

# Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
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## LETTERS

### Tories want something for nothing

I fully support the teachers in their fight against Bill 74 concerning extra-curricular activities.

If the Tories follow through with their threat of enforcing extra-curricular supervision upon the teachers, then it will cease to be voluntary and become unpaid labour. Unless the Tories are willing to include such words in the collective agreement and pay for it, therefore recognizing the important role all teachers perform during extra-curricular supervision, then it is essentially a non-issue.

Just because teachers have always voluntarily done it as part of their working day, does not equate to being a part of their job description. If that was the case, the Tories would have included not only extra-curricular activities as instructional time, but also preparing lessons, marking student work, lunchroom supervision, parents' night, field trips, etc.

It seems the Tories wants something for nothing and it is downright hypocritical when you consider the amount of user fees they have introduced to the general public for services that were once given to us for free.

R. YENN  
STOUFFVILLE

### Once the moraine is paved over, it can never be replaced

This is an open letter to York Region municipalities.

The way we treat the Oak Ridges Moraine today will ultimately affect the quality of drinking water 50 to 100 years from now.

Polluting the headwaters of the moraine will eventually diminish the ability of aquatic life forms to exist in our rivers, streams and lakes. This, in turn, will affect the sensitive food chains that support wildlife and may result in a depletion or even extinction of some fish, insect, bird and mammal species. Ultimately, Lakes Ontario and Simcoe will suffer serious ecological damage.

The alarm bell is sounding! It is the duty of all municipal politicians across the moraine to recognize and protect this natural marvel that is the life force of southern Ontario. Now is a time for thought and consideration. You must act quickly. You must represent the general

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public's views; the residents, your constituents, our downstream neighbours and the masses of people desperately trying in many ways to protect moraine lands.

Developers are applying tremendous pressure everywhere across the moraine. You must insist that appropriate measures be taken to help preserve the integrity of our present water supplies. You must insist that proper sewage and storm treatment facilities be in place before any development is approved. And developments relying on septic tank systems must be rejected.

All identified re-charge areas across the moraine should be designated 'No Development Zones'. All sensitive wetland areas across the moraine should be preserved allowing generous buffer zones that prohibit development.

The provincial government is stalling. It is time to protect the moraine, municipality by municipality. Resist the developer and demand the province act. Time is running out for the moraine. Once paved over, it can never be replaced.

MARK HASSAN  
BALLANTRAE

### Some of the 'rich' residents of subdivision actually have nothing

Some residents of Trail of the Woods subdivision have forced the cancellation of the Markham-Whitchurch-Stouffville Cancer Society Showcase fundraiser, which was to be held in one of their neighbourhood houses.

The residents believed the five-week event might affect their privacy, allow undesirables

into their community; cause traffic and parking disruption; and endanger their children.

A number of people, including your columnist, Joan Ransberry, and Ward 5 Councillor Judy Scala, have suggested the "upscale subdivision" populated by "the rich", is being "snobbish" by refusing to allow this event.

A diagnosis of cancer is not affected by economic or social status, and I believe the residents are aware of that, so continuing to point that out to them is counter-productive. I believe the real reason some of them are afraid of the event, is because we, the great unwashed, may find out they are not as "rich" as they would like us to believe.

We may peer through the windows of their "huge" houses, and find out, that after paying large monthly mortgage payments, they have no money left for furniture. The Cancer Society volunteers may notice the families wearing the same clothes day after day, as their budget does not allow new attire. Perhaps, rather than being snobs, they do not want to share their poverty with the rest of our community.

As a piano teacher, I keep my rates very low, as I do not want to exclude any child from the benefits of a musical education. I have been surprised, on more than one occasion, when a resident of Trail of the Woods has told me they cannot afford the lessons and has requested special consideration to lower the fees.

Let us not judge these people too harshly. Perhaps if we, their neighbours, promised we would not share their financial secrets, they would allow valuable events such as this one to be held near their homes.

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Tracy Kibble

### Tomorrow's Olympians are in our schools today

Olympic dreams begin right here in the fields and gymnasiums of our elementary and high schools.

When children take part in sports, they learn to bond with others. They learn to compete and what it means to be part of a team. They learn discipline and how to rely on others. They build self-confidence, friendships and healthy habits.

They learn about strategies and concentration, the devastation of losing and the sweetness of victory.

Studies have shown children who participate in school sports are far less likely to take drugs, skip classes and become overweight.

We could say tomorrow's great Olympic athletes are in school sports today.

If we're unhappy with our medal count at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, we have to look to school sports first.

Let's face it, Canada never does that well during Olympic competition. Sure we bring home a few gold medals and everyone feels proud and honoured but we never do as well as the United States, Russia or China.

Why? Because sports activities in our schools aren't a way of life for Canadians. And that's a shame.

People don't wake up one day and decide they are going to be an Olympic athlete. It takes a lifetime of nurturing, commitment and dedication that starts from the time children begin to learn their ABCs.

In the U.S., school sports are everything — so important, in fact, parents often judge a school's success on how well the teams rank at regional competitions.

The U.S. took home five times more medals than Canadians and that's no coincidence.

And although students aren't enjoying as many after-school sports this year, that's really not the heart of the problem. We have to change the way we value school sports. We have to make sports one of the most important aspects of children's education.

That's why when governments and teachers battle it out for job security, curriculum guidelines and retirement packages, sports should be strictly hands off.

Teachers should be paid huge bonuses for coaching teams, organizing and leading track meets and helping students to learn music and drama.

Governments should keep their hands off sports programs and other extra-curricular activities that help define our children and what they are capable of doing.

It all begins now.

## LETTERS POLICY

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