

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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LETTERS

MP's choice caused his expulsion from Tory party caucus

I have serious concerns with the rationale in Richard Van Setters' letter of Aug. 5. I sense that Van Setters is attempting to substantiate Markham MP Jim Jones' desire to represent two parties in the next federal election. Jones' decision has resulted in his expulsion from the PC caucus.

It is historically common practice for other parties to refrain from running candidates in byelections where a recently elected party leader is seeking a seat in the House of Commons. It is done as a courtesy to the party leader to ensure that he gets into the House. Prime Minister Jean Chretien and PC leader Joe Clark are following this protocol.

This has nothing to do with the prevention of vote splitting and is in no way relevant to what Jones has done. A little thought should reveal the object of Jones' willingness to run as a candidate for both parties. Doing so will secure a win for Jones and thereby his lucrative lifetime MP's pension. Running for either party may not secure a win for Jones because he has been such an ineffective MP for Markham.

Jones was elected as a Progressive Conservative. In politics, no one can serve two masters simultaneously.

If he wants to be a Reformer he should quit the PC party and join the Canadian Alliance.

It is time for Jones to declare his allegiance. Is he PC or Alliance? He cannot be both.

JOYCE RIETTIE
MARKHAM

Tories haven't demonstrated any managerial competence

On July 18, a letter to the editor applauded Tory managerial competence.

Environmental managerial competence was not demonstrated when the Tories cut costs by removing many inspectors that tested for pollution (such as E. coli).

To use Drive Clean as a positive example is also misleading. When you pay \$30 plus GST to your mechanic, \$10 goes directly to Queen's Park. Multiply \$30 by the number of cars tested. This is not competence, it is another hidden tax.

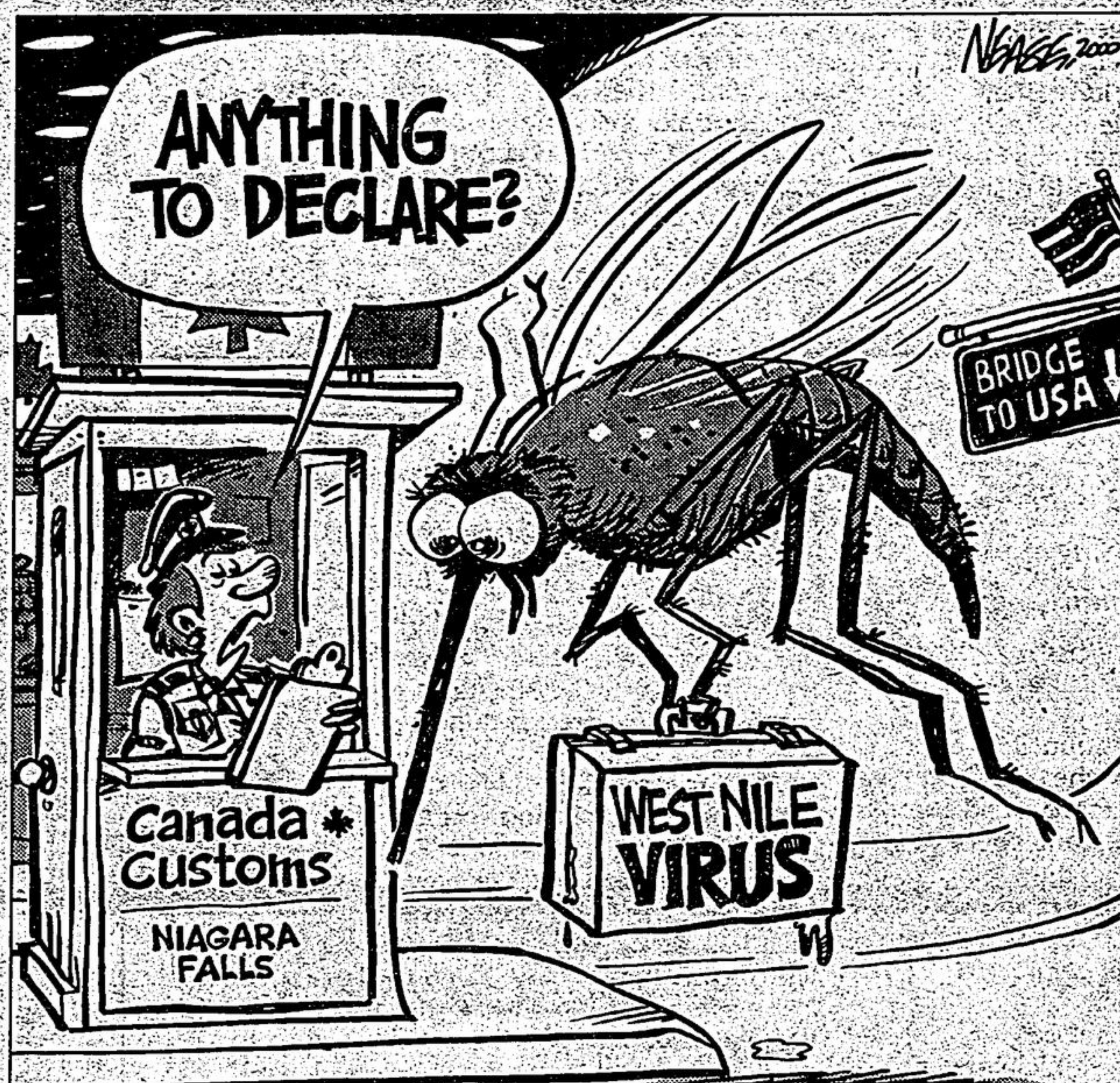
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Stouffville Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The newspaper reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

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The article also didn't mention that the recent Bill 74 insulted teachers by legislating them 16 per cent more work and also by placing them "on call" 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The government can now fire any teacher or principal who objects to the law, and democratically elected trustees that object can be barred from re-election. This is not competence, this is the trampling of civil rights.

The best example of how this government feels about managing money is shown by the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars spent on PR campaigns to smear groups that it does not like, such as health care and education workers and even our federal government. This is not competence either, it is democracy being swept under the rug.

R. GREENWOOD
STOUFFVILLE

Parkland is being destroyed

Wayne and I have been residents of Markham for almost five years and over the past two (since we adopted our dog, Sam), we have visited the Walden Pond area two to three times daily (between Kennedy Road and Bullock, north of Hwy.7)

We are quite concerned about how this beautiful parkland is being treated. Over the past four to five weeks, there have been smashed booze bottles, scattered LCBO bags and, believe it or not, human feces.

Wayne and I periodically take our broom and dustpan to clear the path, but now want to do more. We know that local police are busy, but maybe a regular patrol on weekend evenings would reduce the abuse of this pub-

lic place. Markham area residents take pride in their neighbourhoods and it is a shame that it is not shared by all. We hope something can be done.

JOAN AND WAYNE COLE
MARKHAM

Liberals can't ignore our voices

Canadians are bewildered by the Liberal government's absolute refusal to scrap the Young Offenders Act, in spite of a vocal protest from the public.

Those who wish to have their voices heard should be aware of the Journey for Justice campaign, which is a nine-week tour that began Canada Day in Victoria and will cross the country, ending in St. John's, Nfld. on Labour Day.

Bruce McGloan's son Clayton was murdered by a gang of young offenders in 1998 (see <http://www.friendsofclayton.com>) in Calgary and he has campaigned aggressively since then for changes to the act. He has had the support of many Canadians since he formed his foundation.

Newmarket's Joe Wambach became the foundation's eastern partner after the tragic events with his son last year and he has also brought thousands of signatures to the table. The count now stands at over 900,000 on the McGloan/Wambach petition. If it reaches a million or more, can the Liberals still turn a deaf ear?

The tour will be in the GTA for more than a week and the website has a full itinerary. Take a moment and make a difference.

LINDSAY MASON
NEWMARKET

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Frank Daggett

Teletubbies take a hammer approach to a minor incident

Can't we all just play nicely? As we reported Thursday, the corporations behind the Teletubbies are coming down hard on two small businesses in York Region.

The itty bitsy Entertainment Company of Toronto and New York and the UK's Ragdoll Productions Ltd. are suing Wonderland Costumes in Richmond Hill and Hollywood Costumes in Thornhill for renting illegal Teletubbies costumes.

The two stores face lawsuits between \$150,000 and \$300,000. And the suits were only issued after the two owners could not pay the \$10,000 settlement to make the lawyers go away.

For Wonderland owner Mary Martino and Hollywood owner Annelise Khan, the suits could mean the end of their businesses and may even cost them their homes.

Martino returned the costume to its owner just days before being served legal documents for the suit June 8. Khan, in an attempt to make amends, offered to turn over rental profits to the company, but to no avail.

But, as of Friday, the company was still coming after both owners. The suits seek \$100,000 per trademark for damages, \$100,000 per trademark for infringement, \$25,000 per copyright infringement and \$25,000 for punitive damages, as well as costs.

Who would have thought Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa Laa and Po could be capable of such wrath?

Khan and Martino claim they did not receive a warning prior to receiving the demand to pay \$10,000 or lose it all.

And when they realized what they were doing was illegal, they stopped.

Agreed, copyright infringement is a big problem, but these two owners have learned their lesson.

There isn't some great effort going on to rake in profits that are not rightfully theirs. They realized the error of their ways and tried to rectify it. So why go after them with a legal sledgehammer?

Kestenberg Seigal Lipkus, the lawyers for Ragdoll Productions, didn't want to discuss this specific case, but sent background material on the impact of counterfeiting.

Fact sheets indicate the United States loses more than \$2 billion a year to counterfeiters. The overall cost of counterfeiting in the world is estimated at 5 to 7 per cent of all world trade, or approximately \$350 billion. Sales of counterfeit products are used by Chinese organized crime syndicates to launder drug money and they are a source of funds to terrorist groups.

Gee, and you thought this was about a couple of mom'n'pop stores helping children's entertainers impersonate cartoon characters.