

## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1856  
A Metroland community newspaper  
9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ont. L3P 1M3

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

#### What could possibly be tiring out York public board teachers?

An article in the Toronto Star last week quoted York Region District School Board chairperson Bill Crothers as saying, "I think we are providing a good education for our students, but our teachers are very tired."

What, you may ask, is making our teachers very tired? They are not down a mine shaft or working from morning until night on a farm.

In fact, they are not engaged in any manual labour.

Are the 12 weeks at the cottage every summer too much for some of them?

Could the tiredness be the result of spending the \$7 billion that will go into paying their salaries this year?

I trust Roy Romanow's travelling health care commission has been made aware of this serious problem affecting public board teachers in York Region.

J. SHAW  
MARKHAM

#### Radio talk show hosts shouldn't ask drivers to use cell phones

Radio talk shows bluntly, inconsiderately and dangerously "advise and suggest" driving listeners use their cellular phones to participate in talk shows or "inform the public" about traffic conditions.

This is an open and brutal disregard of public safety.

Driving and talking on a cellular phone are a very dangerous mix.

Certain groups would probably claim the statistics are not conclusive concerning the above statement.

However, every driver knows the driving pattern of a cellular phone user becomes irregular and hinders the flow of traffic.

For every traffic mishap and fatal accident, society pays the bill.

Let's be responsible and stand tall in protecting society.

Let's call the representatives of our ridings (councillors, MPPs, MPs) and ask them to do two things.

First, stop radio announcers encouraging drivers to participate in talk shows by using their cellular phones.

Second, ask the phone companies to insert a message that would be first heard by both the caller and receiver of a cellular phone call.

The message could say, "If you drive, please do not use your cellular phone. It is dangerous to public safety."

ANASTASIOS A. BAXEVANIDIS  
RICHMOND HILL

### LETTERS POLICY

The Markham Economist & Sun welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Economist & Sun reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

Letters to the Editor,  
The Economist & Sun  
9 Heritage Rd.  
Markham, ON  
L3P 1M3  
Email: letters@econsun.com

# OPINION

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**Debra Kelly**  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
**Robert Lazurko**  
DIRECTOR, MARKETING  
& NEW PRODUCT  
DEVELOPMENT  
**Brenda Larson**

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR,  
RETAIL & FLYER SALES  
**Nicole Mathieu**  
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR,  
CLASSIFIED, REAL ESTATE  
& EVENTS MANAGEMENT  
**Gord Paolucci**



#### Thanks to Markham Jazz Festival organizers, crowds for support

I had the opportunity to perform at the Markham Jazz Festival Aug. 18 for a very supportive and encouraging audience.

I was recognized as the youngest performer and was awarded the Mitch Mitchell award, which I will always treasure.

I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to every member of the Markham Jazz Festival organizing committee and the Town of Markham.

I enjoyed myself tremendously and it will remain a memorable day.

It was a great festival and I was certainly lucky to be a part of it and part of this community.

RAJINI RETNASOTHIE  
MARKHAM

#### Homosexual partners can't become parents without cheating

Please keep the definition of marriage as the union between male and female.

Two homosexual men can never produce a child and become fathers without breaking down their own union and having a relationship with a female.

Two lesbians can never produce a child and become mothers without breaking

down their own union and having a relationship with a male.

Mother and father make the true meaning of marriage and keep the true meaning of family life.

A traditional marriage includes a male and female, husband and wife, father and mother with children, son-in-law or daughter-in-law and grandfather and grandmother with grandchildren.

My wife and I have been married for 50 years with all the above blessings.

The only way a homosexual or lesbian couple can produce children is by having an unfaithful relationship with someone of the opposite sex.

Let us, as a country, uphold the traditional meaning of marriage — male and female, father and mother.

G.H. COLLETT  
RICHMOND HILL

#### York Region taxpayers should ask for water ban refund

I'm a bit new and, perhaps, naive to York Region's great water debate.

However, having read some opinions and proposals from readers, one central theme seems to have been missed — politicians.

It seems to me, as taxpayers in our community, we have entered into an agreement

with our municipality to pay taxes in exchange for services we require to live comfortably.

This is a basic concept: money in exchange for services.

Somehow though, in this complex discussion regarding our water supply, this basic concept seems to have been forgotten.

Politicians, those entrusted with our municipal tax dollars, have failed to provide us with a basic requirement for living comfortably: water.

The reasons for this may be complex; runaway development, poor urban planning, infrastructure problems (all of which, by the way, are responsibilities of elected politicians).

So let's ask for some of our tax dollars back to compensate us for the increased costs of buying bottled water, repairing damaged gardens, etc.

Put simply, politicians aren't giving us what we've been paying for, so let's ask for some of our money back.

I'll bet that would get their attention and solve this problem in no time.

PAUL CANTARUTTI  
AURORA

#### Recycling household water a good way to help environment

We know the value of trees, shrubs, flowering bushes and plants. They shade our homes, provide us with oxygen and lessen the amount of grass we have to maintain.

Not being able to count on rain — and not being able to water these investments — is discouraging.

But there is another way to collect water: recycle it.

Keep a big, clean plastic garbage can by the back door. This is where you will collect your water.

Now put a plastic basin in your sink and every time you rinse vegetables, a dishcloth, a pot or your hands, collect water in the basin.

Half-full cups of tea and the water from cooked pasta and vegetables can also be saved.

When the basin is full, transfer it into your water pail outside.

Wash dishes by hand, using less soap. All the dish water goes into your big pail, too.

Keep a bucket beside the shower and as you adjust the water temperature, etc., collect it.

Now try and collect the shower water, too. Multiply this by all the households in York Region and it is not surprising we keep running out of water.

Re-using water you've already used once is a good way to keep your plants alive during these hot, dry days.

I figure a little soap and a few food flakes won't kill them — and, so far, it hasn't.

J.B. O'REILLY  
NEWMARKET

<p><b>EDITORIAL</b> Editor <b>Jim Mason</b> newsroom@econsun.com</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING</b> Retail Sales Manager <b>Steve Kane</b> stevek@theliberator.com</p> <p>Sales Manager, New Business Development &amp; Distribution <b>Dawna Andrews</b> dandrews@erabanner.com</p> <p>Classified Manager <b>Ann Campbell</b> annc@erabanner.com</p>	<p>Real Estate Manager <b>Mike Rogerson</b></p> <p><b>PRODUCTION</b> Electronic Communications Manager <b>John Futhey</b> jfuthey@yrmg.com</p> <p><b>DISTRIBUTION</b> Distribution Manager <b>Barry Black</b> bblack@erabanner.com</p> <p><b>ADMINISTRATION</b> Office Manager <b>Vivian O'Neil</b> voneil@econsun.com</p>	<p>York Region Events specials@yrmg.com</p> <p>Managing Director <b>Debra Weller</b> debrau@econsun.com</p> <p>Shows Manager <b>Stacey Allen</b> stacey@econsun.com</p> <p>York Region Printing General Manager <b>Bob Dean</b> bdean@yrmg.com</p>	<p><b>EDITORIAL</b> 905-294-2200 / Fax: 294-1538</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING</b> 294-2200 / Classified: 1-800- 743-3353 / Fax: 853-4626</p> <p><b>DISTRIBUTION</b> 905-294-8244</p>	<p><b>Stouffville Tribune</b> A York Region Newspaper Group community newspaper</p> <p>The Stouffville Tribune, published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, is a member of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Metroland is comprised of 70 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Newspaper Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Vaughan Citizen, Markham Economist &amp; Sun, Stouffville Tribune, Stouffville Sun, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, At Home, Good Life, yorkregion.com and York Region Printing.</p>
--	--	--	---	---