

Stouffville Tribune

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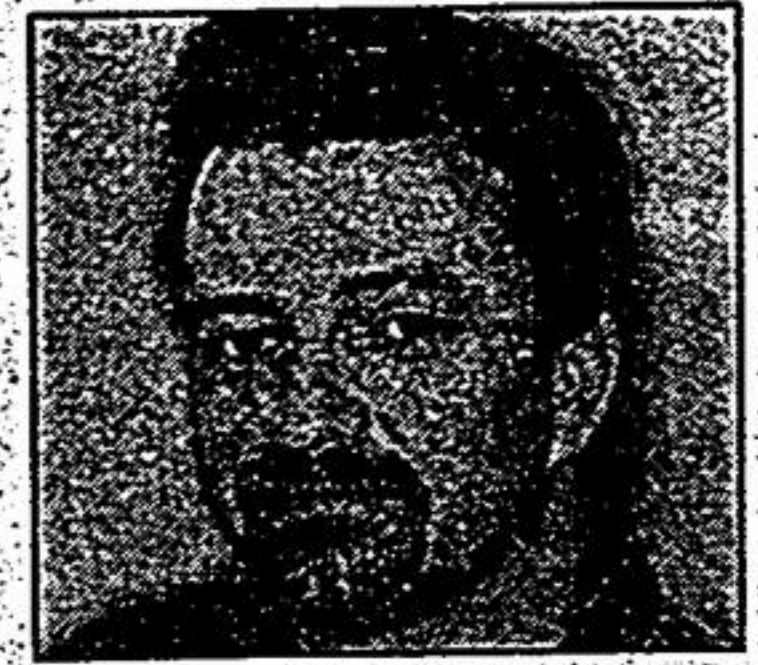
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Rick Vanderlinde

Definition of unpaid work must have been written by a woman

At the risk of being a labelled a male-chauvinist pig, I must take issue with the latest study that says women do more work at home than men.

Don't get me wrong, any woman who works outside the home and is caring for even one child is undoubtedly busy.

But so is the man.

A Statscan report released last week says, on average, women do 4.4 hours of unpaid work a day compared to the paltry 2.7 hours performed by men.

Well, there are statistics and then there's reality.

As far as I can see, the study doesn't define exactly what unpaid work at home is. Is it just the so-called women's work — the dishes, the laundry, dusting? Or does it also include all that other stuff that men usually end up doing, like shovelling the driveway in a blinding snowstorm or putting up those infernal Christmas lights?

If the stories told by the guys I know can be believed, the definition of unpaid work stops at the front door. It doesn't venture into the back yard or the garage.

Perhaps I'm paranoid, but the definition of unpaid work in the Statscan report must have been written by a woman. You see, most women, my wife included, have come to the conclusion that mowing the lawn is recreation. So is cleaning out the garage.

One of the reasons for this misinterpretation is because men tend to toil outdoors with a beer in hand. This, of course, is only done to make these monotonous duties more palatable.

As I often say to my wife, there's nothing stopping her from drinking a beer (or sipping a glass of wine) while she cleans the washrooms.

There are, however, some women who will count outdoor work as part of your household duties, as long as the children are with you.

Some of my hockey buddies say their outdoor work (this includes the joy of washing the car) will be counted by their spouse when the kids are in tow.

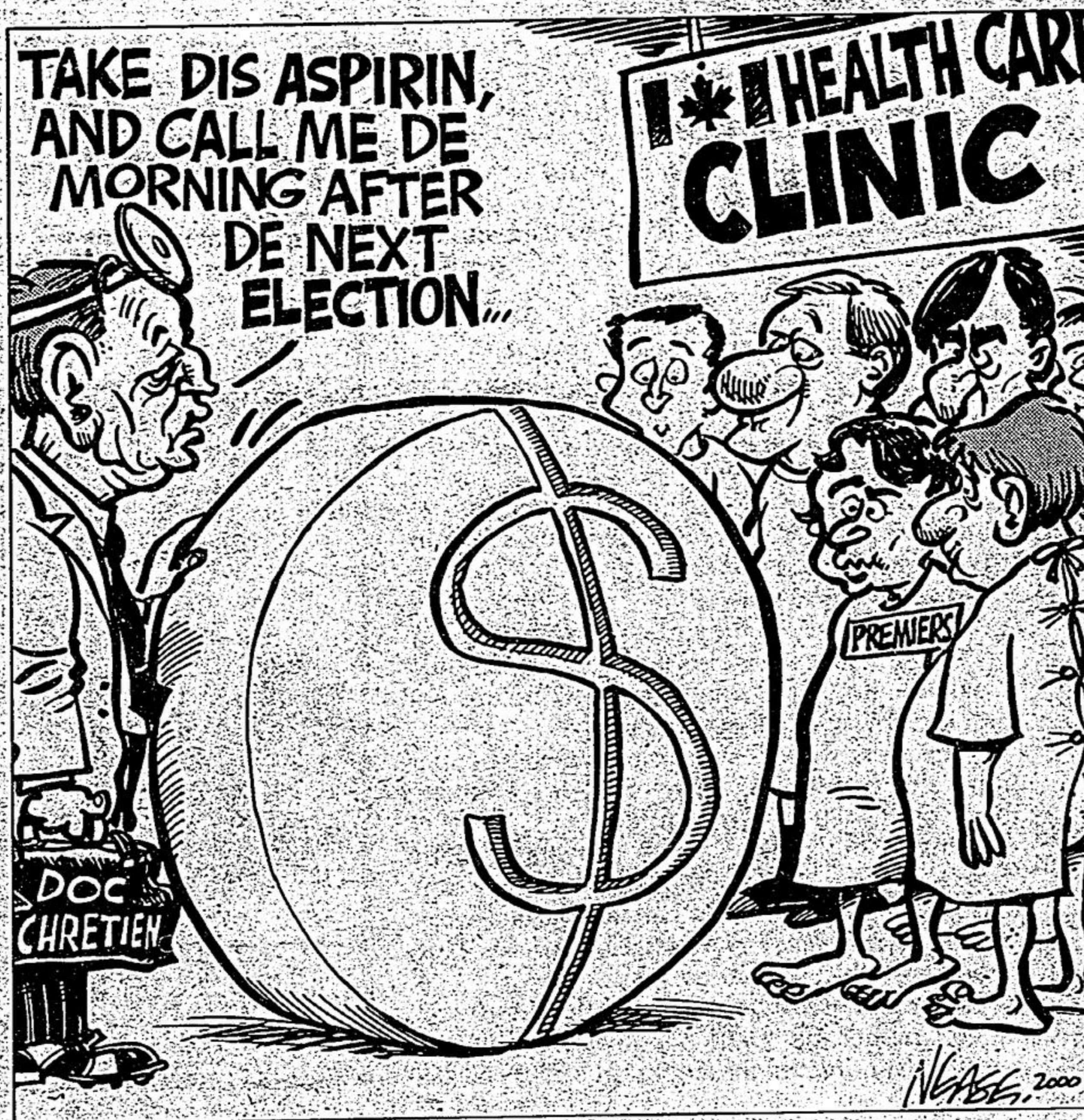
The theory goes like this: If the kids aren't with you, it's your time, even if you're under a car with oil dripping on your face, while you try to fix something you know absolutely nothing about.

This theory came into play last winter while I was trying to clear my driveway of three feet of snow.

The wind was whipping white stuff around, as I dug out my driveway lit only by my headlights, since the power had been snuffed out by the storm.

Through all this, I heard my wife call out from the house. "Honey, can the kids come out and help?"

I wouldn't have been so quick to decline if I'd known it would have increased my average unpaid work hours.



LETTERS

Why not try incineration?

Why can't we burn our garbage in greater Toronto?

As I am familiar with the K.M.S. Peel Inc. energy-from-waste facility, I called the plant manager and chief engineer Dan Pearce to make an appointment.

On Aug. 17, I toured the plant with the shift engineer. They have a large stationary power plant with four large boilers and facilities to burn garbage and are in the process of installing a fifth boiler.

These boilers produce sufficient steam at approximately 620 PSI to operate a large steam turbine generator set, which produces approximately nine megawatts per hour. This is sufficient electricity to supply approximately 4,000 homes per day.

This fuel enhancement system consumes 400 tons of garbage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This is an efficiently operated plant.

The installation of this facility can eliminate any unknown liabilities. There is relatively little pollution going to the atmosphere to harm the environment.

Why can't we build a plant in Toronto to burn the garbage?

These plants can be costly to build, however, in the long run the free energy benefit and the reduction in landfill requirements are an enormous advantage to everyone. It will cost a large sum of money to ship the garbage to Kirkland Lake, with no return whatsoever and possibly more expense than we know.

It appears there are some obstacles hindering such installations.

J. ROSS STONE
MARKHAM

Solving trash crisis a matter of will

My property backs on to McNaughton Road and I endure up to 900 trucks a day. As a result, I am delighted the Keele Valley dump will be closing; however, I am very concerned about the proposal that garbage go to Kirkland Lake for three reasons:

- The community of Kirkland Lake is severely divided about whether they want our garbage or not, which has created a very unhealthy social situation.

- The environmental assessments of the proposal disagree, creating questions about the credibility of the process, its truthfulness

and the role of vested interests.

- The plan does not allow York Region to help community members learn the behaviours that will create a healthy and sustainable future for our province.

I believe we have the ingredients for a solution to these problems. But at the heart of it all is a question of will. We must discipline our will to meet the criteria for the solution that matches, not only our economic and political needs, but also our values and duties to our families, community and the environment.

First, the stakeholders in the proposal must sit together and, with appropriate facilitators, be guided through their hopes, their fears, truth and falsehood, until they arrive at a solution with guidelines and a timeframe to which all can agree. This process is known as alternative dispute resolution and has worked in much more volatile situations.

Secondly, the various environmental experts must resolve their discrepancies, for we need to know the truth about what will happen to the watertable in northern Ontario.

Third, we need a vision of a healthy, sustainable future, which recognizes our right to garbage pickup, but also our responsibility to recycle, compost and limit what we put out.

These rights, balanced with responsibilities, give us opportunities to discipline our own behaviour, to be rewarded through education and pride in what we achieve and to be punished through fines if we do not.

This is already being done in Guelph, Halifax and Edmonton, so the precedents have been set, the technology developed, the populace brought on side.

How can we Vaughanites, who hate having the dump in our back yard, impose our

garbage on another unwilling recipient? I find this solution reprehensible and the exact opposite of the Golden Rule.

I also do not want the continuation of 900 truck trips past my home on the way to the dump or the train depot to transport the garbage north.

If the emphasis shifts such that recycling and composting become the rule rather than the exception and the amount of household pickups be strictly limited, a dialogue with stakeholders in the Keele Valley dump may be able to develop the guidelines and timeframe that permit the acceptance of the same amount of garbage as was expected to 2002, but over a longer period of time. That solution would last only until the sites within communities are developed to take our own garbage.

BRENDA KOTRAS
MAPLE

Help fight rail haul plan

We wish to call on the people of Stouffville and surrounding areas, especially former residents of Kirkland Lake, Larder Lake and Englehart, to help us fight against Toronto's garbage coming to the Adams Mine site.

Millions of litres of contaminated water will be released into the environment from this pit and will pollute the waters through your area and as far as Ottawa for years to come.

It will be a disaster to the environment, to our wildlife, farmlands and more than anything to safe drinking water for our children, grandchildren and future generations.

RUBY MCPHEE
KIRKLAND LAKE

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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