

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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OPINION

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LETTERS

Pitch-In Week helps clean up mess

I was pleasantly surprised to read that May 1 to 7 is Pitch-In Week in the province of Ontario.

I was pleased because I wasn't aware that people cared any more.

But where is the Town of Markham where this is concerned? How are we supposed to know where to go or what to do to participate?

I find it frustrating that this kind of thing that we need so badly, is getting so little publicity.

They could have provided a flyer telling us when it will happen, a litter bag and information on how, when, where and what to do with the bags when they are full.

All we have to do is look at our own streets, which are continuously covered with litter.

A prime example of permanent litter is at Denison Street and Kennedy Road. I assure you, 100 bags would not suffice there. Even waiting at any 407 exit ramp light is painful, having to see the scatter of litter thrown from cars.

Markham reminds me of a place somewhere between Saudi Arabia and Singapore, Saudi, a religious dictatorship where waste management is practically non-existent and Singapore, a police state where everything is perfect. We want neither, do we? We have a perfect waste management system but the problem is the residents.

Why don't they get educated in personal waste management? They could start by tying their waste newspapers in bundles so they don't blow all over the streets every waste collection day.

Worst of all, our taxes might go up again because the blue box waste system will probably be replaced with blue bags, which combine waste, which will be automatically sorted in a special new machine.

Although I have never seen them enforced, I am told that there are by-laws carrying penalties for discarding waste improperly. I wonder if one was ever enforced?

I am sure if a couple of by-law officers were to stand in the Hwy. 7 parking lot of Markville Shopping Centre every evening their salary would be repaid ten times over by the fines they could issue because of badly disposed of food wrappings thrown from vehicle windows.

Video cameras already exist at some stop signs and intersections. If traffic offenders can be fined that way, why not litter bugs?

IAN JOHNSTON
MARKHAM



Story brings water crisis to light

Re: *Our thirst for water*, April 29.

Finally, the critical water shortage situation in parts of York Region is being brought to the attention of the community with this well-written article by Mike Adler.

My friends and piano students who live in Vandorf have reported to me that many of the residents, in spite of the knowledge that some of their neighbours were out of water, continued to water their lawns and wash their driveways.

My research, compiled from discussions with long time rural residents in the area, indicated that more than 25 wells were dry or nearly dry.

My own well, which has served us for more than 50 years, went dry and I had to buy water all summer to fill an ugly plastic container which sat on my front lawn. We have had to drill a new well, at great cost.

My new water supply, as is common on this part of the Oak Ridge Moraine, has high iron levels, which stain bathroom fixtures and ruin laundry.

Purchasing water, drilling a new well and purchasing a new water system has cost my family in excess of \$12,000. Aside from the financial cost, I feel guilty every time I run water, for previously I was able to use ground water, which was refilled constantly by rainwater and snowmelt. Now, I am tapping into the precious aquifer. I am now one of the people who will help to drain it.

I urge all residents of the Aurora/Vandorf area to give a lot of thought to the repercussions involved every time they turn on a water faucet. They may be running their future down the drain.

ELAINE STEWART
VANDORF

407 a disaster from start to finish

Re: *407 extension bashes hypocritical if they use any other highway*, Letters, April 29.

The response from Larry Rowe to my letter criticizing the 407 extension completely misses the point.

Of course, he cannot be blamed for his lack of understanding. He has lived in Markham for so long with non-existent or inadequate public transit that it is impossible for him to conceive of life without a car.

A world-class public transit system is essential for the Greater Toronto Area. This would reduce the "spewing exhaust" he refers to and eliminate the need to pave over nature.

Premier Mike Harris should have taken the billions of dollars received from the 407 sale and invested it into public transit.

I am not in the income or employment bracket that necessitates constant trips to the airport. I find travel on Hwy. 401 is still an excellent choice, outside of the peak rush hour time periods. In fact, I have heard from many people that the 407 now resembles the 401 during rush hour so I fail to see the "spewing exhaust" savings.

Rowe is correct in stating that ending Hwy. 407 at Markham Road is not acceptable. That situation should never have been allowed in the first place.

I am tired of being the pawn of big money, big politics and big corporations. I am trying to set a good example and show my children that sometimes it is necessary to get off the artificial merry-go-round and realign priorities.

I stand by my position the 407 is a disaster from start to finish. One day this point of view will predominate when the fall-out finally reaches into everyone's little insular cages.

KAREN WILSON
MARKHAM



Tracy Kibble

If you don't want your \$200, you can always give it away

I'm really getting sick of people whining about getting \$200 back from the provincial government.

All I ever hear is how overtaxed working Ontarians are and how desperately we need to recoup some of the endless tax grabs being funneled from our paycheques by the (mostly Liberal) government.

This newspaper polled residents across the region Wednesday on how they felt about getting a cash rebate.

One woman said the money wouldn't even buy her family of four a week's worth of groceries. Well, I don't know where she shops, but where I go, \$200 will nicely stock the shelves of any family's kitchen.

There are many families out there who could really use a \$200 cheque (or \$400 if both parents work) in the fall just as school is beginning.

When your cheque comes in the fall, take your measly pittance to the nearest school and donate it with a smile.

It could buy new snowsuits for a couple of kids and maybe even some new boots, hats and mittens.

It could replace worn tires on your car or pay for much-needed repairs.

Two hundred dollars could purchase a new bed for your child or some new clothes or school supplies.

Saying the money is not enough to make a difference for hard-working families is arrogant.

But if you really don't need the money, I have a solution for all the left-wingers and socialists out there who want to give it back.

Here's what you do.

When your cheque comes in the fall, take your measly pittance to the nearest school and donate it with a smile. That way you can help build on the \$203 million extra for education Finance Minister Ernie Eves allocated in Tuesday's budget.

Or, drive to the nearest hospital and hand it over to the facility's foundation. I'm sure any one of York Region's three hospitals will be more than glad to accept your generous offer. This will certainly add to the \$1.4 billion in new health-care spending by the province.

Or, you could give the money to a teachers union, to a homeless shelter, or anywhere else you think the cash would be better utilized.

This way, you'll feel better and you won't have the inconvenience of having to go to the bank and deposit such a frivolous amount of money, when others need it more.

The rest of us, however, need our money and will gladly accept it with a smile. Thank you, Mike Harris.

LETTERS POLICY

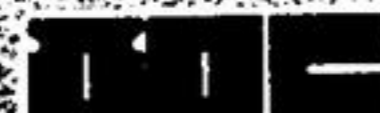
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