

## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1888

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

LETTERS  
to the  
EDITORRansberry column insult  
to Stouffville pub and patrons

Re: *Smokers hitting wrong notes, a column by Joan Ransberry, Sept. 26.*

"The music is better than good," Ms Ransberry wrote about the entertainment at Stouffville's The Earl of Whitchurch pub.

Very untrue. Our music is great. Unfortunately, it's not jazz hosted by Pierre (as she wrote in her column), but uncut acoustic magic.

Everyone is always happy, enjoying fine food, good friends and great music. As owner/operator of the pub, I always insist upon this.

How dare Lady Ransberry insult me, our staff, but, most of all, the great people who frequent my establishment.

Get the facts straight, Joan. Smoking is a tobacco regulation issue; accept that Stouffville is not a smoke-free town.

Have you any idea how hard it is to explain to single people, couples and families where they can and can't sit and smoke? Or that their children are not permitted in the restaurant because of regional regulations?

Two things I'd like, Joan:

- A public apology to my staff, me and the many, many people you hurt and insulted.

- You to come and run my establishment sometime and try to regulate where people can smoke and sit.

Better yet, cry me a river, Joanie.

STEVE FITZPATRICK  
THE EARL OF WHITCHURCH PUB

Flower display on Stouffville  
Main Street spectacular success

The floral display on Main Street, Stouffville this year has been spectacular. From the pansies in spring, impatiens in summer and mums and kale in autumn, the colour and beauty have been awesome.

A collective thank you to the BIA for its contribution and a special thanks to Peter and Bruni Neilson for the beautiful, healthy and sturdy plants they provided.

From the planters to the rail baskets, we have enjoyed the changing seasons with vibrant variety as never before.

MARION WELLS  
MARKHAM

Time for Canada to let go of  
monarchy, stand on our own

Re: *Canadian soldiers fought for freedom, not preserving monarchy, letter to the editor by James P.B. Kelly, Oct. 31.*

Mr. Kelly couldn't have said it better. With

## OPINION



cute a guy.

In January 2001, hydro charged me 7 cents per kw-h. It was down to 5 cents this June, then pumped up to 8 cents last month. Not bad increase, eh? Sixty-six per cent in three months.

But the service charges were \$22.38 in January 2001, \$37.37 this January and an electrifying \$152 on this bill (680 per cent).

Well, I think the provincial Conservatives must have been stung by the same mosquitoes that caused the federal Liberals to lose their sanity. Both governments are committing suicide.

Who in their right mind would vote for people who cause prices to rise 680 per cent? Who, in their right mind, would vote for people who redirect our tax payments into their friends' bank accounts?

And locally, who would vote for people who would allow armed criminals to construct a fortress in their neighbourhood?

Well, I dunno 'bout you, but when de uder guy sticks his stick between my legs, I take 'im outa da game but quick.

Duh ... I'm Jim from Richmunhill.

JIM REID  
RICHMOND HILL

Not enough pools in Markham  
for swimming programs

Re: *Too many services in short supply, letter to the editor by Ken Kahn, Nov. 2.*

I have to agree with Mr. Kahn that, despite the many positive aspects of our community, there is a significant shortage of swimming pools.

This past year I attempted to register my children for lessons through Markham parks and recreation.

I wanted to register them for the specialized H30 program, since I find they do not progress in larger classes.

However, despite having sent my registration in the first day they are accepted, I could not get them in.

When they were young, I had my children in a local private swim school, Margaret Legear Aquatics, and we were very happy with their progress.

However, due to the lack of availability of pools, Margaret only takes children up to a certain level.

We are now with a Richmond Hill swim school, Aqua Kids, and although the instruction is very good, the pool is not really appropriate.

At one point, I had sent a letter to the Town of Markham suggesting it build a public indoor pool in Unionville on two vacant lots at the southwest corner of Carlton and Main Street, beside Crosby Arena.

However, I was informed there are enough pools in our area. If the town is not going to take advantage of this perfect location, perhaps some private fitness club will. I'm sure Aqua Kids would rent the pool out.

TAMMY MORRELL-BELLAI  
UNIONVILLE

all due respect to the monarchy, it should push us out of the nest and let us fly on our own.

Canada is more than 125 years old and as Finance Minister John Manley suggested, we should be standing on our own two feet. We will make mistakes, just as England did and still does.

We are entering "adulthood" and have many intelligent people who — given the chance — could take us into the future.

We could still honour advice from the monarchy: My parents were English. My dad and four brothers were in the armed services, which fought for our freedom. It's time we enjoy it.

MARJORIE McCLEMENTS  
MARKHAM

Thanks to all at hospital for help  
with bicycle accident injuries

I would like to thank the staff of the emergency department and all the people at Markham Stouffville Hospital involved in treating my husband's injuries sustained in a bicycle accident caused by an unleashed dog Sunday morning.

Everyone was efficient and professional and made the experience far better than we were expecting.

They obviously maximize their limited

funds and we certainly appreciated their efforts on his behalf.

G. CHRISTOFFER  
MARKHAM

Call Queen's Park to complain  
about energy price gouging

The ridiculously high hydro charges are outrageous.

I have just gone online to protest directly to Premier Ernie Eves and Energy Minister John Baird.

I urge everyone who is equally outraged to visit [www.publicpower.ca](http://www.publicpower.ca) to send their protest.

Perhaps enough public protest will force Queen's Park to restore affordable hydro to us.

After all, we can't all move to another province to accomplish this.

CATHY DYMOND  
NEWMARKET

Hydro bill increases political  
suicide for Queen's Park

Duh...I'm Jim from Richmunhill. I heard from da boys dat 'lectric bill gave dem a jolt, so I didn't open mine till today.

Whoee. Hydro sure knows how to 'lectro-

## 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.

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