

Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

LETTERS
to the
EDITORFuture NHLers on York Region's
junior hockey teamsRe: Junior hockey teams need support,
Sept. 12.

In response to the editorial about York Region not having support for their junior hockey teams, I must say I agree. Having followed the Markham Waxers for the past three seasons-plus, it's sad to see that barn with all those empty seats.

It is important for people to support the teams within their community. Mentioned in the editorial was the fact many of the players are local kids — these are your neighbours' kids out there.

I agree it's good hockey. It is. Junior A is good hockey because the level of play is high and also because these kids have the potential to go somewhere. Who wouldn't want to claim having seen a future NHL star play at the junior level?

Community support for things such as this is important and it seems having an active role in the community is becoming a value of the past. I think everyone in York Region who calls himself a hockey fan should get out to the barn this season, even if it's only once.

Vaughan plays Monday nights, Newmarket plays Thursday nights, as does Stouffville, which also plays tonight. Markham plays Friday nights and Thornhill plays Saturdays.

So, go around the corner to the rink and pay your eight bucks. You'll see what you've been missing.

LAURA NELES
MARKHAMWhy go to university
with shelters available?

Recently, I attended the university fair at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre to explore post-secondary options. As an honour student, I intend on graduating from high school and going to university so I can get a good job when I finish.

After hearing the squatters in Tent City were evicted from the private property and looking to sue the Home Depot, I became outraged.

Now going to university seems pointless. I should just leave home and squat on land that doesn't belong to me.

When I get kicked out, I'll become litigious and file a lawsuit of \$2.75 million against its rightful owner.

Perhaps I will go to a shelter (for which taxpayers shell out \$50 a head) and get free food, shelter and yes, alcohol.

To make matters worse, I am sick and tired of have these bleeding heart left wing socialists complaining the city should build houses for the homeless at the expense of the citizens

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.

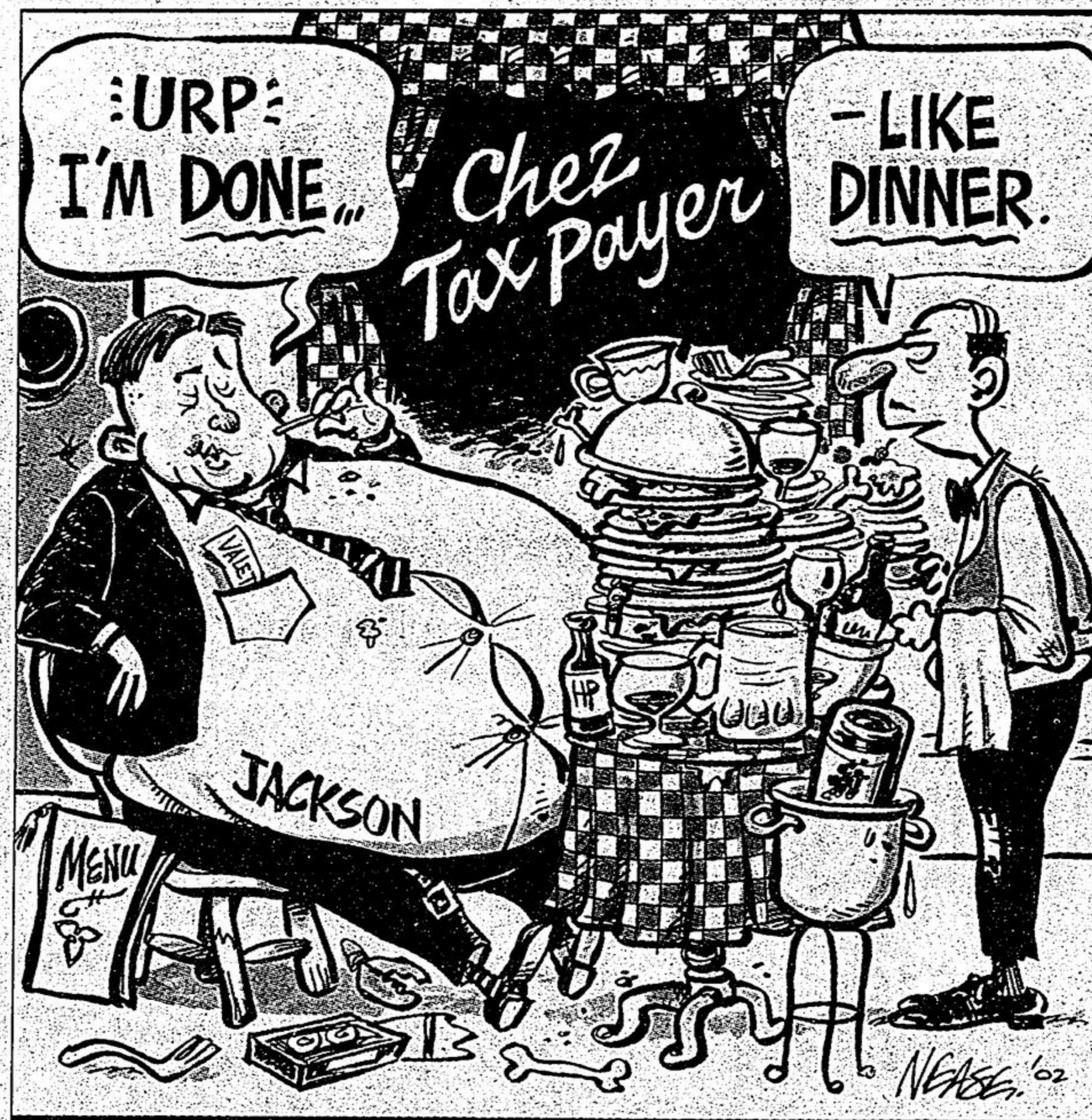
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OPINION

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of Ontario.

It is not the government's responsibility to house the homeless.

My advice to them: Get off your lazy butt, go out and find a job. There is plenty of work out there for people willing to look.

This all seems so good, I think I'll just drop out of school and live at the expense of the city.

Sign me up!

JEFF SCHWALM
MARKHAMFirst local Superwalk
helps those with Parkinson's

The Town of Markham declared Sept. 29 Parkinson's Awareness Day. More than 150 walkers participated in the first annual Markham-Stouffville Superwalk for Parkinson's and raised more than \$22,000 for research.

Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville's contributions, combined with funds raised in many communities across Canada last Sunday, will be directed toward research to ease the burden and find a cure for Parkinson's.

These funds will benefit the more than 100,000 Canadians who suffer from this devastating condition. In particular, your generous support has given hope and encourage-

ment to those living with Parkinson's in Markham. We thank you.

We hope to see you at the second annual Markham-Stouffville Superwalk for Parkinson's in September 2003.

JUDY HAZLETT
MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE SUPERWALK FOR
PARKINSON'S COMMITTEERegion's Save a Life program
isn't working, chiefRe: Traffic deaths double in York Region
Sept. 28.

I was shocked that York Regional Police Chief Robert Middaugh was not willing to admit his Save a Life program was not working.

This program was meant to reduce the rate of fatal car accidents.

This year, there have been 31 fatal accidents and 38 people have died.

Last year at this same time, there were 17 fatal accidents and 18 people killed.

Clearly, Chief Middaugh's program is failing and he is not willing to do anything about it.

Julian Fantino, Toronto's chief of police, is trying to cut back on fatal accidents by having a more comprehensive enforcement approach.

To me, this sounds like a good way to help

stop fatal accidents.

Sgt. Peter Orlovski said, "The motoring public now is more aggressive, less polite." He also stated "There's a loss of civility. It's ridiculous. They're speeding, discourteous, and not wearing seat-belts."

If this is all true, then Mr. Fantino's strategy sounds like a good option.

For example, if there are more officers around, then the speeding, the people not wearing seat-belts and aggressive drivers will get pulled over.

In turn, this will make the drivers use more caution and drive safer, which prevents accidents.

If Mr. Fantino's idea does not prevent fatal accidents, I believe it would not be a flaw in his strategy, I believe it would be a problem with police.

The police may not be pulling enough people over or when drivers see police, they drive cautiously and obey the laws. But as soon as the police drive away, the driver continues in a reckless manner.

There is only one solution I can think of, and it is to have police in unmarked cars that will pull people over.

Chief Middaugh says his traffic strategy is being refined, but I don't think his actions are the best to keep drivers safe.

ERIC LINDSAY
MARKHAMColumnist 'high and mighty'
over barroom smokingRe: Smokers hitting wrong notes, Joan
Ransberry column, Sept. 26

How dare Joan Ransberry think she has the right to try and destroy a business owned by a young family just trying to make an honest living is beyond my comprehension.

And do note: they are not breaking the law, this is not a smoke-free town.

I am a server in another establishment in Stouffville that wasn't mentioned in this scathing column and am here to tell you my sales have dropped 40 per cent since we changed over to non-smoking.

Gone are the people who would come in two or three times a week, have a cocktail, order some appetizers, move on to dinner and perhaps some dessert.

I may not have Ms Ransberry's trained eye, but they don't appear to be sick alcoholics and I'll admit I wasn't counting, but I'd swear they didn't smoke 60 cigarettes.

I have no grudge against the non-smoker who would like a nice place to sit and have a meal or a drink smoke-free, however, I do take issue with this high and mighty attitude of Ms Ransberry's and anyone like her.

A lot of people like me are so totally fed up listening to zealots like Ms Ransberry who go way over the line.

If her wish was to cause a stir, then, indeed, she has done so.

C.J. LILLEY
STOUFFVILLE

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