

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
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LETTERS

Sidewalks more important than trees when it comes to safety

Re: residents protest sidewalk plan; July 6

I am writing in response to the article concerning sidewalks being installed on Drakefield Road in Markham, near Roy H. Crosby Public School.

My children have gone to school there for eight years.

During this time I have seen the traffic in the area increase significantly.

As the school's population rises, so does the traffic congestion due to buses and parents who drive their children to class.

The danger to students who must walk to school also increases significantly.

There is no better answer to the traffic problem than sidewalks. I believe the whole neighbourhood should have sidewalks. Many children walk on Southdale Drive as well as on Drakefield Road and other streets in the area.

The traffic is in the whole neighbourhood, not just by the school.

Cars park on all streets surrounding the school, before, during and directly after class.

Sidewalks would keep our children and all pedestrians off of the road and out of the path of vehicles.

Many people in the area might know the school just as a neighbourhood facility, but this is no longer the case.

Roy H. Crosby has neighbourhood children as well as those who are in the gifted program and are from all over Markham.

These students must be bused in. Many are from new housing developments in the area.

These children are also bused to the school.

I would rather watch my trees die than see a child hurt by a car or killed while walking to or from school.

WENDY ALEXANDER-PENNY
MARKHAM

Skateboarding feature short on basic research

Re: Boarding craze in full flight, July 4.

As a skateboarder, I was excited to see an article about skateboarding but, as I sat to read it, I was disappointed.

First, it was gender specific.

OPINION



Skateboarding already has an image of being gender-exclusive and such writing only strengthens such an obstacle.

Second, phrases like "Do you really want your kid sailing top-to-bottom down a flight of stairs in the name of expressing himself?" are detrimental.

Do parents ask themselves if a child who boxes should get punched in the face in the name of self-expression?

Such negative descriptions could hinder the image of any sport and it is a sport, not just a matter of self-expression.

Finally, what is "Olympic-style snowboarding?" Slalom or half-pipe?

Someone writing an article on something they know little about should do some basic research. Vert skating came along far before snowboards were invented.

BEN CONOLEY
NEWMARKET

Canada Day television coverage neglected military contributions

CBC's Canada Day presentation kept me in front of my TV from start to finish. It would be hard not to feel proud of our people and accomplishments when they are presented so accurately and in a professional manner.

Maybe I was not watching or listening for brief periods, but I did not hear or see any mention of Canada's involvement in a couple of world wars and peacekeeping.

Let's not forget young men and, latterly, women, volunteered to serve in Canada's

army, navy and air force. Volunteered. They were not conscripted.

Sadly, more than 100,000 gave their lives. They did not return to see their country grow, but they contributed greatly to Canada being recognized as an independent nation.

It would have been appropriate to acknowledge the military aspect of Canada's success and the service men and women who fought to keep our country free.

BILL SCOTT
THORNHILL

No law can force me to be considerate to other drivers

To the drivers of York Region: Please stop harassing me.

I'm the guy in the blue sports car who parks in those new spots at shopping malls and supermarkets reserved for "Parents with children only" or some such idiotic sign.

Some genius decided it would be a good idea to paint a pink baby carriage on the pavement, put up a sign and hope people would think it's a new bylaw.

And sure enough, each time I exit my vehicle, some concerned citizen reprimands me because I'm without a child and warns me fiercely I'll get towed or ticketed or tells me I'm a jerk.

I get it. The spots are supposed to encourage courtesy and politeness, but it's not now, nor will it ever become legislation

— it's discriminatory, so stop chastising me. If the spot's free, I'm taking it. No law can ever exist that forces someone to be selfless and considerate.

Do you honestly think, if you have kids and I don't, that you're entitled to a special parking spot and I'm not?

How would they police that anyway? Give drivers with children a dashboard sticker with a stork on it?

And what about the remainder of us who have an identifiable circumstance?

Seeing as the first row is already blue for the physically challenged and pink for people with children, I suggest the following additions just to be fair:

The second row should be painted white for seniors.

The third row ought to be green and reserved for those with Mercedes, BMWs and Porsches. Rich people shouldn't have to walk far; they've earned it.

The fourth row needs to be rust-coloured and allotted for people with nasty cars, which probably wouldn't make it to the other end of the parking lot anyway.

The fifth row must be yellow and set aside for people who are more than 90 pounds overweight.

And the sixth row must be purple for those with a lousy sense of direction who may have trouble finding the store if they're farther away.

Rows seven and beyond can later be divided up based on marital status, income, education level, religion, sex and ethnic origin.

It sounds ludicrous, but no more so than allowing people who chose to have children to park closer.

At least "handicapped" spaces are law and those who use them did not choose to need them.

It's as if we're equating the two, saying having children is comparable to having a handicap.

Here's the difference: My right to be discourteous and impolite is God-given, constitutionally accepted and civilly protected.

Your right to park in the first row if you have a kid is not. Get your cart and leave me alone.

ERICA A. WOLF
RICHMOND HILL

What do all those designations mean to average car buyer?

Is the average consumer as confused as I am? I am referring to automobiles.

I see advertised in the paper, the 2002 RSX and the LX 4-door. Hello? What does this mean?

But there is variety, I'll grant you that. You can get an LE, CE, SD, DX, SRS, Z24, VE or an EX.

Take your choice. But it is good to know if none of the above satisfies you, there's always the SE, SLE, LX14, GL or GLX.

I haven't the foggiest idea what all these designations mean, but hey, I drive an LT.

ERNEST W. BOOTH
AURORA

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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