

Sun-Tribune

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Car owner learns tough lesson

A young Markham man I know who recently purchased his own car had a rude awakening to life's hard knocks.

He is a 20-year-old, hard-working guy. The car was an older model his father purchased for him. He paid for the insurance. As any young man would, he wanted a stereo and a boom box, which he bought.

He did not buy theft insurance. Who would steal his car or its contents? But someone broke into the locked vehicle and took the stereo and the boom box. It makes one wonder whether this was a random act or a personal one.

This is not a major event on the world scale, but definitely a disheartening one. A young guy ready to have a great summer, starting to handle grown-up situations, is forced to deal with one of the unpleasant realities of life.

PAT LAVENDER
MARKHAM

Keep dog area at Milne Park

Re: Leash-free area to be moved from Milne Park, letter to the editor, May 22.

Moving the leash-free area is a really bad idea. I have been a Markham resident for 36 years and use the park frequently.

I work at a local veterinarian's office and am very knowledgeable about dogs and their behaviour around people. Never once have I witnessed a dog being aggressive toward humans in Milne Park.

Several times I have seen dogs becoming snarly toward each other when passing on paths, but they're still on leashes and the owners have control over them.

I feel more of a threat from some of the weekend picnickers. Grown men were drinking and climbing the big beautiful pines and breaking off branches intentionally.

Dogs only pick up dead sticks and carry them around. People throw cigarette butts and other garbage on the ground.

Go look in the Rouge River at the park; dogs didn't put the garbage there. They defecate and the owners pick it up.

Give us dog owners and our pets a break; we need this area. Come and check it out if you've never seen it. It's clean and there's a good bunch of dogs and owners using it.

WENDY GRAHAM
MARKHAM

High school safe, reputable

There have been a few incidents this school year that have scarred Markham's Markville Secondary School forever.

Those who once praised Markville for its

high standards and friendly environment are now criticizing it for the mistakes of a few. I am writing to say it is still a reputable and safe school.

Markville's students strive to reach high academic excellence. Our math department is known for its standards and students work extremely hard to meet them.

This school also has a good musical community. At the latest York Region Music Alive Festival, the Grade 10 orchestra earned the silver rating. The Grade 9 orchestra won first place at the Kiwanis Festival this year.

Markville also has exceptional athletes. Our junior boys volleyball team finished second at the regional playdowns.

Students at Markville know something about charity:

- Many students participated in our recent fashion show, which raised \$700 through hard work and determination;

- Hoops for Heart was an initiative where students challenged each other to a basketball game and raised money for charity;

- Food drives for the needy are constantly organized.

Markville is a safe school with a friendly environment where teachers expect students to put forth their best effort as well as behave properly.

HEBA RAHMAAN
MARKVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Cameras good solution to speeding

Re: Mayor gets tough on speeding in town, May 8.

Markham Mayor Don Cousens' awareness of a need for drastic efforts to reduce speeding in Markham is much appreciated.

I am a soon-to-be driver and believe his efforts to diminish speeding will make roads safer, especially for new drivers. His ideas are original, although I find some impractical.

Speed humps do slow cars down, but one should realize, after slowing down for the hump, drivers often speed up again.

As Mayor Cousens said, even if speed humps were put everywhere in Markham, it would still not solve the speeding problem.

But it would become an annoyance. Going over too many humps may even cause damage.

Putting cameras at traffic lights is an effective idea. If drivers are aware surveillance cameras are everywhere on the road, they would become more cautious. The suggestion of having photo radars is a great concept.

On the other hand, the mayor's idea of allowing bylaw enforcement officers to issue speeding tickets is very unlikely to happen.

That's the job of the York Regional or Ontario Provincial Police, who have the training, experience and equipment to issue tickets.

SARAH CHAN
MARKHAM

Admire trilliums, don't pick them

Ontario's official flower, the white trillium, is usually found in wooded areas growing close to the ground. Unfortunately, they're not always found there. Sometimes trilliums are found in limp, drooping bunches held in someone's hands.

Trilliums, also known as wakerobins, bloom in May and early June. They are perennials. Some are red, some are pink, some are "painted". The rarest of all are green.

All trilliums have their parts in threes: three leaves, three petals, three sepals. As soon as their flowering season ends, their green leaves set to work sending down nourishment to their bulbs.

In this manner, a new sprout is produced, nourished and persuaded to grow, in readiness for future blooming.

When picked, the trillium plant dies. Started from seed, it takes a trillium seven years to bloom.

Thousands upon thousands of trilliums have been destroyed by bulldozers. Spraying and picking have also taken their toll.

Some wild flowers have already become extinct, others that once bloomed in abundance are now rarely seen. Wild lilies, lady-slippers, blue-fringed gentian, trailing arbutus, cardinal flower, to name a few, should also not be picked.

In or out of water, picked trilliums are a sad, drooping sight. Left in their natural habitat, they are beautiful.

Please don't pick our trilliums. Admire them, then leave them for others to enjoy.

BARBARA BRASS DUNCAN
STOUFFVILLE

Bad info used in pesticide letter

Re: Pesticides bad for water supply, letter to the editor by Glad Park Public School Grade 7 students, May 17.

I salute these students for their informative letter on alternative methods to reduce pesticide use and congratulate them on their good citizenship.

The first rule of journalism, though, is get the facts. I can only surmise the information used to prepare their letter was from material available in the classroom.

Only long-outdated studies, since repudiated by the scientific community, show any link between pesticides and cancer.

There is no science backing any health or cancer fears and no justification for a ban on chemicals to control lawn pests.

Factual evidence to this effect is available at the Centre for Toxicity at the University of Guelph and at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Meanwhile, the source used by these students to establish their evidence seems suspect and obviously not balanced.

GRAHAM SMYTH
UNIONVILLE

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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