

Sun-Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
34 Civic Ave., Stouffville, ON L4A 1Z5

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

OPINION

EDITOR IN CHIEF
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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Thanks for supporting banquet

On behalf of the In Celebration of Women Association, our committee and honorary host Susan Hay, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the York Region Newspaper Group for its dedication as a premier media sponsor of the fourth annual awards banquet and the woman of the year award.

Also a special thanks to Rogers Television, which produced the event for several million viewers to enjoy throughout the region and Greater Toronto Area.

To date, more than 150 women have been recognized and honoured by the ICOW. This year, 43 outstanding women from our nine municipalities were acknowledged for their tireless dedication, contributions and commitment to the quality of life we are fortunate to experience throughout the region.

Women of all ages, interests and backgrounds received awards and accolades and many represented the diverse cultures that make York Region what it is today.

It is only through the tremendous support of the media and generous sponsors and businesses that we are able to reach out to encourage community associations and businesses to nominate individuals that they felt were worthy of recognition.

More than 400 nominations were received.

The ICOW also hosts a silent auction in support of the Ontario Breast Screening Program operated by Cancer Care Ontario, funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

In 2002, an estimated 7,800 Ontario women developed breast cancer and 2,000 died from this disease.

Finding breast cancer early can save lives. To date, we have raised more than \$25,000 in support of the breast screening program.

There are 90 screening clinics in Ontario and only one in York Region, in Southlake Regional Health Centre.

**DIANE HUMENIUK
CAROLE PHEE**
DIRECTORS
IN CELEBRATION
OF WOMEN ASSOCIATION

Tories spend plenty on education

Re: Tax breaks hurt public education; letter to the editor by Jim Jackson, May 8.

Jim Jackson believes the provincial government is developing a policy for those few who go to private schools?

Mr. Jackson is clearly not aware Ontario has 900 such schools. He should be asking himself, why so many?

Like many critics, he suggests more money should go to education and health care. This has been done. From 1988 to 2003, education and spending totalled \$68.5 billion, along with



the construction of 226 schools. In the past four years, funding for education increased by \$1.8 billion.

Health care funding has also increased; the Tories pumped \$147.2 billion into health in the past seven years. From 1995 to 2003 health care spending increased by \$8.3 billion.

"This is not sudden," as Mr. Jackson expressed, it's an ongoing commitment by the government and is due to the increased revenue from a good economy, created by the Tories and their tax cuts.

When the Peterson Liberals formed the government in 1985, the population in Ontario was 9.4 million. That year, health care received \$8.9 billion.

Ontario now has 12 million people, an increase of 27.8 per cent, however health spending has increased by a healthy 189 per cent in that same time frame, to \$25.9 billion.

Health ministers across Canada injected \$112 billion into the system last year. According to the World Health Organization, 12 per cent is wasted or \$13.44 billion flushed away.

No wonder Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty said spending on health is unsustainable and changes must be made. Even the NDP government of Bob Rae considered using fees.

A former Conservative government made a grave mistake when it gave the job of raising education taxes to school boards, without

any controls in place. Mike Harris corrected that faux pas in 1997.

Now education taxes are more evenly distributed across the province. Mr. Jackson's aversion to the government's TV commercials leads me to think he prefers to find out how the Tories are performing from opposition parties or their friends in the media.

**J. SHAW
MARKHAM**

Dog owners deserve respect

Re: Many happy leash-free area moving; letter to the editor, June 5.

During the past year, I have often visited the leash-free dog area at Markham's Milne Park and have met many wonderful and cordial dog owners who pride themselves in the way they care for their pets and the environment.

Indeed, it would appear, most of the time they take more care to maintain a clean park.

They do not throw garbage around after a picnic. They don't carelessly light barbecues and leave them unattended and they don't walk around threatening physical violence to people who do not agree with their views on park usage.

I have never seen or heard of any incidents of violence or aggression in the off-leash area. These people are also taxpayers who deserve the rights of all Markham residents.

They are actually more responsible than most people who use the park because they understand the value of its assets. They do not abuse it. They tend to use the park weekly, if not daily.

We need our politicians and community officers to stand up and fight for the rights of all individuals. This includes pet owners and their children.

I will be monitoring the activities of council closely over the next few months to see how it responds to the requests of thousands of pet owners who want the off-leash area kept at Milne Park.

This is a significant decision and, I assure you, pet owners will not forget council's considerations.

We believe the Milne Park location is central and convenient to all and, for that matter, should possibly be enlarged.

We also need an additional area set aside in the hydro corridor for off-leash activities so as not to overpopulate Milne Park.

**DAN GARSIDE
MARKHAM**

Ninth Line sidewalk needed

As a resident of the neighbourhood in the Ninth Line and Fincham Avenue area of Markham, I believe construction of a sidewalk along the west side of Ninth Line between 16th Avenue and Hwy. 7 is extremely overdue.

Residents using bus stops at Church Street and Ninth Line or at Hwy. 7 and Ninth Line are forced to slog through roadside mud or wet grass to get there.

Aside from the discomfort of gravel collecting inside our mud-encrusted shoes, the heavy car and truck traffic flying by just inches away from where we're forced to walk makes it dangerous as well.

Residents of this neighbourhood have been supporting the community with our tax dollars for more than a couple of decades.

With all the sidewalks sprouting up in newer neighbourhoods surrounding us, I'm sure a spot of cement can be spared for addressing this necessity.

**DONNA MARIN
MARKHAM**

Gazing globe stolen

Re: Thieves take flower baskets; letter to the editor, May 31.

The same morning as S. Smith's mother's flower baskets disappeared, I lost my green gazing globe that has been in front of my porch for about two years.

How the thief is using it I have no idea as it needs a stand, but they didn't take that.

It is not a great monetary loss, but was given to me by my late husband, so has sentimental value. I hope the recipient enjoys the stolen merchandise.

**J. MERCER
STOUFFVILLE**

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
The Tribune
9 Heritage Rd.
Markham, ON
L3P 1M3
Email: letters@econsun.com

EDITORIAL
Editor **Jim Mason**
jmason@econsun.com

ADVERTISING
Retail Sales Manager
Steve Kane
skane@yrmg.com

Sales Manager, New Business
Development & Distribution
Dauna Andreus
dandreus@yrmg.com
Classified Manager **Ann Campbell**
acampbell@yrmg.com

Real Estate Manager
Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@yrmg.com

PRODUCTION
Director of Production
John Futhy
jfuthy@yrmg.com

DISTRIBUTION
Distribution Manager **Barry Black**
bblack@yrmg.com
ADMINISTRATION
Office Manager **Vivian O'Neil**
vonell@yrmg.com

York Region Events
Managing Director
Debra Weller
dweller@yrmg.com

Shows Manager
Stacey Allen
sallen@yrmg.com

York Region Printing
General Manager **Bob Dean**
blean@yrmg.com

EDITORIAL
905-294-2200/
Fax: 294-1538

ADVERTISING
294-2200/ Classified: 1-800-
743-3353/ Fax: 853-4626

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