

## Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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## LETTERS

### Most emergency room patients aren't really emergency cases

Re: Most patients forced to wait, Letters, June 29.

P. DiPietro hit the nail on the head in his letter.

The majority of patients presenting to the emergency room do not have a serious illness. They must wait longer to see a doctor because he is the only doctor on duty and is busy dealing with more urgent cases on a priority basis.

I have worked as an ER physician for seven years and can assure you that people having heart attacks or serious injuries are seen within minutes.

Many people come in with minor complaints and chronic ailments and they are seen and treated as well. But the more patients who walk in, the longer the waiting time for each individual.

The triage nurse sees everyone almost immediately on arrival and can assess whether a patient needs to see a doctor right away or can afford to wait until other, more urgent people are treated first.

If you find yourself waiting a long time, ask yourself whether a visit to your family doctor or walk-in clinic would be more appropriate.

The ER functions very efficiently for emergencies.

MICHAEL DAMUS, M.D.  
MARKHAM

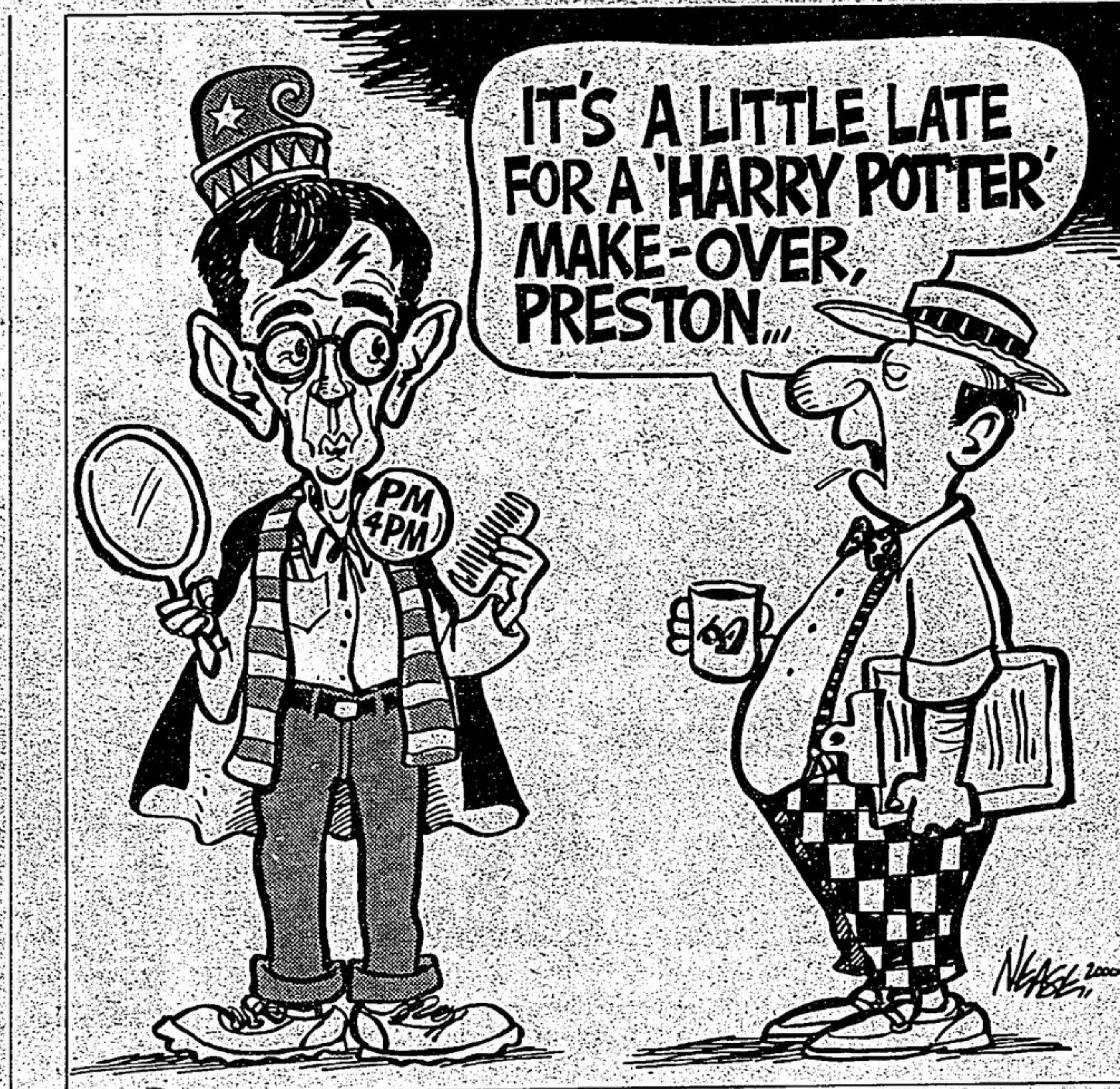
### Article about day off was unfair to York Region's employees

Re: Article in the June 29 Markham Economist & Sun/Stouffville Tribune, Vets livid region will close offices by Lisa Queen.

Queen did not accurately report York Region's reasons for closing its doors for a holiday on June 30, while remaining open for business Remembrance Day, Nov. 11.

I feel the story is unfair because it failed to explain in detail the circumstances that led to the scheduling of the holiday this year and diminished the region's efforts to observe the holiday, Nov. 11.

First of all, regional council — with the support of regional staff and its representatives — reasoned our customers would not be served, nor Remembrance Day properly observed, by



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Frank Daggett

### Tory MP with his unite-the-right idea is so off the island

The Tory tribe has spoken and Jim Jones is officially off the island.

In the continuing saga we've come to know as the crusade to unite the right in Canada, the Markham MP has only served to further weaken the already wounded right wing.

If political faux pas were an Olympic event, Jones would score a perfect 10.

Let's face it, his brief career in federal politics is likely all but over.

In fact, Jones might not even have made it to Parliament Hill if it were not for the blunder of Jag Bhaduria, who was bounced from the Liberal Party after it was learned he had lied on his resume. After enduring years of being represented by a man without a party, Markham voters turned to Jones and the Tories.

It's not that Jones's announcement that he wanted to run for both the Alliance and the Tories was necessarily a bad idea. More than likely he sincerely wanted to prevent vote splitting among his fellow right-wingers.

But the MP's effort to prevent the right's worst nightmare from happening — a split vote allowing the Liberals to walk through the middle — may be just the continuation of a long series of problems for both right-wing parties.

Other high-profile right-wingers have already flown (and continue to fly) the coop. Last week, Tory Senator Gerry St. Germain crossed the floor to the Alliance. And the exodus may continue. Now, the Tories have only 17 seats throughout Canada, absolutely none in Ontario, and their leader, Joe Clark, continues without a seat.

If you think about it, the dwindling numbers of PCs and their precarious juxtaposition with the new Alliance provides an almost eerie resemblance to the latest TV ratings-buster, Survivor.

Perhaps the CBC could air its own program, Reviver, which could feature the whole crew of right-wing castaways, bickering and duking it out on some remote island, maybe Newfoundland, in a quest for that great prize — federal supremacy. Maybe it could even create a ratings challenge for such fine CBC programs as Anne of Green Gables or other melodramatic Lucy Maud Montgomery spinoffs.

In case there's not enough cod to be had, the Tory and Alliance tribes could dine on a menu featuring humble pie, crow, egg-on-face and sour grapes. And with Jones already on his way home, it's anyone's guess who may be the next one to get the boot.

In the end and, despite all best intentions, no one can serve two masters. You end up hating one and loving the other. Jones didn't consider that concept. But hopefully, for their own sakes, the rest of Canada's right wing will clue in to that simple truth.

closing our doors for a holiday which, this year, lands on a Saturday.

Secondly, granting regional employees a day off in the summer in lieu of Remembrance Day does not warrant the assumption that York Region and its employees do not respect the memory of those for whom this holiday was created in the first place.

Although York Region remains open, as do most municipal services and businesses on Nov. 11, we host a solemn and moving Remembrance Day service for employees and citizens alike in the great hall of the regional administration building in Newmarket. I am proud that Canadian war veterans attend this service alongside elected officials and local citizens.

The 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month is truly an important moment in York Region.

If Queen had made a point to attend this service, I am sure that the views expressed by the newspaper would have been different — resulting in a more balanced report on this most important observance.

ALAN WELLS  
YORK REGION CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

### Banning books isn't the answer

Re: Mom of suffocated children supports book ban, July 4.

This is a response to the person who asked that the popular children's book *Arthur Goes to School* be banned. That person is on the wrong track.

Although it does portray an incident that is

similar to a recent tragedy, this does not call for it being taken off the market.

What can prevent more of these calamities from happening?

Knowledge. If we ban books with abandon, what books will be left on the shelves? None that any children will enjoy.

People must educate their children against all of these things.

You might find one day that your child approaches you with books saying, "Look! This is wrong, they aren't wearing life jackets", or something to that effect.

We want youth to be aware and open to what is right and wrong. We should provoke thought instead of promoting the existence of feeble-minded robots who cannot cogitate and are fed information without reason behind it.

Censorship should not be applied to literary works. We cannot keep paving a sheltered path for children because who says it can't happen to them when they're 14, 15, 16 or over? If they are educated early on, they can become aware of dangers.

Censorship happened in the Middle Ages, books being burned because people were getting high off information. We can't let that happen again.

Everyone has the right to learn and the ultimate responsibility of parents, guardians and even teachers is to teach. Society should wake up and open its eyes.

Children are capable of absorbing information at a young age, so take advantage of that.

CHRIS CHIEN, 14  
MARKHAM

## LETTERS POLICY

Stouffville Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The newspaper reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

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## Stouffville Tribune

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