

Stouffville Tribune

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A Metroland community newspaper
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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Speed humps not right solution

Re: Traffic study, speed hump petition launched after Raymerville fatality, Nov. 9.

Many residents of Raymerville Drive in Markham believe speeding may have been a factor in the traffic death of Jorge Martinez. Motorists frequently exceed the street's posted speed limit of 40 km/h.

The possibilities of adding more stop signs or speed bumps have been brought up as possible remedies. However, if more speed bumps or stop signs are added to Raymerville won't the problem simply be transplanted to other neighbourhood streets? If so, will we have to build speed bumps on every single residential road?

The problem stems not from the road itself, but from the drivers. An overwhelming number of motorists in the Greater Toronto Area drive with little regard for traffic laws or common courtesy. I think it is a sad statement we need to resort to using speed bumps to prevent motorists from racing along residential streets.

Therefore, I urge drivers reading this to obey speed limits on residential streets and drive with more caution and courtesy. A respected and talented student had his life ended far too early on our own roads.

BEN KONG
MARKHAM

Slow down, protect pedestrians

Re: Markham student hit by car, dies in parent's arms, Nov. 5.

This is a message to all the drivers out there in our neighbourhoods. The speed limit on most residential roads is 40 km/h. So please, slow down.

A good kid was hit on the road Friday, Nov. 1 and he died the next day. Why? He was just minutes from home.

It's just not right. He was only 14.

His name was Jorge Luis Martinez Jr. He was a good, happy, smart kid who loved to play soccer and listen to rock music. We won't see him anymore. Why?

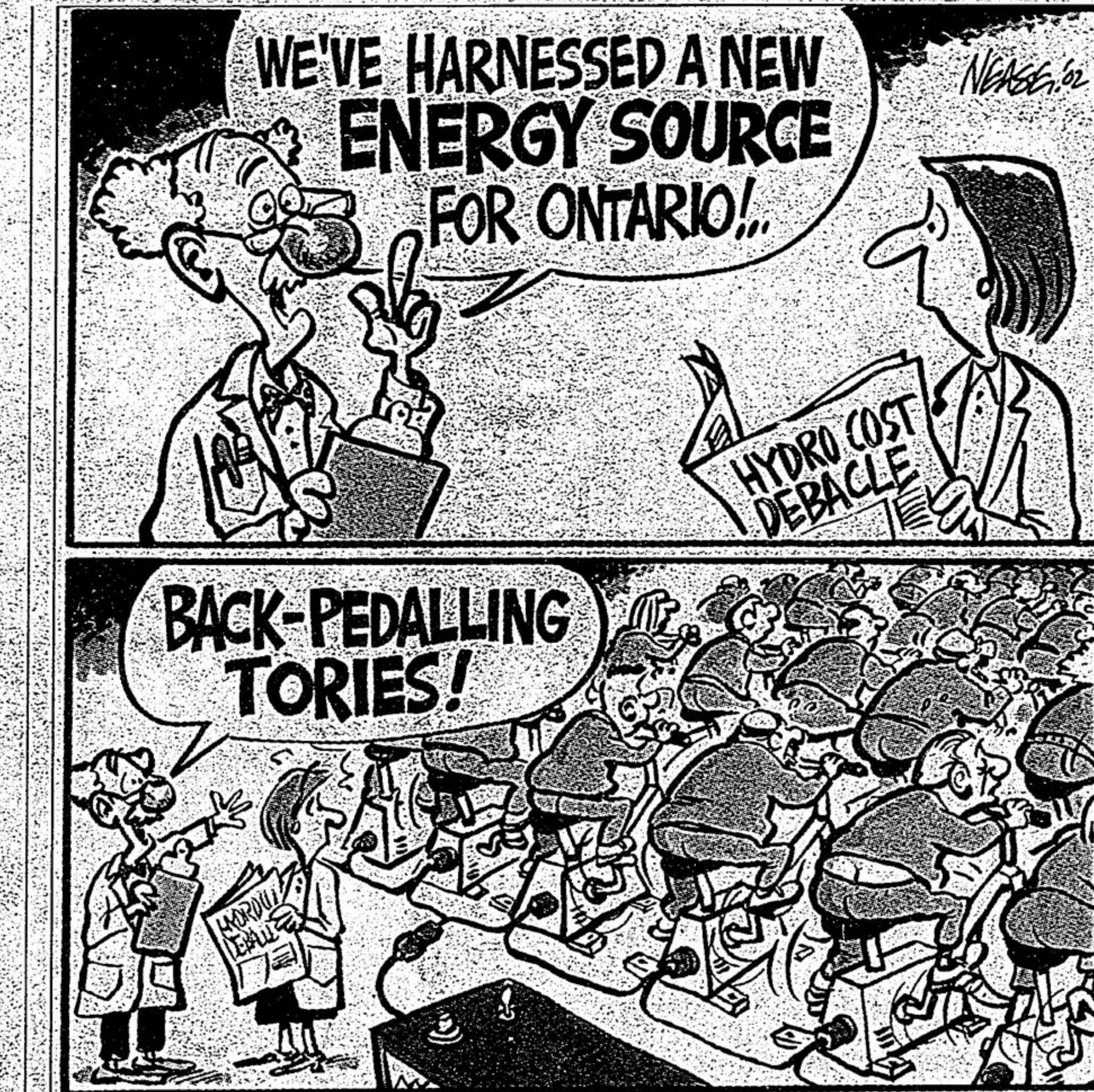
When you drive, think about the kid who is just up ahead trying to cross the street.

NICKOLAS NARDI AND FRIENDS
BROTHER ANDRE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Hospital staff did good job

I would like to thank the staff of the emergency department and all the people at the 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

Racial profiling a reality

In light of terrorism threats over the past year or so, it has become disturbingly straightforward to direct suspicions and resentment toward people of Middle Eastern and/or South Asian descent.

My friend Yasmeen, a Canadian citizen and resident of Richmond Hill for more than 10 years, recently endured a four-hour nightmare at Halifax International Airport, for no reason except for the way she looked.

She was asked to step aside from the rest of the passengers and taken into an office to be searched. The security officers brought in dogs to sniff through her belongings, which were already strewn across the floor.

She repeatedly asked why she was the only one being searched and each time the answer was the same: "This is just routine ma'am."

After going through Yasmeen's luggage, the officers proceeded to question her, asking her what she was doing in Canada. By this time, her name was being called over the PA system, announcing that her connecting flight was about to depart.

Yet the officers told her to remain in the office and remarked she would just have to

get on a later flight, something that would leave her scrambling for tickets later. She wasn't released until after being given a "stern warning" by airport security.

A devout Muslim, Yasmeen wears a scarf around her head and believes the religious symbol led to her detention.

And while she harbours only disappointment at the way the situation was handled, Yasmeen's ordeal provides an opportunity for people to re-examine their beliefs and values.

This incident is a reminder that, in such a multicultural country, it is important all individuals are treated with the same tolerance and respect.

And in this period of change and uncertainty, now is the time, more than ever, to show everyone they belong.

TIM CHAN
MARKHAM

Poor attendance a shame

My family and I attended the annual Remembrance Day Sunday service at the Stouffville branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. I was dismayed to see so few members of the public attending.

Boy Scouts and Air Cadets attended, as did representatives of some of the various levels of government, and a few service clubs. I have seen many, if not most, people on the street wearing poppies on their lapels, but I wonder

if they really understand what they mean.

We live in peace in Canada today because of the sacrifice of our fathers. Some lost their lives doing so, while others have lived with the horror of the war that they participated in for the rest of their lives.

When these young men returned to Canada after having defeated those who threatened our way of life, they got on with building a new Canada.

They put the war behind them and got educated, built homes and roads and industries, they brought us the prosperity we have enjoyed since the 1950s. Most of the time they never talked about what they did or what they saw, they put that horror in a hidden place in their minds.

They did remember the good times, the camaraderie and adventure. They appreciated their lives much more and appeared determined to make up for the time they lost and to use the time they were given to full advantage.

I am disappointed so few people attend these services to give thanks to the men and women who offered to lay their lives on the line for us. Shame, shame.

DAVID RICE
STOUFFVILLE

Listen to scientists on Kyoto

How dare our government talk of a "made-in-Canada" solution with Alberta Premier Ralph Klein.

They have a made-in-the-world solution in the Kyoto Protocol and Mr. Klein and Ernie Eves think they have sufficient wisdom to come up with a better solution than was derived by global heads of state and leading scientists?

I know there were representatives at Kyoto from Alberta. Didn't Ontario have representatives there? They have been aware of Kyoto for years and now, at the last minute, decide they don't like it.

Do they not listen to the news that carries environmental issues every single day? The economic costs to change things later will be astronomical. But that will fall to someone else to deal with, so why should they care?

And to say we will be at a disadvantage to the U.S. Of course, we will be. So is the rest of the world that has ratified.

Perhaps we should just continue polluting so as to maintain economic advantage. We should have a half a century left before anarchy ensues. (Anarchy that already exists in much of the world). We'll be dead by then and these children of ours, who cares about them? Is that their theory?

I hope they don't have any progeny. Or perhaps their progeny go to private schools and are taught a different curriculum from the one I teach to my Grade 7 classes.

Listen to the scientists, please. We will save money by dealing with global warming now. I have a solution to the U.S. problem: Boycott U.S. products until it ratifies.

ESTHER COLLIER
RICHMOND HILL

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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