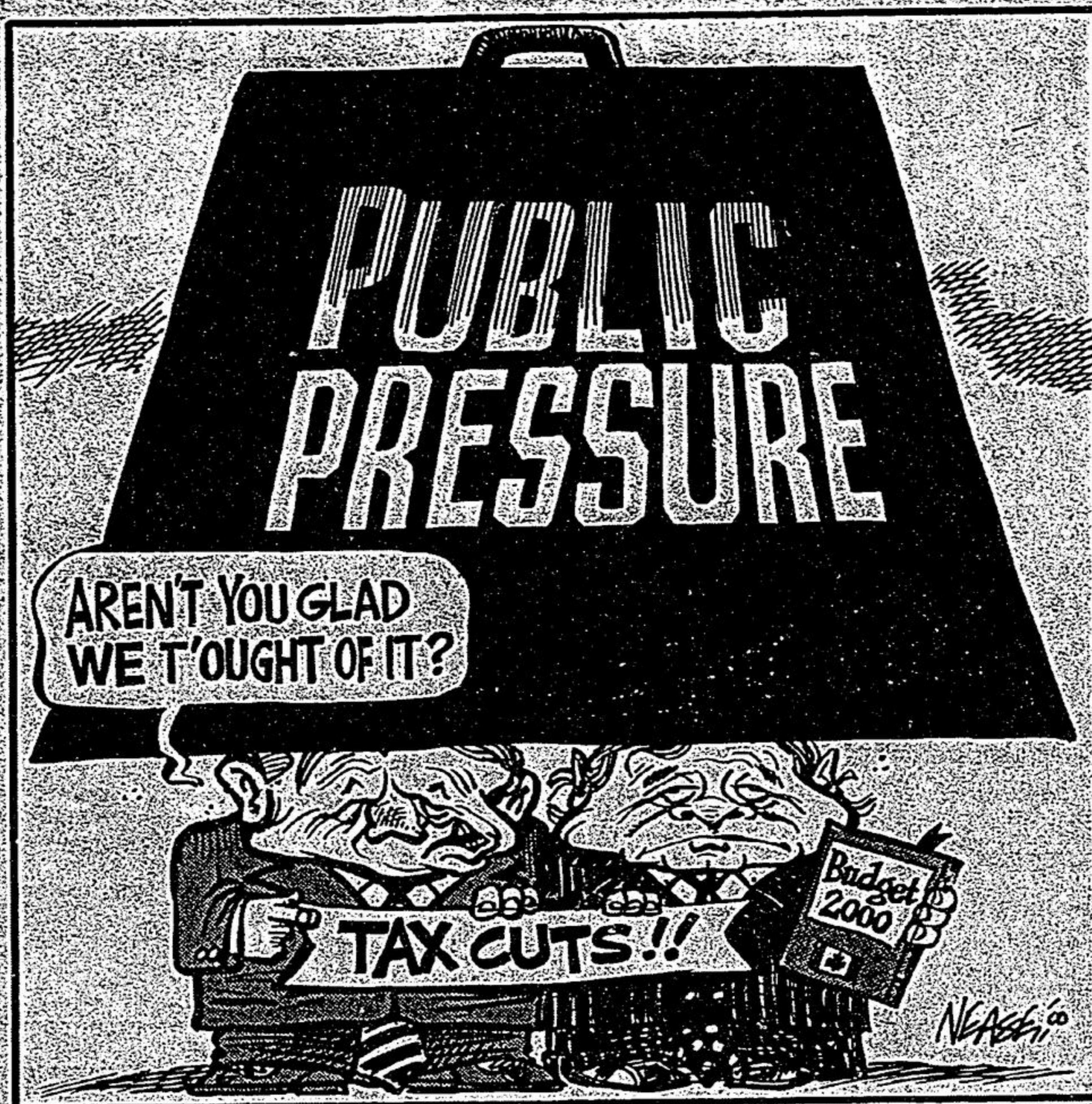
MARGARET STAPLEY  
STOUFFVILLE

### 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.

Write: Letters to the Editor,  
9 Heritage Rd.,  
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# OPINION



### Coping with cancer changes a person's spirit every day

Once again we are approaching the time of the year when we focus all our attention and energies on the fight against cancer. It's a word we are all too familiar with. We have either dealt with it ourselves or we have heard about someone else dealing with it. We have heard about the lack of treatment, we have heard about the side effects of the treatment or we have watched a loved one being snatched away from us.

Very little is mentioned about the one who cares for the loved one. The agony and the pain that is just as real as the pain from the cancer.

We need to give our young people hope, not silence. They should be made aware that cancer is not necessarily a death sentence. They can learn valuable lessons, how to protect the future generation and themselves in the fight against cancer.

I have learned more in my 15 years of living with cancer than in all the years before. I have learned to live each day to the fullest, to enjoy the sunshine, to stop and gaze at the awesome change of colours in the fall, to hear the first song the robin sings in the spring.

I have learned to watch a flower unfold and tender sprouts of grass as they push their green shoots through the earth. Each day is yet another learning process. I have learned to listen. I mean really listen, when someone just needs a listening ear.

Most of all, I have learned to have compassion, to weep with those who weep and to smile when there is a ray of hope. Without

hope there is failure. We all need hope.

Our young people need assurance and hope that cancer can be beaten. They need to know that in the loving of themselves they will care for their own well-being. They will have self-esteem, they will learn to say no when a good choice needs to be made. Yes, there will be more cancer, but fear is not the answer. Learn from the experiences of others, never give up. Without hope there is nothing. Believe in yourself and you will have hope.

DORIS ROBERTSON  
STOUFFVILLE

### Perfume sensitivity is difficult

Your article, *Sweet scents, offensive odours* in the Thursday, Feb. 18 edition of the Stouffville Tribune was well done.

It bothers me that a medical doctor would suggest that sensitivity to perfumes is psychological, as this makes matters worse for many of us.

I do not have asthma or emphysema and normally I am healthy but I am sensitive to fragrances.

Many years ago I worked briefly in a particular office, but I had to quit because of perfume. A woman who worked near me always reeked of perfume. She and another woman on the other side of the floor were the subjects of jokes because of their perfume, but it was no joke to me.

My sympathy goes out to anyone with more severe reactions.

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Debora Kelly

### Fantino wasn't seeking headlines with crime warning

Apparently, there was a bit of eye rolling among police reporters at a news conference called by outgoing York Regional Police Chief Julian Fantino last week.

Calling carjackings the "crime of the times", the chief urged drivers to take precautionary measures to prevent such brazen robberies.

"This is the next wave of crime," Fantino told a throng of newshounds Tuesday. "This is not fear-mongering, this is reality."

But some reporters questioned his motive for calling what they obviously thought was a non-news conference. Eyebrows were raised when the news release announcing the event arrived at media outlets across the region and city.

It seems Fantino — who certainly has had his share of the spotlight during the protracted dealings before being anointed as Toronto's chief and then as a speaker at a Tory policy conference — is suspected of being a gloryhound.

The Globe & Mail sent a columnist out to this northern hinterland to take a swipe at Fantino, while The Toronto Star followed suit in a weekend editorial, warning he'll "wear out his welcome" in the Big Smoke if he uses the chief's office "as a soapbox" to plague them with "a steady diet of crime alerts and warnings."

I love it — the Toronto media have been recording Fantino's every breath since it was rumoured he was taking his billy stick and going home and now he's the star-chaser?

There have been 23 carjackings and 10 attempts in York Region over the past two years, most in the southern communities. In Toronto, there have been more than 100 carjackings in 1999.

Fantino said "in-your-face" crimes such as carjackings and home invasions are on the rise. "In some cases, (car thieves) will use whatever means necessary. They can be brutal."

Unbeknown to Fantino, on the very day he was requesting the media pass along the force's precautionary message, six-year-old Jake Robel died in Independence, Missouri after being dragged alongside his mother's car, entangled in the seat-belt, with a carjacker at the wheel ignoring his screams and those of this mother and the honking of other motorists.

Rather than wait for such a horrific tragedy to occur here — reporters would approve of a news conference for such an event — our force took a proactive measure regarding a crime it sees as a growing danger to the public.

Insiders say Fantino was requested to act as messenger when an actual carjacking victim couldn't be convinced to help draw the media. The force then turned to its own in-house media magnet.

Soapbox? Hogwash.

## Stouffville Tribune

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