

## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

A Metroland community newspaper  
9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ont. L3P 1M3

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

### LETTERS to the EDITOR

#### Right wing politicians unfairly criticized over character issues

After reading the Ann Coulter's bestselling book "Slander, Liberal Lies About the American Right," I think the same situation exists here in Canada, only more so, because here we have the New Democratic Party socialists along with the Liberals, and their unwillingness to engage in any honest debate.

The theme I am writing about is the absence of "character" in Canadian politics, especially from the top down. This is the same character Markham Mayor Don Cousens is encouraging York Region residents to exercise in their everyday activities.

If you mentioned immigration at a federal political meeting and your views don't fit in, you're labeled a racist.

Reform Party founder Preston Manning is a man of great character as anyone who ever worked with him will testify. This is the man Heritage Minister Sheila Copps compared to former Ku Klux Klan member David Duke.

As the old saying goes, if you throw enough mud at someone or his party, some of it will stick. It seems to work with the Liberals and the liberal media.

Two years ago our immigration minister compared Canadian Alliance supporters to Holocaust deniers. Now the same thing is taking shape in Quebec provincial politics.

Liberal party leader Jean Charest, the former federal Conservative, is attacking Action Democratique party leader Mario Dumont because he doesn't want to be drawn into the old sovereignty debate and also his interest in closer ties to Canada. How does he do it? By the old Liberal trick of attacking his character.

What I find so fascinating is Mr. Dumont's road to economic prosperity is so close to the Canadian Alliance platform.

BUD O'CONNOR  
UNIONVILLE

#### Bullying expert's Markham visit a big financial boost to library

On Sept. 23, author and parenting expert Barbara Coloroso inspired more than 1,100 people from Markham and the Greater Toronto Area with a presentation on her latest bestseller, *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*. Heartfelt thanks to Ms Coloroso for donating her time and Harper Collins Canada for co-sponsoring this fundraiser.

The library raised more than \$13,000, which staff will use to purchase library materials.

Thanks to all the library staff and volunteers who make our library a world of information and inspiration.

JOHN VERNON  
CHAIRPERSON, MARKHAM  
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

#### LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters to the Editor,  
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# OPINION

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#### Thanksgiving food bank campaign had its flaws

It is with grateful hearts that the executive of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank thanks the community for its response in donations to the local food bank.

The generosity of the people in this town is always overwhelming. The donations come regularly throughout the entire year and we really have no need to "beg" of you to give.

We are always sad, however, when things are printed in the local papers from higher powers that don't really know this community.

This year we became part of the Thanksgiving food drive of which we did not wish to be, and which we had asked not to be involved in. The Ontario Food Bank Association, along with the Grocery Industry Foundation, planned and executed the entire campaign.

The part that disturbs us most were the coupons in stores asking you to add \$2 to your grocery bill for the local food bank. What they neglect to say was the money was returned by the stores to the Grocery Industry Foundation, then passed on to the Ontario Association of Food Banks.

This association deducted 10 per cent from each donation to cover the cost of administration of the food drive and another five per cent for the regional hub food banks helping to co-ordinate things in the regions.

Eighty-five cents of each dollar was returned to the local food bank.

We are deeply disturbed over such campaigns, especially those for which we have no control. Whitchurch-Stouffville has been extremely supportive for the past 12 years and the food bank has been a blessing to many families in need.

If you wish to give cash, it is best to send your donation directly to us. We have no administrative costs. Send to: The Treasurer, Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank, P.O. Box 343, Stouffville, ON, L4A 7Z6.

ESTHER POWELL  
CO-ORDINATOR  
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE FOOD BANK

#### University education opens the mind to complexity of life

*Re: Why go to university when shelters available? Letter to the editor by Jeff Schwalm, Oct. 6.*

I might suggest Mr. Schwalm simply skip university and head into Alberta politics. I'm not sure how a high school student from Markham who so ignorantly refers to social policy advocates as "bleeding heart left wing socialists" can expect to be taken seriously.

A university education would obviously be of great benefit to this student, but leaving the affluence of Markham and seeing poverty first-hand is a good start.

I grew up in the comfortable confines of Georgina (in northern York Region) and trust me, there's a lot more out there in the world than what you know from your limited life experience.

Go to university and expand your mind—free yourself from this reductionist thinking.

MICHAEL BILLINGER  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

#### Stouffville mayor's town hall renovation estimate is correct

*Re: Why is renovation bill so high? Letter to the editor by Pam Mandich, Oct. 17.*

In response to Ms Mandich's letter questioning the estimated costs involved to restore Stouffville's Old Town Hall, the mayor's estimate of \$1.2 million is a reality, not a figure thrown out by an uninformed source.

For the record—and these figures are available to anyone who took the time or bothered to investigate—the estimated costs associated with our original proposal to restore the building were indeed \$770,000 excluding taxes.

This was based on our analysis of the work which would be required and subsequently confirmed through estimates obtained from a general contracting firm quite familiar with heritage restoration work.

This estimate did not include any interior main floor renovations which would have been done through lease hold improvements. It did not include an elevator to the second floor, since the second floor would have operated independently, and it did not include any design, engineering, and project management fees which we were planning on absorbing through our company.

Further, the estimates were based on a private firm doing the restoration which would have permitted us to shop for the best possible prices for the various phases of the project and use local contractors.

It should also be noted the cost estimates obtained by the previously involved theatre group were very close to our figures.

During our discussions with the Town during the summer wherein it would retain possession of the main floor, it was determined the cost associated with the main floor interior renovations, and 50 per cent of the design, engineering and project management fees would be approximately \$205,000.

This figure is based again on our analysis as well as information obtained from a general contractor. This brought the total to \$975,000.

Adding an elevator to the equation at approximately \$40,000 brought the total to \$1,015,000. Add taxes of \$152,250 onto that figure and the total is \$1,167,250.

As far as I can tell, Mayor Emmerson has acted in a morally and fiscally responsible manner by providing the taxpayers of this community with these facts.

BRUCE ARROWSMITH  
ARROWSMITH & ASSOCIATES

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