

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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LETTERS

Social investment pays off in long run for communities, individuals

David Teetzel's recent column, *Limiting choice of pain affects lives*, does a fine job of explaining why a specific decision to "de-list" certain procedures from the inventory of medical interventions to be compensated by OHIP does harm. Pain killers for his friend plainly ought not to have been taken away.

Now, it seems Ernie Eves will have an opportunity to influence the health-care agenda.

It stretches credulity to imagine Premier Eves will be more generous than his predecessor in his treatment of the poor (though we may hope no pregnant welfare moms in his constituency will die under house arrest while trying to get a college education).

It may, however, be hoped that, as a fiscal conservative, he will not allow moral revenge against the poor to trump good economics.

Denying Mr. Teetzel's friend access to pain-relieving drugs is a false economy. It saves a few dollars in the short term and denies our society a productive and taxpaying citizen.

Let's not forget, social investment (whether in the health, energy, education, transport and communications systems and much else) enhances the good of the community, provides the necessary infrastructure for private sector development and, in the end, the well-being of the individual.

HOWARD A. DOUGHTY
RICHMOND HILL

Canada Post has little interest in paper recycling

Re: *Canada Post resists garbage bins near superboxes, April 6.*

While reading this article, I immediately became incensed over comments made by the Canada Post spokesperson, especially the statement declaring, "We're in the distribution business, not the garbage business".

I have witnessed this sentiment and reality. Yes, Canada Post is in the distribution business and I am sure the majority of Canadians appreciate the job it does, but the on-going paper pollution is truly a problem at residential pick-up boxes.

Furthermore, it pales by comparison to the monthly tonnage Canada Post

OPINION

DOUGLASS
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Corporation dumps, not recycles, as trash from its municipal processing facilities.

In 1999, for almost a year, I worked near a modestly sized Canada Post facility in central Ontario.

I was extremely disappointed to witness the weekly volume of recyclable grade paper and boxboard left there, destined for landfill.

The experience left me wondering if Canada Post actively recycles anywhere across the country.

BRIAN BONNELL
AURORA

Efforts should be on recycling, not shipping to landfill sites

Why are we spending so much time and money trying to find somewhere to ship our garbage? Would this not be better spent on finding new and better ways to recycle?

For example, Christmas trees are recycled into gardening chips, so why can this not be done with scrap wood? Or why can we not recycle the scrap wood and send it to a pulp and paper mill?

In Gravenhurst, styrofoam packaging is recycled, so why are we not doing this in York Region and why is not all glass recycled? Roof shingles are asphalt, so why can they not be recycled to pave roads?

Why is drywall not recyclable or have we not approached the manufacturer to see if this is possible?

If we really put in an effort, we could find lots of things to recycle. It would be cheaper if we could encourage manufacturers to recycle

their products.

We could save money trying to find places to ship garbage and, maybe, in the future, we can sell our garbage to the highest bidder, making a profit and lowering taxes.

TIM KENNEDY
KESWICK

Being 'green' requires more than agreeing with protesters

I have been a proud Canadian for more than 15 years but, lately, I feel a fair degree of irritation with many Canadians' blind acceptance of authority, even when that authority is being manipulated by rich and powerful interest groups.

A substantial number of Canadians believe they are "green" simply because they live in a land with great natural beauty and vast areas of wilderness that most just take it for granted.

It takes more than just tooting your car horn when you pass true environmentalists protesting destruction of a natural landmark. That's the easy way out.

Verbal recognition that "it's a shame" or "they shouldn't be allowed to do that" means nothing if you are not prepared to take a stand and help stop these abuses.

Authority is not always right. Authority is comprised of people who often have their own agendas. Many are influenced by rich and powerful special interest groups. Developers, in particular, are anti-green because to be green would cost money.

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Tracy Kibble

Today's funky words have evolved from days of my youth

As a woman in her 40th year, I find myself reflecting more often about the good old days when I was a kid.

One aspect of those reflections is how words, phrases and, generally, what is hip for youth today, have evolved.

Like most parents, I try hard to keep up with rapidly changing trends. Stuff like what colour hair gel is in this week, learning the latest phrases and even listening to the pumpny beats of R&B, hip hop and rap.

A few things have changed in 27 years. For example, when I was a kid:

- Gel was called dippy-do. It was pink, sat in the bathroom cupboard next to mom's hairpins and never came anywhere near my head;
- Fags were grandpa's hand-rolled cigarettes;
- Remote meant "far removed" and everyone in the family had to share the same TV (my children can't believe this one);
- Computers were floor-to-ceiling contraptions with flashing lights that beeped, whirred and shook and were used in spy movies and Jerry Lewis comedies. I remember little cards would spew out of them and some dweeby looking guy would try to stop the chaos;
- Hardware was something dad picked up at Canadian Tire and software wasn't even a word;
- The only telephones not attached to walls or cords were fake and our phone number consisted of only two digits;
- A power PC was a blowhard politician spouting off in the newspaper or on TV and someone my dad guffawed at and criticized;
- Ram was a male sheep and having a lot of it wasn't a good thing;
- Pot was something in which mom cooked potatoes (until I smelled its raw stench in the smoking area of high school);
- No one ever wore seatbelts and helmets while riding bicycles would have seemed ludicrous;
- Rap was a hit on the noggin' delivered by a perturbed parent as punishment for being a smart-alec;
- Boxers were two brawny men duking it out in a ring surrounded by shouting, cigar-puffing fans;
- The leader of each group or "pack" of girls in Brownies was called a "packie";
- Crack was something that separated sidewalk blocks and you dared not step on it or risk breaking your mother's back (unless, of course, you were angry with her).

I guess keeping up with today's trends is no different than the challenge my parents faced trying to relate to words from my youth.

Remember far out, rock on, freaky, nerd and decent?

Whazzup for the next 27 years?

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LETTERS POLICY

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