

# Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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## LETTERS

### Friends of drowned teen should put efforts into proper memorial

Re: Police missed chance to bond with teens over death of friend, Letters May 27

I back Terri Neville-Bossi, the mom who wrote about charges that may be laid against the teenagers for the vandalism after a friend's death. I agree that this time around, it will only make them angry and frustrated.

Also a mother of teenagers, I told my children that, in memory of Pagani, get a picture mounted on a plaque that reads Pagani's Palace in Memory of Chris Pagani, with the birth date/death notice. Ask for it to be mounted at the skateboard park and maybe also do one for the school.

C. HOLDEN  
STOUFFVILLE

### Walkerton situation shows why moraine must be protected

As the residents of Ontario watch the horror unfolding in Walkerton, with contaminated water sickening hundreds and killing at least seven people, it behooves us to look seriously at the Oak Ridges Moraine development.

Our water supply is in jeopardy here. Do you think it might be a stretch to compare the crisis in Walkerton to an environmental issue like the Oak Ridges Moraine?

Then think again. The water in the aquifers will be affected by the building as sure as God made little green apples.

Yes, our water will be affected. The quantity, the quality and its delivery. Our water — our precious, precious resource, which cannot be replaced.

BERNADETTE WALSH  
RICHMOND HILL

### Charitable contributions mean nothing if community is destroyed

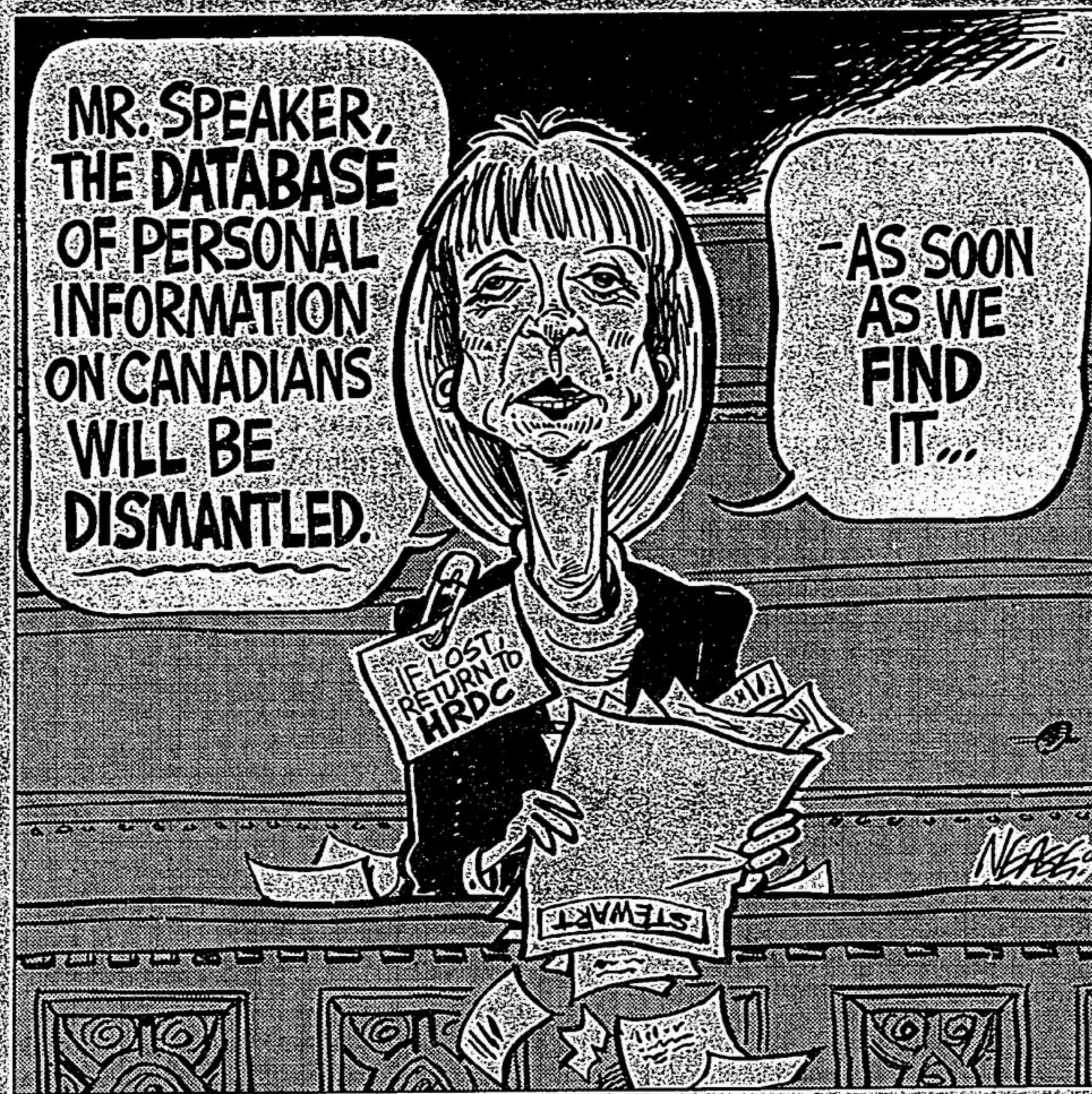
Re: Sometimes developers are good guys, a column by Brenda Larson, May 30

It can be argued that this snippet came into existence in the name of balanced reporting.

I am sure last week's article about urban growth had no intention of portraying community developers, real estate developers and all the associated activities as evils.

In reading Larson's defence, this impression can be gathered as the author has forgotten

# OPINION



that it really doesn't mean a tinker's damn how many funds are raised in the name of charity by the associations. Let's not forget the exercise is futile.

What's the use of creating anything in the full knowledge that it can not be sustained? In other words, good money is thrown after bad.

The current pace of development ensures that, in the future, all the causes for which these so-called charity drives are organized will not exist anyhow, since urban sprawl will have choked them to death.

HERBERT MISIK  
THORNHILL

### Markham dialysis clinic the right medicine for lack of funding

At Richmond Hill Councillor David Bishop's recent meeting for the neighbours of York Central Hospital, president Frank Lussing spoke of the unanticipated high attendance at the dialysis unit, which now operates from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

When a young person suggested the unit should be operated 24 hours a day, some seniors were not very impressed with the idea of attending at 3 a.m.

A week ago Thursday, staff writer Jennifer Brown wrote of the problems in obtaining funding for additional hours of operation at the Dialysis Management Clinic on Woodbine Avenue.

Some seniors who would use that facility travel to St. Michael's Hospital because, due to an OHIP funding shortage, the clinic operates for only a fraction of the hours its managers would keep it open.

In recent years, those responsible for health care have said society would get a bigger bang

from its health-care buck if we took any services that don't have to be in those high-cost hospitals out into the community.

The Woodbine Avenue clinic would seem to fill that prescription perfectly.

F.C. KITE  
RICHMOND HILL

### One term is enough for politicians

I have heard everything. Vaughan Councillor Joyce Frustaglio says, "Let us keep our jobs for four years."

She then goes on to state, "Nothing gets accomplished in a councillor's first year."

The councillors say, "The first year sees councillors getting oriented, while the last year is consumed with campaigning for the next election."

I am fed up to my armpits with our politicians. Where can you get a job where they will pay you a year's salary to get oriented and what company will allow you to go and take a year to find a job?

Our politicians of today are experts at getting raises, more perks and wealthy pension plans on retirement and raising taxes.

One term is enough. The politicians then will not become arrogant and complacent.

Two good examples are Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Finance Minister Paul Martin. They give themselves a 19-per-cent raise and a further 2 per cent each year. They have wasted billions on stupid things such as calendars, flags and grants to publishers.

Why can't they help the homeless, the poor, the seniors and the middle class? Three years is enough.

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Tracy Kibble

### Memory of sad girl shows value of school lunch programs

It was a look I'll never forget.

Sad and pitiful. A melt-your-heart-right-there-on-the-spot kind of look.

We were at the zoo — a bunch of carefree, hyper, over-excited Grade 4 kids — and it was time for lunch.

We rushed on to the bus to grab our Holly Hobbie and Flipper lunch boxes, eager to dig into the peanut butter sandwiches, crispy apples and thermos drinks (if you were lucky, your mom might have packed a Coke wrapped in newspaper or a chocolate bar).

That's when my friend noticed her.

The quiet girl. She followed us off the bus empty-handed and sat down on the grass with her head down. When the teacher asked where her lunch was, she looked up hesitantly.

*"Those kids without a lunch, it's degrading for them to admit they're hungry."*

"I don't know. I must have left it at home," she said as a tear slid down her face and she looked around to see if anyone was listening.

We all were, of course.

At that point, it didn't matter why the girl had no lunch. The important thing was that she eat something, along with everyone else in our class. A few of us shared with her and the teacher gave her the biggest, reddest apple I had ever seen.

This school-trip memory came flooding back when I heard of the efforts of the many volunteers who would like to bring lunch programs — in addition to their breakfast programs — to the three Sutton elementary schools.

These schools already serve hundreds of breakfasts a week, which wouldn't be possible if not for the many parents and teachers who help each morning.

Trying to bring lunch programs into the schools, however, is a huge task — one that will take a lot of planning and volunteering and co-operation between schools and the boards of education.

But with volunteers, such as Wendy Mackie, who, along with dozens of local businesses, is trying to make a difference, we might just see a time when there are no students hungry at our schools.

As Mackie says, "Those kids without a lunch, it's degrading for them to admit they're hungry."

And she's right.

It's not just a matter of having hunger pangs. Kids feel isolated and left out if they can't enjoy the social aspect of eating with friends at school.

The memory of my classmate years ago will forever wipe away any skepticism I have about helping to feed kids.

## LETTERS POLICY

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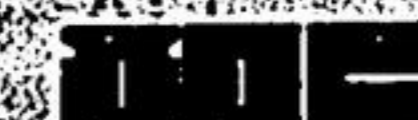
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Ontario Press Council

Stouffville Tribune, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd. group of newspapers, which includes the Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Shopping News, Burlington Post, City Parent, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Midland/Penitangishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket-Aurora, Georgia Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville Tribune, Today's Seniors, Uxbridge Tribune and City of York Guardian.

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