

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ont., L3P 1M3

Publisher: **Ian Proudfoot**

General Manager: **Alvin Brouwer**

Editor in Chief: **Brenda Larson**

Director of Advertising: **Debra Weller**

Deputy Editor
Debra Kelly

Editor
Julie Caspersen

Production Director
Cheri Kay

Distribution Director
Barry Goodyear

Online Publishing
Manager
Brian Kirlik

Classified Manager
Ann Campbell

Retail Sales Manager
Stephen Mathieu

Inside Sales Manager
Stacey Allen

Business Manager
Margaret Fleming

Office Manager
Vivian O'Neil

OPINION

TELEPHONE

(905) 294-2200

FAX: (905) 294-1538

EMAIL: newsroom@econsun.com



Rick Vanderlinde

Taking children to adult movies a form of child abuse

This column is not recommended for children.

References to coarse language. Sexual content.

Would you read this column to your three-year-old or let your 10-year-old skim through it, with that warning tagged to the top?

Not likely.

So why do adults subject children to movies that come with similar warnings? Movies that are clearly inappropriate for innocent minds. Movies such as Jim Carrey's *Me, Myself and Irene*.

When my wife and I took in the adult comedy flick last week, there were about 10 children between the ages of three and 12 in the theatre with us. I knew I wouldn't want my kids to see a Carrey flick on the level of *Dumb and Dumber*. That's why I steered clear of the comedy during a family outing to the drive-in. I never imagined I would be sharing the film with toddlers at the nearest mega-theatre a week later.

Me, Myself and Irene began innocently enough. But it wasn't long before we saw the first crude sexual gag — a scene where Carrey rips a breast-feeding baby from its mother so he can latch on.

Minutes later, Carrey's wimpy traffic-cop character asks a little girl to please stop skipping on the street, for her own safety. She turns to him and screams "f--- off". Incredibly, this wasn't a big enough red flag for caregivers.

I wondered if they would ever abandon the film for the youngsters' sake. But they seemed content to let the kids keep watching.

These kids should have been enjoying other films playing at the multi-screen theatre, *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle*, *Chicken Run* or *Dinosaur*. Why weren't they taken to see those movies? The answer is likely rooted in the selfishness of the adults: They wanted to see the end of this two-hour movie, regardless of how it may affect the kids.

The unsuspecting children were dragged to a movie that was clearly intended for adults.

And it wasn't as if their guardians weren't warned about the content. A poster for the film outside the theatre carried these warnings: Not recommended for children. Coarse language. Sexual content.

For these kids, an afternoon outing to the movies bordered on child abuse. I even wondered if a Children's Aid social worker would be interested in the situation. And I wondered whether an usher warned the caregivers how raunchy the movie was.

I only wished I had had the courage to tell them what I thought. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I decided it wasn't my business. That's not so, of course.

Watching over society's future is everyone's business.

TO SERVE AND PROTECT



TO SWERVE AND NEGLECT (THE SAFETY OF OTHERS)



LETTERS

Arthur Latcham feature a welcome read for old and new residents

It was a pleasure to read about Art Latcham in your paper June 29 and especially to see the article rated the front page.

I remember, as a youngster, watching Latcham do his magic tricks at numerous community gatherings. I consider myself lucky to actually remember him, especially when I see his picture or name in the numerous buildings he gave us in Stouffville and other surrounding towns.

We are very lucky to have had Latcham amongst us and it was a good idea to remind "native" Stouffvillites of all he has done for us, but especially good to tell his story to anyone who has moved to our town over the last 20 years.

Now they know him, too.

J. BURNETT
STOUFFVILLE

Municipal election last chance to ensure local representation

A belated thank you to staff writer Joan Ransberry for the Thursday, June 8 article, *Work on pool begins in 10 days*.

She quoted Ward 1 Councillor Steve Pliakes as saying, "If we were charged with being lousy managers, we'd be guilty."

Pliakes indicated his disapproval of the escalating costs of the library/pool complex. This facility will be essentially unusable to Pliakes' ward residents, who live far from the location. We will continue to pay to use facilities closer to our homes, while our tax dollars are being poured into the construction of the new pool/library.

Currently, we pay to access both pools and books located near our homes. An attempt to build a community library in Vandorf has failed miserably. The town has not been able to help us with a location.

A library group has worked for nearly a year. We have the books, the volunteers, the corporate sponsorship and the money; we have no location. Our initial hopes to share the gallery space, which the community supported, were not feasible, as apparently the gallery has too many programs and too many visitors to provide space to house the books. The museum, understandably, does not have space.

A tiny 20-by-20 room was finally offered, laughable, considering the number of books

required to serve the community.

A municipal election is on its way. I hope all taxpayers will remember, while casting their votes, which members of council have represented the wishes of the taxpaying public.

Amalgamation will occur in the not too distant future. We must act now to protect our interests, before the last of the decision-making process is taken out of our hands. This election will be our last shot at ensuring our wishes are met.

ELAINE STEWART
VANDORF

Thanks go to conservation authority for land preservation

Re: *Milne land expands Rouge Park*, July 11.

I would like to congratulate the conservation authority, especially Don Prince, who worked with me in the purchase of the 45-unit condo site on Sarah Jane Court.

The article is somewhat inaccurate.

First, Markham Mill Inc. sold the property to the authority directly for the sum of \$695,000, not \$735,000 as mentioned.

Developer Angelo Orsi had nothing to do with the sale of Sarah Jane Court. I negotiated with him his deposit back. He agreed, which allowed us to deal directly with the conservation authority and conclude the sale.

Therefore, it was Prince of the conservation authority, my partner Ross Smith and I who made this happen.

I'm pleased for the residents on Sarah Jane Court and hope they will benefit from the purchase.

DOUG MEHARG, PRESIDENT
MARKHAM MILL INC.

Digging deeper wells key to safe drinking water

Call me cynical, call me suspicious, but it seems more than coincidental we are seeing an enormous amount of local media coverage concerning water pollution.

What with the situation in Lloydtown, the permanent fencing of Doris Patton Park in King City, the sad tale of King Mayor Margaret Black's daughter's death 20 years ago and the hysteria from the situation in Walkerton, we seem to be bombarded from all sides.

I see York Region's medical officer of health Helena Jazcek has again appeared to report the high levels of E. coli bacteria in the Humber River in King City, again without providing any evidence to substantiate her claim.

And now we are told 20 homes in Lloydtown have E. coli bacteria present in their drinking water.

(There are many strains of E. coli bacteria; the one reported in Lloydtown was not the strain present in Walkerton.)

As a resident of Lloydtown who is fortunate to have pure drinking water, as well as four-gallon-per-minute water pressure, may I respectfully suggest to those residents with 25-foot wells to think about having a 100-foot-plus drilled well installed?

Once they do that, there will no longer be a bad water situation in Lloydtown.

The King City official plan, with its subsequent dependence on connection to the York Durham Sewage System, is all about money and power.

It is a great pity more energy is not expended in protecting the critical ecology of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

MIKE SHACKLEFORD
SCHOMBERG

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.

Write: Letters to the Editor,
9 Heritage Rd.,
Markham, Ont. L3P 1M3

Email: letters@econsun.com

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888



Canadian Circulations
Audit Board Member



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/Penatanguishene Mirror, Milton Canadian Champion, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga News, Newmarket-Aurora, Georgina 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.

Phone: (905) 294-2200

Fax: (905) 294-1538

Classified:

1-800-743-3353

Distribution:

(905) 294-8244