

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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OPINION

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Roy Green

It's hardly worth the effort to steal \$9 a day Canadian

idden away in a newspaper story this week was the stunning information that we're all a bunch of thieves.

At the rate of \$9 a day, a story about possible fraud at the infamous Human Resources Development Canada reveals that governments and business lose \$9 per day in fraud for every worker employed, according to the U.S. Association of Fraud Examiners.

But having caught my attention, the story wandered away without providing any additional information, leaving me with loads of questions.

For instance, because this is an American study, do we apply the standard 10-per-cent ratio so often used when arriving at comparable Canadian numbers?

If so, it means you and I are only stealing, on average, 90 cents a day.

And if we're talking Canadian dollars, it's more like nine cents.

Seems to me, you'd be better off going on welfare where, as everyone knows, you do nothing all day and still have enough for a case of beer and a pack of smokes.

Or you could apply for a grant from HRDC, where you get to steal a lot more than \$9 per day.

What about holidays and sick days, or those rare days when you're just not up to it? Those days — everyone has them from time to time — when you're tired of the whole thing and you just can't bring yourself to steal, lie, cheat or otherwise defraud your employer of another penny?

And I don't know how we're supposed to know who is and who isn't stealing on any given day so one can increase or decrease his or her intake to make up for those who are too tired, too honest or just too stupid, from a fraud perspective, to hit the daily target — even if it is just 90 cents.

And what am I supposed to feel on the days when, despite my best efforts, I find myself leaving the office with nothing even close to 90 cents in my pocket?

I could, I guess, accuse my co-workers ("Which one of you double-dippers took \$1.80 yesterday?")

But that would only increase my feelings of failure on the fraud front. No one is going to admit that he can't even manage to steal a paltry 90 cents a day from the company.

And by the way, if it's true that the average American worker is stealing 10 times as much as his Canadian counterpart, it helps to explain the increasing number of people leaving Canada for the U.S.

In addition to the brain drain, we now have the fraud flood.

(Editor's note: Roy was paid for the time he spent writing this column. This will be considered his monthly quota for defrauding his employer.)

What's this?
A full page
ad in the
National
Post?..



LETTERS

Banning tobacco sales best way to protect health

Day after day, new ideas are being put to work to allow smokers to smoke without endangering the health of non-smokers.

Banning smoking in public areas and high-tech air filtering machines are helping, but the problem still exists.

One of the largest issues worldwide is health and preservation of life. Yet for some reason, millions of people hand over money to tobacco companies whose business depends on destroying life.

I don't see why we allow this to continue. Sure, everybody has the right to do as they please, but when the decision they make affects their health, as well as that of the people around them, while costing taxpayers and the health-care system, it's time for someone to step in and do something.

As long as tobacco companies are still up and running, this problem will only get bigger. Sadly, these tar-and-nicotine-stained giants have targeted teenagers as their main market because they know adolescence is the time when peer pressure and the urge for experimentation are at their peak.

So instead of hoping our children make the right decision not to smoke, we need to make that decision for them.

No longer should we be given the choice to smoke when cigarettes take so much away and give nothing in return.

We need to shut the tobacco companies down. We have to stop feeding this multi-million-dollar industry of death and start putting all of that time and money into more productive, less destructive things.

ALEX KENNEDY
MARKHAM

407 extension bashers hypocritical if use any other highway

Re: *Shame on those who allowed Hwy. 407 extension*, Letters, April 25.

We have lived in Markham since 1966 and for most of that time the 407 was advertised as the Toronto Bypass highway.

Now, these many years later, it is finally (partially) serving that purpose.

While I agree there may have been alterna-

tive routes, it cannot be left to end at Hwy. 48 as it is now. The further east it goes the more attractive it is to commercial users.

While I use it day to day, the truckers are the target market.

I take exception, however, to the statement, "My family will never ever set a tire on any stretch of Hwy. 407."

Given that the entire tone of the letter was that the extension of 407 was detrimental to the environment, am I to understand the next time you have to go to Pearson Airport you will crawl across the 401, or hug from light to light on Hwy. 7 spewing exhaust into the air, rather than use the 407 at a relatively fuel efficient speed? If so, I find you to be a little hypocritical.

LARRY ROWE
UNIONVILLE

Lifeguard deserved higher pay than skateboard park supervisor

As the parent of a teenager who is working toward her certification to become a lifeguard, I was dismayed to read a Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville ad in The Stouffville Tribune on April 6 for summer positions.

The ad listed by the community and leisure services department made me question the priorities and level of responsibility of the town.

The first portion of the ad required an aquatic guard/instructor for the summer period at the Stouffville outdoor pool.

The qualifications listed were the standard requirements: Red Cross and Life Saving Society instructor certification, A.E.C. and

C.P.R. and previous instruction/guarding experience.

The rate of pay was listed at \$7.50 to \$8.50 per hour.

The second portion of the ad required a skateboard park supervisor.

The qualifications listed were previous experience working with youth and supervisory experience in a customer service environment.

The rate of pay listed was \$9.25 per hour.

My eye caught the difference in hourly rates of pay for these two positions.

How does the town warrant paying a skateboard park supervisor with no first aid requirements and a customer service background more than a lifeguard/instructor who has spent many years learning his or her craft and who assumes a high level of responsibility for children.

The amount of training a person must obtain to finally be certified as a lifeguard is tremendous, time-consuming and costly.

Lifeguards must also ensure the safety of those in their care and be able to teach them water safety skills.

At a rate of \$7.50 to \$8.50 per hour, is this how we show lifeguards how valuable they are to the town? I would think a lifeguard's payscale would exceed the skateboard park supervisor's based on education and level of responsibility.

I hope the town reviews these two positions and re-evaluate where the higher pay should be going.

MELANIE COX
STOUFFVILLE

LETTERS POLICY

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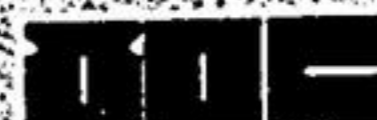
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