

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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EDITORIAL

We must remember charity begins at home

The images of Sept. 11 are still raw in our minds, while new pictures of devastation in Afghanistan continue to barrage us daily in the pages of newspapers and on television reports.

Canadians responded to the terrorist attacks in the United States with overwhelming generosity, donating \$11 million to the Red Cross and other disaster relief organizations to demonstrate support.

York Region residents have continued to raise money for New York and Washington victims in the months following the attack.

At this time of the year, the pages of our own newspapers begin to fill with requests for donations to ensure the season is festive for all in our communities.

Traditionally, York Region residents have responded with generosity, donating a plethora of toys, gifts, food and cash to those less fortunate.

Some agencies are concerned that, as a result of the tremendously generous way in which York Region residents responded to the needs of the U.S. and the recent economic downturn we have experienced, home-grown efforts may feel the pinch.

After all, York Region's pockets are only so deep.

There's a good chance their worries will soon fade.

We responded to the immense tragedy in the U.S. in a genuine and heartfelt way; we very much needed to do something, however small or large, to demonstrate our sympathy and reinforce the strong bond we have with Americans.

We also knew this was a horrific, immeasurable event that would change the course of our daily lives forever.

Which doesn't mean the needs of our own communities — needs that will be further exacerbated for some people as a result of instability in the economy — have slipped off the scale of our priorities.

The tragedy has not only created new global communities but also has underlined the importance of family and community.

Let's be sure to share our good fortune, particularly businesses and their employees, with those facing challenges this season.

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial ignored wartime contributions of Canadian women

Re: Remembering is the least we can do; editorial, Nov. 8.

I'm outraged this article so explicitly chose to remember the contribution of only half the Canadians who contributed to war efforts — the male half.

Gone are the women who served in the military in non-combat roles, gone are the women who served as medical staff, gone are the women who worked in factories and in their homes to make possible the efforts of the men and women overseas.

Please note I remembered and was grateful to the fathers and grandfathers and the mothers and grandmothers (and all Canadians who were involved in those wars).

I hope you will pass on to the readers your apology to the women whom you have forgotten.

BARBARA HERRING
UNIONVILLE

Irresponsible drivers mean speed bumps necessary in Unionville

Re: Installing speed bumps on Unionville Main Street a bad idea; letter to the editor, Nov. 10.

In the late 1960s, Main Street Unionville was threatened with widening to four lanes, which would have destroyed the village's his-

toric core. Residents at that time banded together to save Main Street and organized the first Unionville Festival in June 1970.

The festival was designed to attract publicity and bring to the attention of politicians the fact Main Street was unique and worth saving.

As a result of this grassroots effort, a bypass (today's Kennedy Road) was built around Unionville.

Main Street has remained a narrow two-lane road. North of Carleton Road, it is a quiet residential street, not a main road. The north-south main road is the Kennedy bypass and those who wish to drive at high speeds should use Kennedy for that purpose.

Unfortunately, the irresponsible and reckless driving of many Markham residents has led to the need to install speed bumps on Main and many other residential streets in Markham to ensure the safety of those who live on these streets.

Speeding on residential streets is a symptom of the GTA's overall transportation crisis and obviously needs to be addressed on many levels. Speed bumps are only a Band-Aid solution.

However, the recent speed-related death of an 18-year-old boy on Carleton Road (a residential street with a speed limit of 40 km/h) provides a tragic illustration of the urgent need to use any and all means possible, including speed bumps, to bring Markham's speeding epidemic under control.

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David Teetzel

Fuzzleheads buy into this kind of sorcery — pop culture puffery

So far as anyone knew, there was nothing unusual about Hairy Plotter. He was an 11-year-old orphan remarkable only for the birthmark on his forehead, which looked exactly like a dollar sign.

One day, while Hairy was out having a smoke in front of the orphanage, a silver Cadillac came flying down from the sky and a strange man dressed in an Armani robe stepped out.

"Ha ya doon, kid. Hawkschlok's the name and you don't know it yet, but you were born to wield awesome power," said the strange man.

"But I don't know how to wield awesome power," Hairy complained.

"Ah, that's where I come in," he said. "I'm the headmaster of Hawkschlok's School of Pop Culture Hype and Puffery. I can show you how to harness forces that allow you to manipulate all around you. Come on."

The car stopped at a newspaper office and Hawkschlok led Hairy inside, where they found a frenzied man working over a computer terminal.

"OK, kid, I'm going to teach you about incantations," said Hawkschlok. "See this fuzzlehead, here. He's a newspaper editor, the world is at war, the economy is in a tailspin and terrorists are targeting civilians. Watch what happens when I say one magic word."

With that, Hawkschlok raised his magic cell phone in the air and said, "Phenomenon."

The editor wheeled about. "Who's a phenomenon?"

Indicating Hairy, Hawkschlok said, "He is a phenomenon. He is about to appear in a Hollywood blockbuster."

Then, summoning all the dark forces at his command, Hawkschlok delivered the most powerful incantation in his vocabulary. "Hairy is the next big thing."

The editor began screaming. "Quick, I need a story about Hairy Plotter in every section of the newspaper, every day for the next week. What do you mean, who's Hairy Plotter? He's hip, he's trendy with the kids, get with it!"

Hairy was impressed with this display of sorcery.

"Aw, this is just the beginning, baby," Hawkschlok said.

"You see, these fuzzleheads are stupid. If you talk about anything enough, people will buy it — and they will buy any and all merchandise connected to it. The only thing that makes them happier is helping us foist this stuff on their kids — Pokemon, Britney Spears, Stone Cold Steve Austin, they all got their start with me, kid."

Hairy thought total world domination sounded like ever so much fun and he looked forward to many exciting adventures.

But you're going to have to wait a while and fork over big money for another book.

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,
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