

Stouffville Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
34 Civic Ave., Stouffville, Ont. L4A 7Z5

Publisher: **Ian Proudfoot**

Editor in Chief: **Debora Kelly**

Director of Advertising: **Debra Weller**

Editor
Jim Mason

Production Manager
Pam Nichols

Distribution Manager
Barry Black

Electronic
Communications
Manager
John Futhy

Classified Manager
Ann Campbell

Retail Sales Manager
Stephen Mathieu

Inside Sales Manager
Stacey Allen

Business Manager
Robert Lazaruko

Office Manager
Vivian O'Neil

EDITORIAL

Changes needed in healthcare, attitudes

According to the demographic pundits, trouble lies ahead: there are too many old people primed for retirement and not enough young people to replace them in the workforce.

Canada's 2001 census clearly identified the trend that declining numbers of workers mean an inability to support the pensions and health care needs of an increasingly aged population.

The reality is today's senior citizens are active, healthy, productive members of society.

Sixty per cent of Canadians aged over 65 have no disability, with a very small proportion living in nursing or retirement homes. Long-term care accounts for about 1 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product.

Is it such a crisis the numbers of young people and seniors will be about equal by 2011?

What is clear is we must abandon the alarmist and damaging notion anyone aged over 64 is a burden on society. A firmer grasp of reality is required to begin planning sensibly for the aging of our population.

Human Resources Minister Jane Stewart has indicated Ottawa will consider extending the retirement age past 65. What's to consider?

Mandatory retirement must be abolished. If a person is able and wants to continue working past 65, he should not be prevented from doing so.

Retirement policies must be more flexible, ending the penalties in taxation facing older people who choose to work part-time and collect partial pensions.

Our pension system must be overhauled, as has been the case in Europe, where the aging trend eclipses ours.

Our health care policies must be altered.

Countries with populations older than ours are shifting the burden of chronic health care to the people who will need it. Workers in Japan, for instance, begin buying long-term health insurance in their 40s.

More emphasis must be placed on the provision of home care, rather than much more expensive institutional care.

Unfortunately, in Ontario, we have been witness to the insidious attack of long-term health and home care program funding.

We have nothing to fear from aging itself, but in not preparing for it.

It's not only our country, but ourselves, that must adjust to this new picture of growing old.

Certainly, we have to learn to love our grey hair.

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,
9 Heritage Rd.,
Markham, Ont., L3P 1M3
Email: letters@econsun.com

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Premier Eves' stand on gay marriages disturbing, gutless

Open letter to Premier Ernie Eves and Markham MPP Dave Tsubouchi.

We are writing to you as concerned citizens, Ontario voters and Ontario Progressive Conservative Party members about the disturbing and gutless position taken by the provincial government regarding the bizarre lower court decision of July 12 ordering a change in the definition of marriage.

Given that the majority of marriage ceremonies are performed in churches and other religious institutions, religious freedoms are under threat if this decision is left to stand.

The ruling also defies the will of the federal Parliament as most recently expressed in two all-party motions that define marriage as "between a man and a woman to the exclusions of all other kinds of relationships".

Given that the principles of the Ontario PC Party include, "(a) We believe in...the rule of law" and "(f) We believe in the values of the family..." we find it difficult to understand your position that marriage as it is currently defined is not worth preserving or defending.

Furthermore, your decision for the province not to appeal the ruling demonstrates your willingness to allow for judge-made law.

RICHARD & JUDI VAN SETERS
UNIONVILLE

New developments will leave Stouffville gasping for water

Is everyone happy?

Despite the rain earlier this week, we have water restrictions that, in effect, ban all watering, including lawns, washing automobiles etc. Meanwhile, Whitchurch-Stouffville council is dealing with a proposal to approve 921 residences. The total number of dwellings proposed in the seven developments currently before council is 5,036.

Stouffville residents will be in a 10-year-plus dustbowl if these development proposals receive approval. Make no mistake, you will be adversely affected.

I seriously question if the mayor and council have the mandate of the voters to proceed in making a decision for or against these proposals. The mayor has indicated this could be his last term.

If you care about the future of Whitchurch-Stouffville, then attend council meetings and voice your concerns. If you are not there, it could be considered a vote of confidence for council to proceed with approvals.

If there is no massive support for the concerns raised by the few objectors, then the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville will get the town they deserve. Two hundred concerned residents out of a population of 20,000 is insufficient.

JOHN PANDER
STOUFFVILLE

TELEPHONE
(905) 294-2200 / (416) 798-7624
FAX: (905) 294-1538
EMAIL: newsroom@econsun.com



Dave Teetzel

Agency takes teenagers off streets and into auto shop

This week, our attention is rightly focused on the thousands of enthusiastic, spirit-filled teens lining the streets of Toronto.

But what about the youth in our own streets? The ones who are homeless, beaten down, on drugs and unsure of how to get themselves out of their predicament — even if they want to.

A three-month study in winter 1999 found 500 homeless people in York Region. About 25 per cent were younger than 15, more than half were under 25.

The problem is most visible in downtown Newmarket, where kids have been known to crash on rooftops and in wooded areas at night and hang out on Main Street during the day.

But it's also on Main Street that an initiative is under way to turn the troubled kids of today into the purposeful world-changers of tomorrow.

Youth Unlimited is an international agency that serves high-risk youth and its York Region director, Steve Klassen, has been working in Newmarket for about three years.

Staying on the streets too long can only lead one place. One youth said of his 20 friends from the street, all but two are now "totally sketched" — which means their brains are noticeably damaged by drugs.

In many cases, what's keeping these kids down is a lack of life skills. They are unemployable, largely because they have no idea of what it takes to function in a work environment.

Reasoning the only way kids will learn how to hold a job is by working, Youth Unlimited is developing an auto recycling company. It will take donated junker cars, fix and clean them up and send them to auction houses.

The teenagers who work there can earn money, learn a little about auto mechanics and a lot about basic skills vital to holding a job.

But Youth Unlimited is not primarily a vocational guidance program, it is a Christian mission. "The most important part is the heart of the teen," Mr. Klassen says, "to turn them back to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Many people might be uncomfortable with a workplace that evangelizes young people.

I believe, as Youth Unlimited does, that turning around a messed-up life takes a miracle, literally.

If you believe this program is what York Region's troubled teenagers need to get back on track, there are plenty of ways to help out.

They need a location, they need cars and, of course, they could use money.

Most importantly, they need people willing to get involved in the lives of young people. "You need a heartbeat that cares," Mr. Klassen says.

You can reach Youth Unlimited at 1-905-252-3262.

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888



Canadian Circulations
Audit Board Member



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/Penitangishene 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.

Phone: (905) 640-2612
Fax: (905) 294-1538

Classified:
1-800-743-3353

Distribution
(905) 294-8244

distribution@econsun.com