

Forget the catchy ads, feds should use law to butt out smoking

And, the best ad award goes to a trio. The Lung Association, Heart and Stroke Foundation and Canadian Cancer Society should take a bow.



Joan Ransberry

Their ad, designed to draw attention to the health risk of smoking, is impressive. Its message, displayed on a quarter page of a broadsheet, is eye-catching.

This is how the ad reads: A smoker and a non-smoker get together to discuss where one's rights ends and the other begins. Should the room where they meet be non-smoking?

Here's my response to this excellent question: Unless the room is in the House of Commons, the discussion shouldn't take place.

Despite the ongoing debate about smoking, including second-hand smoke, tobacco remains a legal substance.

If anything else on the market carried as much lethal power as tobacco, the federal government would step in and ban it pronto.

Instead of dumping the responsibility on provincial, regional or municipal governments, smoking should be attacked at the federal level. Let's get serious about this smoke-free environment movement: tobacco should be an illegal substance.

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As we all know, tobacco is subject to sin tax. Over the past 80 years, there has been plenty of sin — the federal government has made billions of dollars from tobacco sales.

The big but is: health costs linked to tobacco would likely triple the amount collected in taxes. Federal governments make a habit of not seeing beyond the election term. When people get sick

from the ill effects of smoking, the federal government picks up the tab.

Besides, there are bigger fish to fry and there are elections to win.

Owners of some hospitality businesses are telling the York Region smoking committee that an across-the-board smoking ban will force them into bankruptcy.

In Stouffville, 12 business owners want local council to fight a smoking ban. The businesspeople have offered to help to find a compromise.

Smoking is a stupid thing to do. It kills people. Besides, it stinks.

If I had all the money I spent on cigarettes in my lifetime, I could have bought a small country. Up until a decade ago, I was a power smoker. I loved my cigarettes.

And then it happened; I lost a friend to lung cancer. I watched her die. She was the only person I knew who out-smoked me. She, too, loved her cigarettes.

And then I met a non-smoker. I knew the relationship was doomed if I continued to puff away. The loss of a friend and a potential loss of a special one did it: I quit a 30-year habit.

As the years go by, my tolerance for smoking lessens. I hate tobacco. I hate the smell, the look of a cigarette in someone's mouth and the horrible toll it takes on people's health. Most of all, I hate the fact that smoking kills people I love.

I'd welcome a countrywide tobacco ban. But I have trouble with this current piecemeal, rinky-dinky approach to a most serious problem. Let's call in the feds.

Come to Church on Sunday

BLOOMINGTON GOSPEL CHURCH
13660 Ninth Line
(South of 47 Highway formerly Bloomington Rd.)
Pastor - Dr. John Howarth
Sunday, May 7th, 2000
11:00 a.m. - Worship
"Forgiveness From The Forgiven"
Mathew 6:12
6:30 p.m. - Last Evening Service until Sept.
Everyone Welcome

STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
6853 Main St., Stouffville - 640-5696
SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2000
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. - Renewal Service, Lyle Anderson

VIVIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
473-3543
On Hwy. 48 at Vivian Rd.
Pastor Robert Okum
Holding forth the doctrines of grace
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service
Everyone is Welcome

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
34 Church St. N. 640-1163
Worship Minister: Rev. Robert Nightingale
Education Minister: Nancy Monteith
Sunday, May 7th, 2000
10:30 am Worship Service - Nancy Monteith
Baby Fold, Children's Worship & Youth Pack
Everyone Welcome

Parkview Village
12184 Ninth Line South
Stouffville
Sunday, May 7, 2000
Mrs. Cathy Phillips
Lemonville United Church
7:00 p.m. Auditorium

Wideman Mennonite Church
Welcome to Worship Hour - 11:00 a.m.
Christian education for all ages - 9:45 a.m.
Pastor - Ken Wellington
1 km. North of Major Mackenzie on Hwy. 48
Church Office: 640-6219 For a ride call: 640-4185

THE ANGLICAN PARISH of CHRIST CHURCH
254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville
640-1461
The Rev. Robert A. Shields
The Rev. Phil Cooper
Celebrating 121 year of ministry 1879-2000

STOUFFVILLE MISSIONARY CHURCH
6500 Main St. Stouffville
Phone 640-3911 • Email: smc.ca@home.com
SUNDAY SERVICES
Discovery Service: 9:30 am
Christian Education for all ages
Celebration Service: 11:00 am
Watch our sign for special events and opportunities
"Bringing the Hope of Jesus Christ in a Changing World"

Springvale Baptist Church
Stouffville Rd. at Kennedy Rd.
887-5651
Senior Pastor: Bob Flemming
Associate Pastor: Bill Thornton
Student Ministries: Brian G. Simcoe
Worship & Music Co-ordinator: Heather Thornton
Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
Sunday, May 7th, 2000
Third Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. - Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist with Church School and Nursery provided.
Everyone Welcome!

STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Fellowship Church
6273 Main Street
Pastor: Gordon M. MacCormack 905-640-2911
Sunday, May 7th, 2000
Everybody Welcome -
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
Message: "Growing Pains For The Early Church"
Communion
Join us for Prayer: Wed: 7:30 p.m.
Advanced Announcement
May 14th, 2000
Mother's Day & Our 127th Anniversary with Don & Shirley Hamilton from North Star Ministries - Manitoulin Island
"Something Special for every lady"
God Bless - We Care -

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Children's Ministries Co-ordinator: Sharon Russell
May 7th, 2000
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class
Celebration Series
9:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Paster - Bob Flemming
6:00 p.m. Home Fellowship Groups
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Kids Program
For more info call Church Office

Welcome to
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Friday, May 5th, 2000
Sacred Music Night - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 7th, 2000
Church School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 13th, 2000
Through the Garden Gate
Plant and Craft Sale
9:00 a.m. - Noon
A friendly welcome awaits you.
6432 Main St. 640-3151
stjames.stouffville@sympatico.ca

THE CLOCK TOWER THEATRE ASSOCIATION
Presents
KORY LIVINGSTONE AND HIS JAZZ TRIO
A TRIBUTE TO THE NAT "KING" COLE TRIO
May 7th 2000, 7:30 p.m.
CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN,
SUNSET BLVD., STOUFFVILLE
KORY

Honest & Friendly Service, & Competitive Pricing has been Our Success
(905) 780-9999 11262 YONGE ST. (8 LIGHTS NORTH OF MAJOR MACKENZIE IN RICHMOND HILL)

