

Stouffville Tribune

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PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Prayer goes out to family of car accident victim

Re: Collision in Newmarket kills Stouffville woman, 23, Sept. 21.

This is an open letter to the family and friends of fatal accident victim Erika Haelele.

As I waited for the light to change the other morning, I offered up a prayer. I looked at a beautiful wreath (placed on Mulock Drive where Ms Haelele died) and realized I cannot imagine the grief and sorrow that is now yours.

Please know someone you have never met has you in thought and prayer throughout this tragic ordeal. May you find comfort in your personal memories and know Erika will live forever in the memories of everyone who knew her.

R.A. MORRICE
NEWMARKET

Speed humps welcomed in Markham neighbourhood

Re: Speed humps no fun if you're having a baby, Joan Ransberry, Sept. 19.

I beg to differ with Joan Ransberry over her argument relating childbirth timing to speed humps.

With all the debates going on about the inconveniences of speed humps, let's not forget one thing — the people who live on these streets have voted for them.

I live on one of the streets slated for speed hump installation and, personally, I can't wait. The speed limit here is a joke.

Try following it and you'll likely be honked at by some irate driver, ready to floor his gas pedal so he can swerve around you.

Back out of a driveway and a car from nowhere arrives on your tail. Young children and elderly folks who live on this street are always at a danger of being run over by these reckless drivers.

Speeders, like babies, also have their own agendas. They, too, are simply in a hurry... a great hurry to get somewhere.

A couple of speed humps should deter their zeal and remind them to slow down.

For people who don't like going over speed humps, the solution is simple: Get onto a main road that supports a higher speed limit.

Now, instead of wishing for Whitchurch-Stouffville Councillor Steve Pliakes to have a baby, Joan should pretend that she lives on my street.

Then the issue of why speed humps are necessary might become clearer.

MAY YEUNG
MARKHAM

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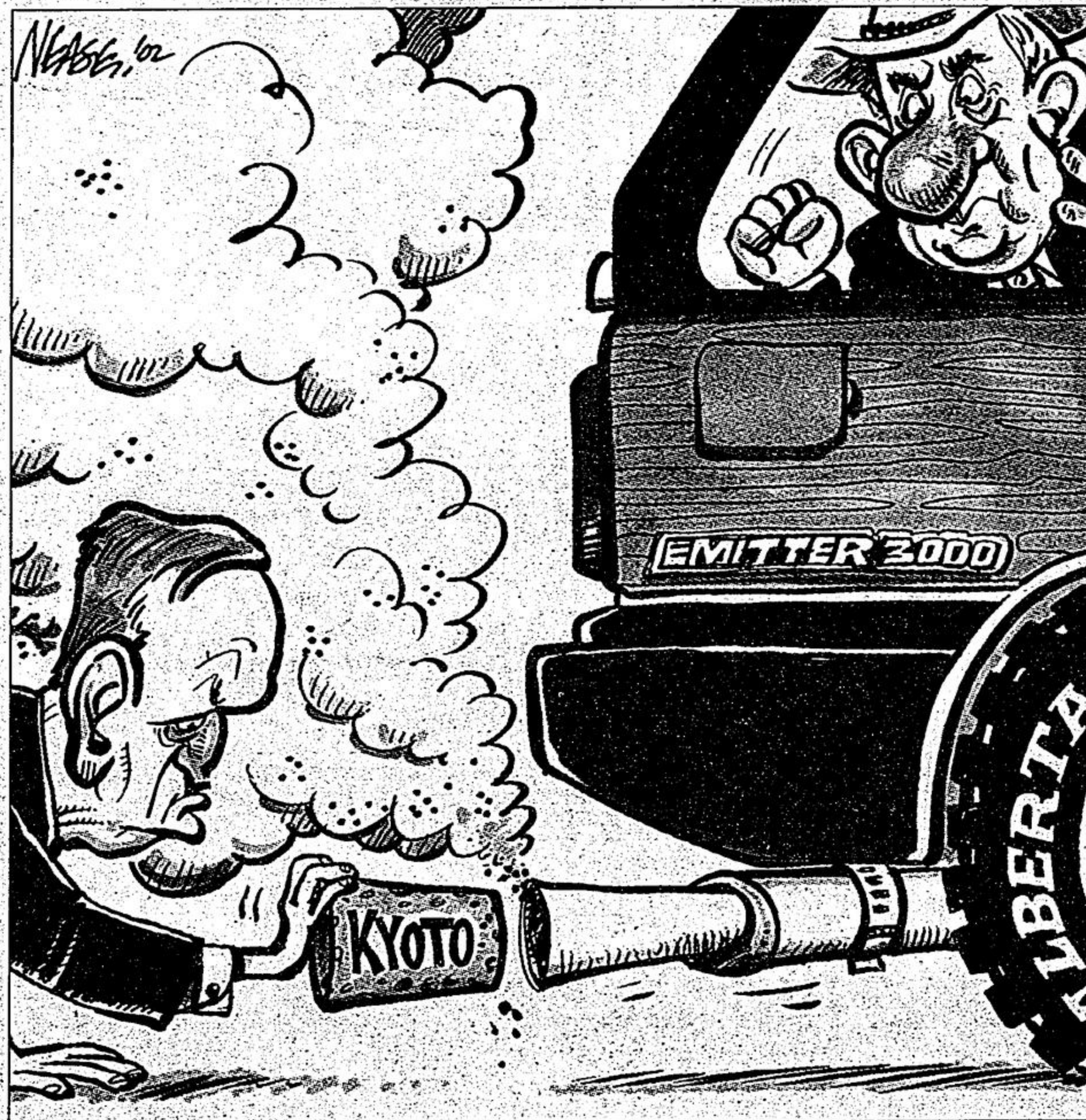
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GST hike naive thinking by hospital president

Re: Hike GST to pay for health care: MacLean, Sept. 19.

Markham Stouffville Hospital president Dr. Jim MacLean believes the trial balloon sent out by the Liberals to raise the GST to 10 per cent is one option that should be considered to support soaring health-care costs.

I can't believe someone in his position is that naive to think this band of clowns in Ottawa would use this extra tax money to support only health care.

Are we that short-sighted we forgot the GST was originally brought in by another group of clowns, the Mulroney ones, to pay off the deficit and then followed by this troupe that was to do away with it altogether?

The deficit is paid off and we still have the tax.

The government would not have to raise any taxes to straighten out health-care costs if it only spent our money more diligently and stopped the waste.

A few examples of this approach would be to reduce the federal government, stop foreign aid to such countries as North Korea (third largest army in the world), get rid of government ministers who lose billions of dollars (Human Resources Minister Jane

Stewart), stop multiculturalism and automatically fire any government official who mishandles funds.

JOHN KING
NEWMARKET

MPP Klees shot his mouth off over health funding

Re: Do more with less, York Region officials told, Sept. 21.

I have to take issue with the statement "do more with less" from Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees.

I could not find any suggestion in this article on how he would get York Region to do more with less.

How could Mr. Klees get more mileage out of his car with less gas? Or how could he obtain more groceries with less money?

Maybe Mr. Klees could be appointed as supervisor of the York Region health funds, as the government has done with a couple of school boards and then he can show us how to do more with less.

After a while, I'm sure he will be the one screaming for a level playing field for the funding of York Region.

Sorry, Mr. Klees, I think you shot off your mouth with this statement.

TOM VAN DEN ELSHOUT
AURORA

Street snobs wouldn't welcome Habitat for Humanity neighbours

I live on Jasper Drive in Aurora and would be quite willing to have a Habitat for Humanity home in my neighbourhood. However, I don't think the town owns a lot near us.

What a bunch of snobs who live on Murray Drive.

These residents are worried about losing a parkette while a needy family doesn't get a home.

Sounds like a classic case of not in my back yard.

I say to the town, don't put the house there. It sounds like people in the neighbourhood would not welcome new residents.

Choose an area where people are more interested in helping and welcoming others regardless of background or financial circumstances.

Compassionate Canadians, eh? Perhaps they're a dying breed.

JENNIFER COMPTON-DUTHIE
AURORA

Police safety program will save lives in York Region

Re: Photograph, 'Gotcha,' Sept. 14.

York Regional Police is enforcing the Save-a-Life program. This issue is important to me because I go to Markville Secondary School, where the photograph of the motorist who was speeding was taken by the newspaper photographer.

I think it's a good idea to let people know when they are speeding and then to give them a ticket for it. This way they will try not to do it again and, hopefully, a life will be saved.

These days, a lot of deaths happen in car crashes. The police campaign will hopefully reduce the number of accidents.

I don't think anyone would disagree with me when I say we should save as many lives as possible and if the drivers who do speed are reading this, please help the program by driving slowly and carefully around York Region.

As citizens of Canada, we have a right to drive, but our responsibility is to drive safely and obey the traffic laws.

If you want to help us save lives, you should make sure you are driving at the speed limit.

I think the Save-a-Life program is a great solution to the problem of accidents.

Because of the Save-a-Life program, there were 866 charges laid in 34 York Region school zones.

Therefore, if the police keep having more programs like this one, I know the drivers will be much more careful about their speeding.

SHIVALI SIKKA
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