

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: Debora Kelly
Editor: Jim Mason
Production Manager: Pam Nichols
Distribution Director: Barry Goodyear
Online Publishing Manager: Margaret Fleming

Classified Manager: Ann Campbell
Retail Sales Manager: Stephen Mathieu
Inside Sales Manager: Stacy Allen
Business Manager: Rob Lazaruko
Office Manager: Vivian O'Neil

OPINION

TELEPHONE
(905) 294-2200 / (416) 798-7624
FAX: (905) 294-1538
EMAIL: newsroom@econsun.com



Roy Green

*We've reached the
ultimate in
information overload*

You know you've reached the ultimate in information overload when your refrigerator is also your computer, telephone, television set and DVD player.

The LG Electronics Digital DIOS refrigerator allows you to surf the internet, send and receive e-mail, make videophone calls, connect a DVD player or cable TV, listen to MP3 music files, access a database of recipes and nutritional information or leave messages for family members.

I assume it also keeps stuff cold.

Although this freak of a fridge won't be available in Canada until later this year, you can see it later this month at the Metro Home Show.

I'm all in favour of innovation, but I have no use for an appliance that is smarter than me.

I've always believed that asking a refrigerator to do more than keep my beer cold, my ice cubes frozen and other foods from developing botulism before I consume them is asking for trouble.

But a press release from the home show people says I can "walk by the screen and see a video, text or voice message."

There will be no more need for magnets. Using the built-in digital camera, you can even make slide presentations of your children's artwork and scroll it by on the screen.

And, if you know someone else with a videophone, you can videoconference from your kitchen.

It works on existing Canadian networks and requires no software or secondary service fees. You just plug it into an electrical outlet and a telephone jack.

Not for me, thanks.

First of all, I don't like the idea of a "built-in digital camera" on my refrigerator.

Would it be staring at me when I raid the fridge late at night wearing only my underwear?

Would it count the number of times I open the door to get a beer?

As for the internet, how do I know some hacker isn't going to tap into my fridge/computer some night and steal my beer?

But the main thing is, when I watch TV, I want to be lying on the couch in my living room.

I admit it would be handy just to reach into the fridge/TV to get a cold one, rather than going all the way upstairs to the kitchen, but I simply can't imagine plunking myself down in front of the fridge to watch The Simpsons. Maybe they should look into building a TV set that would also keep my beer cold and my ice cubes frozen.

Now, that's something I would definitely be interested in.

LETTERS

Converting to Christianity is 'not necessarily a bad thing'

Re: The Soul Man: Rabbi dedicates his life to a relentless battle over Jewish souls, Jan. 9 Economist & Sun.

I read with interest the article about Rabbi Tovia Singer, who is waging a campaign against the attempts of Christian missionaries to convert Jewish youngsters.

I am not a supporter of missionary work, Christian or otherwise. However, with today's free flow of information via the many different media, I am not surprised that such conversions happen.

No one can make a decision for another human being regarding intensely personal and spiritual issues such as faith, belief, etc.

If an individual stumbles onto something that attracts him/her, it is that person's inalienable right to choose that path without interference from others.

As the saying goes, we win some, we lose some. Christianity and all the other faiths have lost people (souls) to other religions. Statistically this is normal.

I also want to make the important observation, that if someone converts to Christianity, it is not necessarily a BAD THING.

They are not joining a criminal gang. Worse things can happen in human experience than that. Most Christians are OK people, just like the rest of the human race.

If your offspring converts to something other than your own faith (assuming you have one) and still lives as a decent, law abiding and responsible citizen, it is nothing to become desperate over.

ANDREW ERNYES
Markham

Talaska family's holiday generosity is a 'heart-warming story'

Re: They gave out turkeys and got back love, Dec. 28 Stouffville Tribune.

What a heart-warming story about the Talaska family and how they handed out turkeys for those in need at Christmas.

It is so nice to see that in the hustle and bustle of this busy time of the year that people in our small community still take time out of their schedules to donate to those who need it.

What a joy it must have brought to their



hearts just knowing that they were able to give other families a nice dinner at Christmas.

The only puzzling part of the story is that it did not cover the entire front page of your Thursday edition.

I had to flip to page 13 to see a picture of a kind person and to finish reading a great article by Hannelore Volpe.

MARK FOCKLER
Stouffville

New provincial law on domestic violence isn't universally supported

Re: New law will protect women better, says shelter director, Dec. 30.

Although The Economist & Sun/Tribune consulted the director of a York Region women's shelter who said a new provincial law to better protect victims of domestic violence is sending a strong message that abuse will not be tolerated, it is evident many learned people disagree with Filomena Williams' conclusions.

In fact, in their presentations before the Standing Committee on Justice and Social Policy, Francis Sherkin of the Advocates Society stated, "As set out in the letter of Oct. 23, we are distressed at the speed with which this legislation has been introduced and the fact there has been virtually no consultation with the criminal and family law bars."

Cynthia Wasser, of the Canadian Bar Association, stated, "First, if we look to the definitions section, under subsections 1(2) and (3), domestic violence is defined as having occurred whether or not a charge has been

laid, dismissed, withdrawn or a conviction has been or could be obtained. In our view, this bill may very well be creating a new criminal offence.

This raises concerns about the constitutionality of the bill, as the province, as we all know, cannot legislate in the area of criminal law."

Walter Fox, a criminal lawyer, stated "It's a pretty transparent scheme to create criminal law without the usual safeguards that Canadians have always taken for granted, things that are now enshrined in the Charter and originated in the common law and started way back with the Magna Carta.

It seems the ideological winds are blowing so strongly that they're going to sweep away basic protections that every Canadian expects to have living in this country in the name of some ideological objective, which has no basis in statistics or in anything to do with the real world."

In an article published in the Law Times Nov. 13, law professor Rob Martin stated, "I don't know where to begin in noting what is wrong with this bill. Many Canadians believe we have a system of constitutional government founded upon certain basic principles.

It is not encouraging to realize that the Attorney General of Ontario has not grasped this basic notion."

A new provincial law to better protect victims of domestic violence? Be careful in drawing your conclusion, because, as Professor Martin eloquently tells us, "We are falling into the abyss of allowing hysteria to drive our public policy agenda."

HOWARD LEVINE
Thornhill

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 Circulators
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/Penetanguishene 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

distribution@econsun.com