

Stouffville Tribune

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

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LETTERS

OMB necessary to curtail power of municipal councils, committees

I wish to comment on The Tribune article about Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson thinking of trying to reduce the number of wards in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

In Ontario, the majority of municipalities and townships have at least six each.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, we can expect an increase in population of about 10,000 in the next 10 years, considering all the building going on at present.

Or, Whitchurch-Stouffville may amalgamate with Markham or another municipality. In the early 1960s, I ran for council in the old Township of Whitchurch.

Whitchurch was a large area about 12 miles square and, at that time, to gain votes, the entire area had to be canvassed.

I thought the township should be divided into three wards.

I submitted a brief to council in which I outlined that the population, number of schools and size of the community should warrant this ward system.

An application was made with the Ontario Municipal Board to have a hearing on this proposal.

An appointment was made for six months after it received my brief and the hearing was to be held in Vandonr.

There was no opposition to this brief and the ward system was established with three wards in Whitchurch Township.

At that time (1967) the population in Whitchurch was about 5,000 and there were about 23 one and two-room schools in the area.

Since then land has been taken away between Hwy. 404 in the east, Yonge Street in the west, Davis Drive in the north and Stouffville Road in the south.

In 1982, I applied for a building permit to build an accessory building in Whitchurch-Stouffville and was turned down by town's committee of adjustment.

I then applied to have a hearing with the OMB and was granted one for six months later.

At that hearing, the permit was approved and I had the building constructed to my specifications.

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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OPINION



In Toronto, Liberal MPP Mike Colle is trying to put through a private bill through the legislation to eliminate the OMB.

I believe if this happens, we won't have anything on which to fall back.

The council and committee of adjustment will have all the say.

If the OMB is dissolved, we will have no one to turn to for help.

PATRICK CASHMAN
STOUFFVILLE

Face facts, provincial education funding formula not working

Re: Schools seek ways to offset funding shortfalls, April 14.

It is shocking Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees can stand by and acknowledge his government's faulty funding formula has been so damaging to the students of Ontario.

Band-Aids on this formula are not what our province needs.

We need MPPs responsible enough to say the funding formula has not worked and needs to be replaced.

Too many dollars have been thrown out trying to repair something that does not work.

Peel Region District School Board's special education funding formula cost the taxpayers \$2.8 million.

Multiply that by 71 more boards and we can see why there are no dollars left to service students or classrooms.

I don't think anyone believes these speedy

changes and this unaccountable manner of funding is "a step in the right direction".

All these faulty and irresponsible changes remain in place to save face for our education minister and Klees' government.

Now the taxpayers need to wonder and wait to see if new Premier Ernie Eves will merely consult or will there be money and true accountability?

LINDA BERNOFSKY
THORNHILL

Prices will go through roof if hydro privatization approved

Taxpayers were satisfied with the way we received hydro so why should it be sold off to a middle man?

Prices will go through the roof.

Of course, outgoing premier Mike Harris has to give his friends more ways to fleece the public.

Next thing we know, people buying hydro will sell to the Americans and goodbye Canada.

What we need is another Pierre Trudeau who said, "Canada for the Canadians."

As I see it, America already owns most of our stores.

People should buy from Canadian-owned stores to help our people instead of shopping American.

EVELYN LESKIEWICZ
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Frank Daggett

Action needed now for health-care crisis

York Region residents know first-hand the health-care dilemma facing our nation.

Desperate for health-care services, Georgina council has set aside \$1.75 million from its sale of hydro to recruit seven physicians.

After three years, Mount Albert finally recruited a new doctor last October to service the community of 4,000.

Meanwhile, York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill is seeking help from local politicians to attract and keep doctors. The hospital said there is an enormous physician shortage and recruitment is extremely competitive.

To keep pace with regional growth, York Central officials say four to six new specialists are needed each year.

The situation may get worse before it gets better and we need solutions now.

At least one remedy has been recognized by Georgina and East Gwillimbury. The two towns have joined a growing list of experts lobbying the province to increase the rank of nurse practitioners.

Currently, less than half of the 467 nurse practitioners licensed to work in Ontario are employed full time. As indicated by Registered Nurses Association of Ontario executive director Doris Grinspun, it is a disgrace the province has failed to adequately employ these medical professionals, who are registered nurses with upgraded skills allowing them to diagnose illnesses and prescribe medicine.

Georgina and East Gwillimbury should both be commended for recognizing, while not the entire solution, nurse practitioners can address a number of their needs.

Let's face it, the facts are dismal.

The Canadian Medical Association stated there are fewer doctors because of a 10-per-cent reduction in medical school enrolment since 1993. (There were 1,599 medical school graduates last year, down from a peak of 1,835 in 1985.)

The feds prevent foreign-trained doctors from practising in Canada, while at the same time there is an exodus of Canadian doctors to the United States.

In 1999, the province's McKendry Report stated Ontario was short at least 1,000 physicians.

The shortage severely impacts patients, doctors and other health-care providers. Long waits for emergency care, cancer care and surgery and the inability of one in four Ontarians to access a family doctor just touch the surface of the serious consequences of an inadequate supply of doctors.

This shortage puts pressure on doctors facing long hours, some up to 73 hours a week, and seeing, on average, 124 patients a week. Two-thirds of Canadian doctors are no longer accepting new patients.

If governments are serious about ensuring residents have access to health care, they better put their money where their mouths are.

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Ontario Press Council

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

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/Penatanguishene 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.

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