

## Stouffville Tribune

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## OPINION

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Tracy Kibble

## How could RCMP let pie-thrower so near our Prime Minister?

I bet people around the world are getting a real chuckle over the latest heroics of our bumbling national police force — the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Mounties have once again jeopardized the safety of this country's leader — making a laughing stock of all Canadians.

The latest incident occurred in Charlottetown Aug. 16, when a 23-year-old lunatic rushed at the PM during a festival and beamed him with a cream pie. Real funny stuff.

Great material for the next episode of Royal Canadian Air Farce or a number of other comedy shows and stand-up routines.

What an embarrassment, however, for Canada.

Love him or hate him, Prime Minister Jean Chretien is the honourable leader of our country and his safety is of paramount importance.

If this were the United States, an incident such as this would not have occurred.

In the same situation, no one would have had the opportunity to come anywhere near President Bill Clinton and, if they had, they would likely have been shot.

And that's the way it should be. Chretien should never have been humiliated in this manner and I am disgusted, appalled and angry.

The RCMP has made Canadians look like a bunch of country bumpkins. I can just hear the conversations:

"Hey, hear about those bimbos in Canada? You can walk up to the man who runs the country and throw a pie in his face or stick a gun to his head, or get into his home and terrorize his family."

The RCMP is a laughing stock and is taking the rest of the country along.

Not only should officers be ashamed, but those on duty that day should be fired, especially Asst. Cmdr. Wayne Wawryk, the head of the prime minister's security crew.

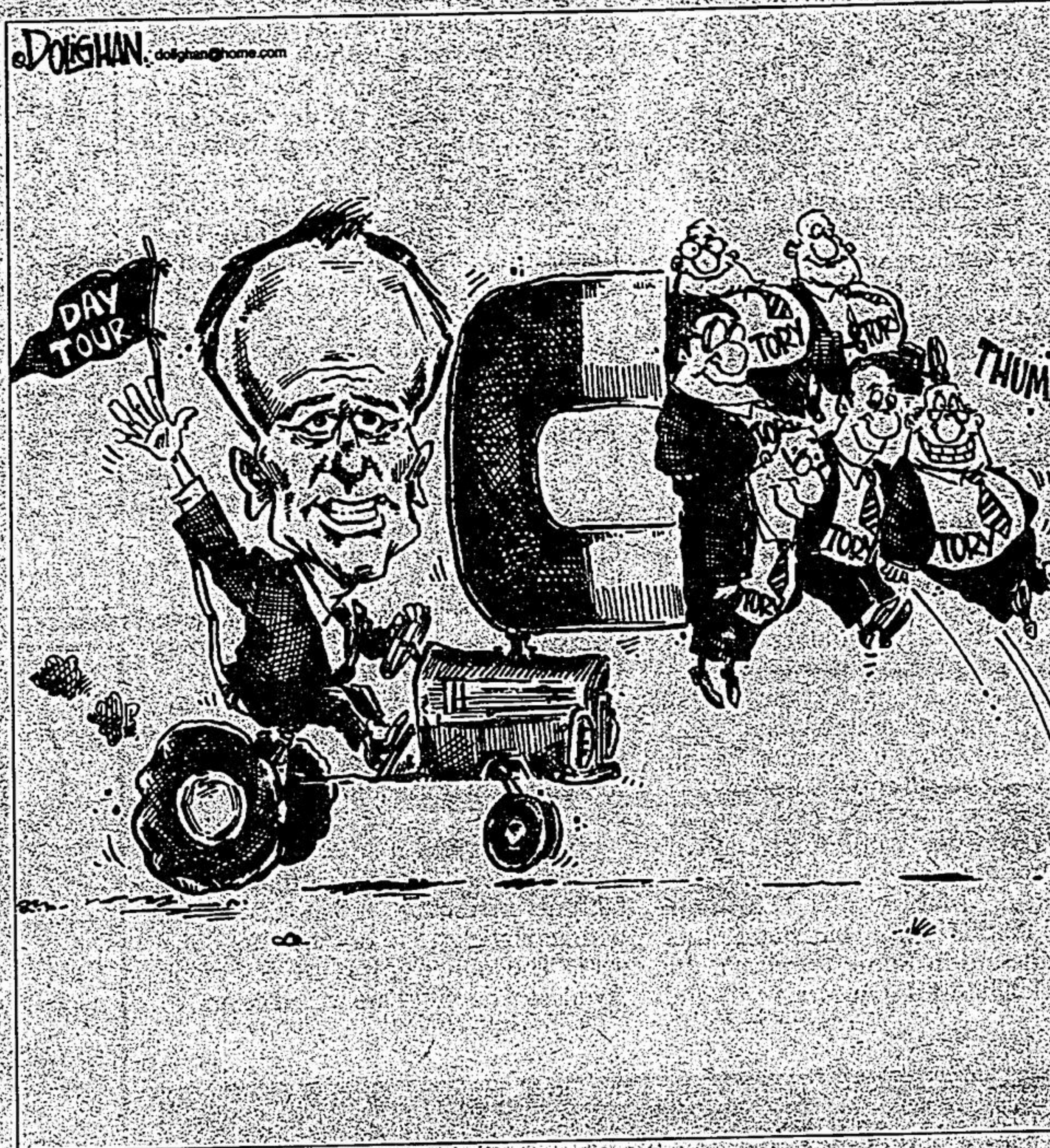
Not only that, the penalty for harming or attempting to harm a political leader should be far more severe.

According to reports, officers saw a pie-toting lunatic, um, a little too late.

Gee, guys, that seems to be a pattern. Maybe the Mounties need eye tests or more coffee or a clue, perhaps.

Five years ago, a man stood outside 24 Sussex Dr. in Ottawa and threw stones on to the property directly under the noses of inept RCMP security officers. They didn't see him that time, either.

Well, this is the last straw. Perhaps Ottawa should consider a privately run security firm to protect the country's leader. The RCMP is obviously not up to the job.



## LETTERS

## Parents should be wary of dogs on the loose in public parks

On Aug. 11 at 10 a.m., my wife and 2-1/2-year-old grandson were the victims of a totally unprovoked dog attack while playing in the schoolyard at William Armstrong Public School.

The unattended dog circled them and lunged at my grandson and bit him on the upper leg before my wife could pick the child up. The dog continued to leap up and snap at the toddler's legs, inflicting a second bite. My wife's shirt was also torn.

Fortunately, a school caretaker was nearby, rushed over and held the dog at bay with shouts and a broom handle while my wife and grandson took shelter in the school.

Our extreme gratitude for his actions, especially when you consider that the dog still tried to get at my grandson while the caretaker intervened.

My wife describes the dog as a medium-large, all-white husky, with the characteristic blue eyes. A daycare supervisor in the school saw this dog and believes it to be the same one that bit a child in the schoolyard in June. York Regional Police, public health and animal control authorities have been notified about this latest incident.

The injuries to my grandson are superficial since the major bite was cushioned by his clothing and the second bite was minor due to my wife's quick actions.

This letter is written to alert parents of small children in the area of this dog's erratic behaviour. The owner of the above-described dog is advised to contact the listed authorities and take whatever remedial actions are dictated before a tragedy occurs.

ART MITTS  
MARKHAM

## Parents should influence education ministry on curriculum

Re: Elementary math curriculum.

Parents, we must not allow the Ministry of Education to fail our children. Review of the old math text titled, *Math Quest* versus the new math text titled *Quest 2000* gives evidence to

this concern. Parents must hold the Ministry of Education accountable for promoting private enterprise by funding textbooks that lack information to develop proper study habits for homework completion and test-taking success. Is this Ministry properly allocating tax dollars to support student learning?

Historical achievements have been gained from individuals who experienced strength in either the language or math area.

Technology, the driving force of today's economy, is derived from a mathematical mind using numbers and symbols in logical sequence. How will integrating the two disciplines to the extent observed in the new text benefit more students?

The changes within the new math text mirror another drastic change, when learning to read and write shifted from phonics to whole language. Experience now tells us the repercussions caused by this change.

Setting guidelines does not reach far enough to the children to achieve the education necessary for higher-level learning. Resources with proper sequencing of information and formatted to promote study habits for homework completion and test-taking success must be available to ensure the proper foundation for higher-level learning.

Parents must influence the Ministry of Education to address concerns immediately for the children presently receiving this curriculum through correspondence and follow-up phone calls.

If we, as parents, do not acknowledge this

concern than we have only ourselves to hold accountable for failing our children.

LOUISE DOMINGUES  
UNIONVILLE

## Ransberry's anti-gun column highly offensive to gun owners

I am deeply offended by Joan Ransberry's anti-hunting, anti-gun ownership comments in her recent column.

Ransberry asks, "Why do people own guns?"

Well, I own guns for the purpose of hunting and recreational shooting sports. So do thousands of other people. They're valid reasons.

I resent the comment that the guy who takes time off of work to go hunting is a goof. Has Ransberry ever gone hunting or eaten game taken by someone else? I doubt she has.

Since when is a wild animal the same as a cartoon character created by Walt Disney? Ransberry thinks all deer are called Bambi. How very sick she is.

If Ransberry wants to live in denial and buy her meat at the supermarket, then she should do that.

But how dare she shamefully call me a goof for participating in the life cycle of the natural world by doing what man has done since he first walked erect — hunt.

ERIK RASMUSSEN  
PEPPERLAW

## 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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