

## Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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# OPINION



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Frank Daggett

## Washing down your national pride with a cold one

unny how a beer commercial can strike a nationalist nerve.

But Molson's plug for Canadian, known as "The Rant", has many of us, myself included, turning up the TV to take in Joe's 60-second oratory.

If you have seen the commercial frequently, you can undoubtedly recite pieces of, if not the entire, dialogue word for word: "I'm not a lumberjack or a fur trader. I don't live in an igloo or eat blubber or own a dog sled. I can proudly sew my country's flag on my backpack... The beaver is a truly proud and noble animal... Canada's the second largest land mass, the first nation of hockey and the best part of North America."

For many of us, the commercial says what we would like to say to dispel some stereotypes held by some of our neighbours south of the border.

Just ask Canadian Glen Hunt, the 35-year-old creative director who wrote the commercial. After living for three years in New York, it wasn't hard for him to come up with The Rant.

## You can savour both foamy suds and national pride.

According to Hunt, many of his U.S. friends still think he gets paid in beaver pelts.

So why not rail against the misperceptions, despite the protests of some Americans and the odd (and I mean odd) Canadian?

(It should also be noted that Kevin Donovan, an American, directed the commercial.)

OK, I haven't lost sight of the fact it is a beer commercial designed to do nothing more than sell more beer. But hey, you have to give brewers some credit for taking commercials to new heights.

It wasn't too long ago that many, if not all, beer commercials simply carried very sexually suggestive messages. Consider The Rant and you have to agree beer commercials have come a long way.

I'm not saying beer commercials should become a forum for nationalism, but what's the harm when you can savour both foamy suds and national pride? If it gives you a thirst for both, then raise a glass and spread the cheer.

The commercial has reached a wider audience than Canada's 30 million. Just this week, the commercial was ranked in the Top 10 in North America.

Call it pro-Canadian, call it anti-American, The Rant shows we are different from our U.S. neighbours and those unique qualities — diversity, peacekeeping and our sense of irony and humour will always allow for a deeper sense of pride.

## LETTERS

### Teens justified in believing they can get away with murder

I cannot believe that two teenagers who dropped rocks off an overpass on Hwy. 401 in Ajax onto cars passing below have been charged with mischief and being a common nuisance.

Durham Regional Police Sgt. Jim Grimley is quoted as saying, "I have no idea what they were thinking or why they would do such a thing."

I hazard a guess they were thinking they can do something that could kill people but because they are young offenders a slap on the wrist is all they'll get — let's go for it.

Don't tell me that a 14-year-old does not realize the seriousness of playing dangerous games like this.

But, as long as the bleeding hearts (they are just children) have their way, the games are worth the risk and they will continue to be played.

As a motorist who drives under these same overpasses every day, I am incensed that having caught one of these dangerous juvenile delinquents red-handed that the charges will not reflect the seriousness of the crime.

What kind of nonsense is calling an act that can maim or kill innocent people mischief or being a nuisance?

EVELYN TOBIAS  
MARKHAM

### Bureaucrat's aim is to remove taxpayers' cash, not return it

It was scheduled to fail before it got started. I refer to the recent meeting between federal Health Minister Allan Rock and the provincial health ministers.

Rock has been saying more money is not the answer, so he arrived in Markham without money or a plan to fix our ailing health care system.

Obviously, his new deputy health minister, David Dodge, the highly paid bureaucrat who dreamed up the much-hated GST for Brian Mulroney, was of no help to Rock.

It would appear Dodge can only implement

methods to remove taxpayers' money, not return it.

The all-too-clear picture is that Rock will not see any more for health care, that is until Finance Minister Paul Martin retires or becomes our next prime minister.

The reason is quite clear to most Canadians, which makes me wonder, does Rock not really see the total scenario that's taking place in Ottawa?

J. SHAW  
MARKHAM

### March of Dimes volunteers helped make a difference

It is with sincere and heartfelt gratitude I thank the members of our community who opened their doors to Ontario March of Dimes canvassers during January's successful door-to-door campaign.

The results are in and congratulations are in order. We were able to raise more than \$17,000 in Markham alone.

This money funds important services and programs which assist people with disabilities to be more self-sufficient: providing assistive devices, recreation opportunities, attendant services and housekeeping support, employment training and placement support.

The result? Providing someone living with a disability more independence.

In recognition of Volunteer Week last week, I would especially like to thank the canvassers and captains who gave their time and helped

Ontario March of Dimes achieve these results. It is these donors and volunteers who, through their commitment and energy, help Ontario March of Dimes promote independence for more than 15,000 adults with physical disabilities in more than 100 communities in the province.

Thanks for your generosity. Together, we can make a difference.

See you next year as Ontario March of Dimes celebrates 50 years of Building on Ability.

JENNIFER DOYLE, AREA CO-ORDINATOR  
ONTARIO MARCH OF DIMES  
DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN, MARKHAM

### Discouraging MP from speaking won't end Liberal reign

Re: *Local Tories try to muzzle MP Jones*, April 11.

It is unfortunate that some members of the federal PC executive want to keep our Member of Parliament from expressing his views.

Surely, as our elected official, Jones has an obligation to listen to all of his constituents and work in their best interests.

Those who want to see the end of the Liberal reign in Ottawa need to work together to ensure they are not re-elected.

Our MP shouldn't be discouraged from suggesting ways of accomplishing just that.

M. A. BUBAR  
UNIONVILLE

## LETTERS POLICY

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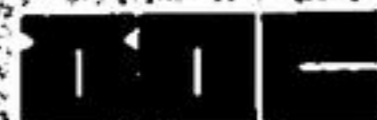
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