

## Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper  
9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ont., L3P 1M3

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# OPINION

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Rick Vanderlinde

## Is it possible to avoid becoming a hypocrite?

It's tough not being a hypocrite these days.

Take the environment. I see myself as a friend of Mother Nature. But sometimes I'm not. I won't spray my lawn with pesticides, but I drive a mini-van.

So while I don't like to aimlessly fling poison around just to eradicate a few dandelions, I'll gladly guzzle gas, spewing extra doses of carbon monoxide into the air for the convenience of all that additional cargo space.

So, I'm a hypocrite.

It's the same with health care. I can't comprehend people who flood our emergency wards to check out the flu. That costs us all. But I'm the type to wait so long to see a doctor, a simple problem could grow worse, forcing more expensive procedures.

Again, a hypocrite.

*Finally recognizing  
you're a hypocrite is,  
in a way, therapeutic.*

But finally recognizing you're a hypocrite is, in a way, therapeutic. You can make grandiose, socially responsible statements, such as, "I believe beauty pageants are an irresponsible example to our young women" only to take your daughter to a Britney Spears concert.

Half the battle is recognizing you're a hypocrite, realizing that in this complicated society, with so many legitimate opinions on so many subjects, you're bound to be a hypocrite at some point. The only way out is by having no opinions at all.

The more I think about it, the more hypocritical I am.

I abhor violence, but I love hockey. I believe in freedom of speech, but I wish Ernst Zündel would shut up. I despise any hint of racism, but still laugh at ethnic jokes.

Of course, this hypocrisy isn't all my fault. It's not a genetic defect, or anything. It's society's fault. After all, when we were kids we were taught to "Do as a I say, not as I do."

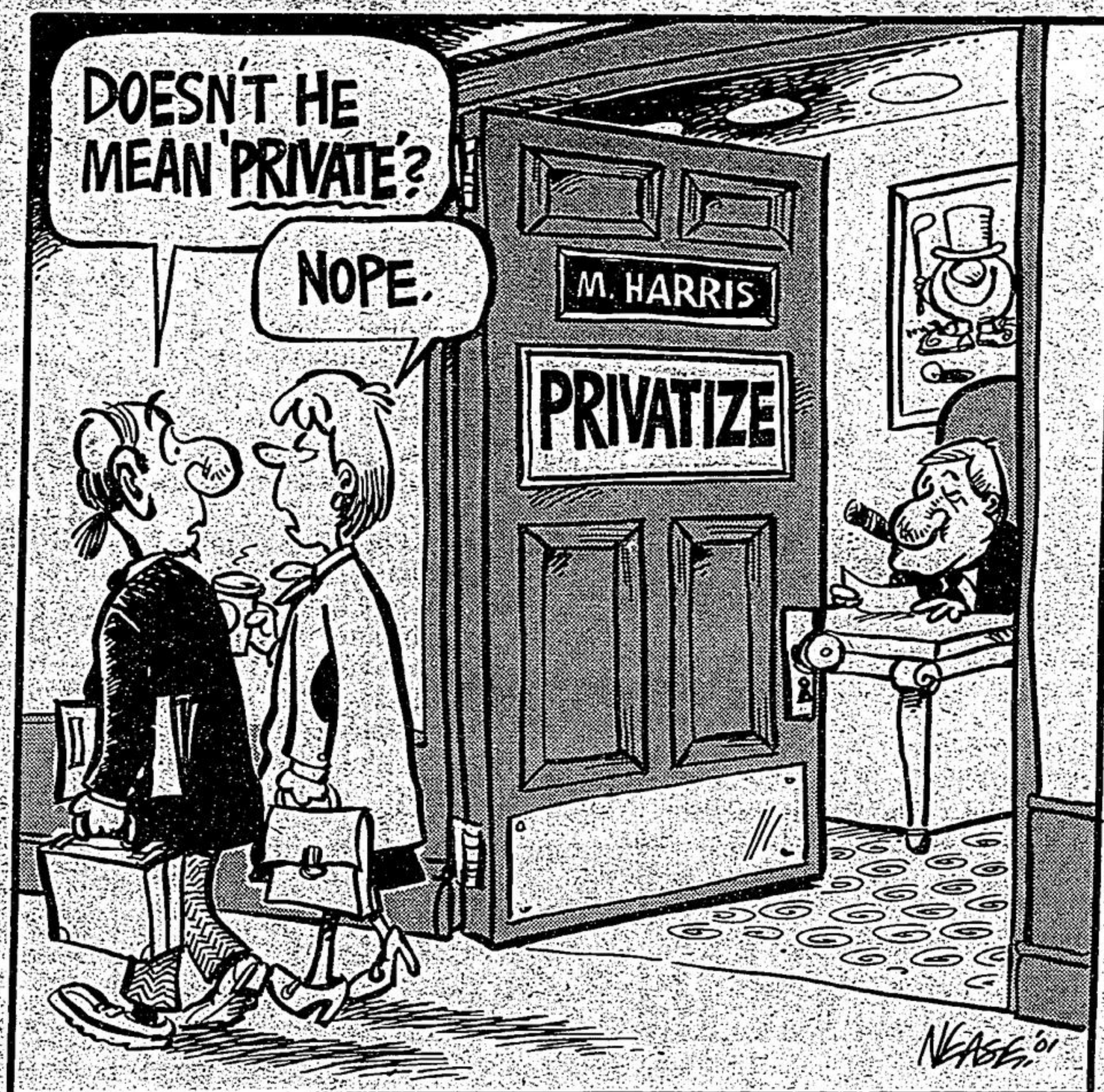
Who can blame any of us for being so hypocritical?

Our leaders are hypocrites. Premier Mike Harris says he'll never extend funding to private schools, but he does it anyway.

Stockwell Day leads a party that believes in recalling MPs for poor performance, yet he refuses to step down.

We should at least recognize that we're contradictory beings. And there's not much that we can do about it.

The real sin, of course, is taking ourselves too seriously. Or is it taking ourselves too lightly?



## LETTERS

### Shouldn't increase in population translate into more hospital beds?

In light of the increase in the number of family dwellings erected over the past few years (and construction continues at an unprecedented rate) where is the commensurate capacity increase for local hospitals and hospital services?

City planners take into account all aspects of town and area services consistent with the building permits that are issued, don't they? In the case of schools, I believe the number and location are based on planned population density of an area. What then of the health system?

How are patient-handling capacities measured and adjusted? Should they, like schools, not be based on building permits issued? Would it be unreasonable to expect to have the relevant services in a fully funded and executable plan before final approval of building permits is given?

Perhaps someone on council would like to respond to the above question and explain, with supporting financial data, how current and future needs are being met. In the case of hospital capacity and services, I believe many residents think that we are long overdue for an increase.

KENNETH OLDFIELD  
UNIONVILLE

### Moratorium on development in York Region is essential

*An open letter to regional chairperson Bill Fisch*

The region's Vision 2026 asks for comments as to what is needed to be done to shape the region's future.

Speaking as someone who will not be around in 2026, (I am a chronologically disadvantaged person), I would like to say that, unless the current frenetic pace of residential development is rapidly brought under control, York Region will not be a very pleasant place to live.

It is essential a moratorium on development be introduced as soon as possible in order to allow the infrastructure, in all its aspects, a chance to catch up.

Unless this is done I would predict that, 25-

years from now, the region's slogan Ontario's Rising Star will more appropriately become known as Ontario's Fallen Star.

TOM SOARS  
NEWMARKET

### Volunteers made Earth Day in Whitchurch-Stouffville a success

On behalf of the Whitchurch-Stouffville environmental committee, I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make the second annual Mayor's Earth Day on April 21 a great success.

We now have up to 50 more bird boxes that will be going up in and around town courtesy of the many kids who nailed them together.

One of the boxes was put up in the reservoir and, within minutes, there were swallows fighting to call it home.

There was also lots of help in cleaning up the Stouffville Reservoir, as well as planting the many trees and shrubs.

These plantings will act as a good buffer as well as a place to feed for the inhabitants that call the area home.

MARK CARROLL  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Many contributed to Markham's Battle of the Books competition

*Re: Crowle-ing rights for Markham team; photograph, May 12.*

It was a delight to see a picture of the shin-

ing faces of the winning Battle of the Books team from E.T. Crowle School and their teachers in the Economist & Sun.

However, I must write to acknowledge the important contributions of the other partners involved in this event. From its inception in 1994, Battle of the Books has benefited from the partnership of three organizations who care deeply about children's literacy: The Canadian Federation of University Women Markham/Unionville, which supports the event both financially and through its volunteers; the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board through the efforts of their teachers and teacher-librarians; and Markham Public Libraries, which co-ordinates the event.

Our thanks to all partners for their efforts in helping bring the excitement of books and reading to Markham's young people.

JUDI MCCALLUM  
MARKHAM

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Your opinion is important to us on our letters to the editor pages and on our website.

We invite you to join the ongoing discussions at [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com) and you're welcome to launch your own discussion there, too.

The site serves readers of the York Region Newspaper Group, which includes The Economist & Sun, Stouffville Tribune, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Georgina Advocate and Stouffville Sun.

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## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888



Canadian Circulations  
Audit Board Member



Ontario Press Council

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement #1403419  
Subscription rates by mail: 1 year - \$69.55 (Thursdays only)

Phone: (905) 294-2200

Fax: (905) 294-1538

Classified:

1-800-743-3353

Distribution

(905) 294-8244

[distribution@econsun.com](mailto:distribution@econsun.com)

Stouffville Tribune, published every 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.