

Stouffville Tribune

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

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LETTERS

Not all chiropractic methods cause awful sounds

Re: *I'm not risking my neck when I see my chiropractor, a column by David Teetzel, May 9.*

For those who are nervous about those awful sounds you hear when adjustments are made, there is another way. A chiropractor schooled further in the activator methods chiropractic technique manipulates more than just the spine and does it so gently that even children enjoy going for the relief they get from the corrections.

There aren't many practitioners because it takes further and ongoing training after chiropractic college. But many more people would use this treatment if they knew about it.

JANET C. KING
STOUFFVILLE

Statistics actually paint Ontario as spendthrift on education

Re: *Province spends plenty to educate Ontario's children, letter to the editor by J. Shaw, May 23.*

A host of figures in this letter, which, taken at face value, seem to paint a picture of waste.

However, a closer look shows an education system troubled by a lack of funding. Mr. Shaw stated former Ontario premier Bob Rae only spent \$5.9 billion, while the current government seems to be spending more than double that amount.

The reason the 2001-'02 figure is so much higher is because it includes the education portion of our municipal property taxes, while the 1995 figure does not.

These figures cannot be fairly or accurately compared with each other. According to the latest Ontario budget, \$8.241 billion has been earmarked for education, not \$13.861 billion mentioned in the letter. The total budget is \$63.3 billion, not \$52.1 billion mentioned in the letter.

Therefore, education represents 13.02 per cent, not 26.61 per cent of the total budget (as stated in Mr. Shaw's letter).

Mr. Shaw stated a company operating that way would have to file for bankruptcy. Well let's look a little closer: The Ontario government has earmarked only \$3,866.06 per student. Let's compare this figure after converting it to \$2,513 (US) to a few neighbouring American states: According to the World

Book Year Book 2001, New York spends \$9,840 per student and Michigan spends \$8,150.

In fact, Ontario spends less per student than the lowest American state, Utah, which spends \$4,140. So is education a priority with the current government? I don't think so.

K. STEPHEN
MARKHAM

Look to future to fix problem of crumbling fences

Re: *Avoid fence problem by banning homes backing on to roads, letter to the editor, May 2.*

Yes, fences facing roads are not attractive and are problematic. The fact is, however, what is done is done. What is past is past and, in his letter, the honourable Mayor Steve Parish of Ajax fails to make note of this.

The Town of Markham's motto is Leading while remembering. Today, we are leading. Communities with houses backing on to roads are no longer seen in Markham. Instead, we are proud to have new communities such as Cornell, Berczy, Swan Lake and Angus Glen.

Although Markham is likened to Silicon Valley for its high-tech businesses, Markham still maintains its charm and takes pride in its history. In addition, Markham is an award winning Communities in Bloom community.

More than 200,000 people from different cultures share in this town. Should we have problems such as these fences, we will work together to initiate change.



Right now the answer is not to delve into the past and look for reasons why. Now is the time to make changes and continue to lead while remembering.

COUNCILLOR ALEX CHIU
CHAIRPERSON, MARKHAM
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Idiots cause danger with improper fireworks exhibition

On Victoria Day evening, a friend and I went to Unionville's Toogood Pond for a much anticipated fireworks show. We found ourselves surrounded with bunches of people almost having a fireworks war.

No barge in the middle of the pond like before. No crowd sitting on one safe side of the pond, while professionals handled the discharge.

Now, it was a war ground. Shots here. Shots there. Shots from behind. Look out! Too late, my friend was bombarded with an array of hot embers that singed her forehead.

We raced back to the safety of my vehicle to check her out. Little sear patterns showed up on her forehead — nothing a little home aid couldn't help. But still, it shouldn't have happened.

We watched out the window at the gathering. We noticed people were lighting fireworks and not even taking two steps back to prevent injury.

We observed children mimicking the half-witted adults lighting fireworks and holding them while they shot off numerous pink and green balls of fire.

Over the roar of the many bangs, we

heard numerous ambulance and firetruck sirens, no doubt rushing to aid someone who has unsafely "played" with fireworks.

My childhood memories of Victoria Day weekend being fun, happy and exciting have vanished.

Instead of exclaiming "Whoa, look at that firework", I'm resigned to remarking, "Whoa, look at that idiot."

LAUREN MARKS
UNIONVILLE

Spraying chemicals on declining green space can't be good

Any thinking human being simply has to walk outside and look around at what we are doing to our environment to know spraying chemicals on our declining green space can't be a good thing.

I suppose the heat of summer — when your carpets are drying out and you have to water them with thousands of litres of fresh water — that's a good thing too.

You don't need to be an expert in biology to know when so many species of fish in our rivers and lakes are categorized in a consumption advisory published yearly by the Ontario government since 1977, that, maybe, our ground water is being contaminated.

How about a nice plate of furans, dioxin, chlorinated phenols and benzenes, with a side of PCBs, pesticides and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons? And don't forget a sprinkle of mercury and photomirex, to name a few.

Grow up, diehards, and clean up your act. Stop polluting the water with your pesticides. We are killing our planet and ourselves.

JOHN WARBURTON
MARKHAM

Self-contained basement apartments should be legal

An open letter to Markham council members Joe Virgilio and Tony Wong:

As we all know, there are thousands of self-contained basement apartments with separate entrances in Markham. They are advertised weekly in the local press.

However, in discussing the town's requirements for building and fire codes, a conflicting response is received. The fire department hands out a brochure with four main requirements.

The building and planning department is adamant provincial laws do not permit such units. They are, in fact, illegal.

I find this confusing as recently built self-contained basement apartments blatantly exist in Markham and throughout York Region. Apparently the designated criterion is having a kitchen in the basement. As you know, many single family homes have a second kitchen in the basement.

There is currently no housing geared to income available in the region. Statistics on the "working poor" are mind-boggling. Many families are a paycheque away from eviction. Shelter availability of any type is not increasing.

Based on these facts, why would there be a ban on the construction of safe, municipally inspected accessory apartments?

JOYCE RIETTIE
UNIONVILLE

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.

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9 Heritage Rd.,
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TELEPHONE 905-294-2200

FAX 905-294-1538

E-MAIL

newsroom@econsun.com

DISTRIBUTION

905-294-8244

distribution@econsun.com

CLASSIFIED
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853-2527

1-800-743-3353

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