

Sun-Tribune

A Metroland community newspaper
34 Civic Ave., Stouffville, ON L4A 7Z5
PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

OPINION

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Debra Kelly
BUSINESS MANAGER
Robert Lazurko
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
John Futhy

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR, RETAIL & FLYER SALES
Nicole Fletcher
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR, CLASSIFIED, REAL ESTATE & EVENTS MANAGEMENT
Gord Paolucci

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Liberal minister finds new name for health budget cutbacks

The budget for health care was set in stone last February by the Ontario Tories for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. It was increased over the previous year by \$1.91 billion.

George Smitherman, the Liberal minister of health, says he will find "savings" in the \$28.1 billion health budget to help bring down the deficit. My, how things have changed at Queen's Park in such a short time frame.

When the Liberals were in opposition, they always referred to these savings as cutbacks when implemented by the Progressive Conservatives.

The \$1.91-billion increase in health-care funding is part and parcel of the \$5.6-billion deficit handed to the Liberal government by the Tories. Welcome to the real world, Premier McGuinty.

J. SHAW
MARKHAM

19th Avenue litterbugs show disregard for environment

My route to work includes driving on 19th Avenue. Over the last month, I have seen four piles of household garbage arrive in fields along the way.

Two weeks ago, three air conditioners showed up in the ditch. Last week, more than two dozen green garbage bags appeared.

These bags are scattered over two kilometres, as if someone sat in the back of a truck and tossed them out one at a time.

Not only does this show a disregard for the laws of humanity and the planet, it also means a lot more effort on someone's part to clean it up.

I would like to find the idiots who did this and tie them to trees, naked, during peak mosquito season. Perhaps that way we could bring them closer to nature.

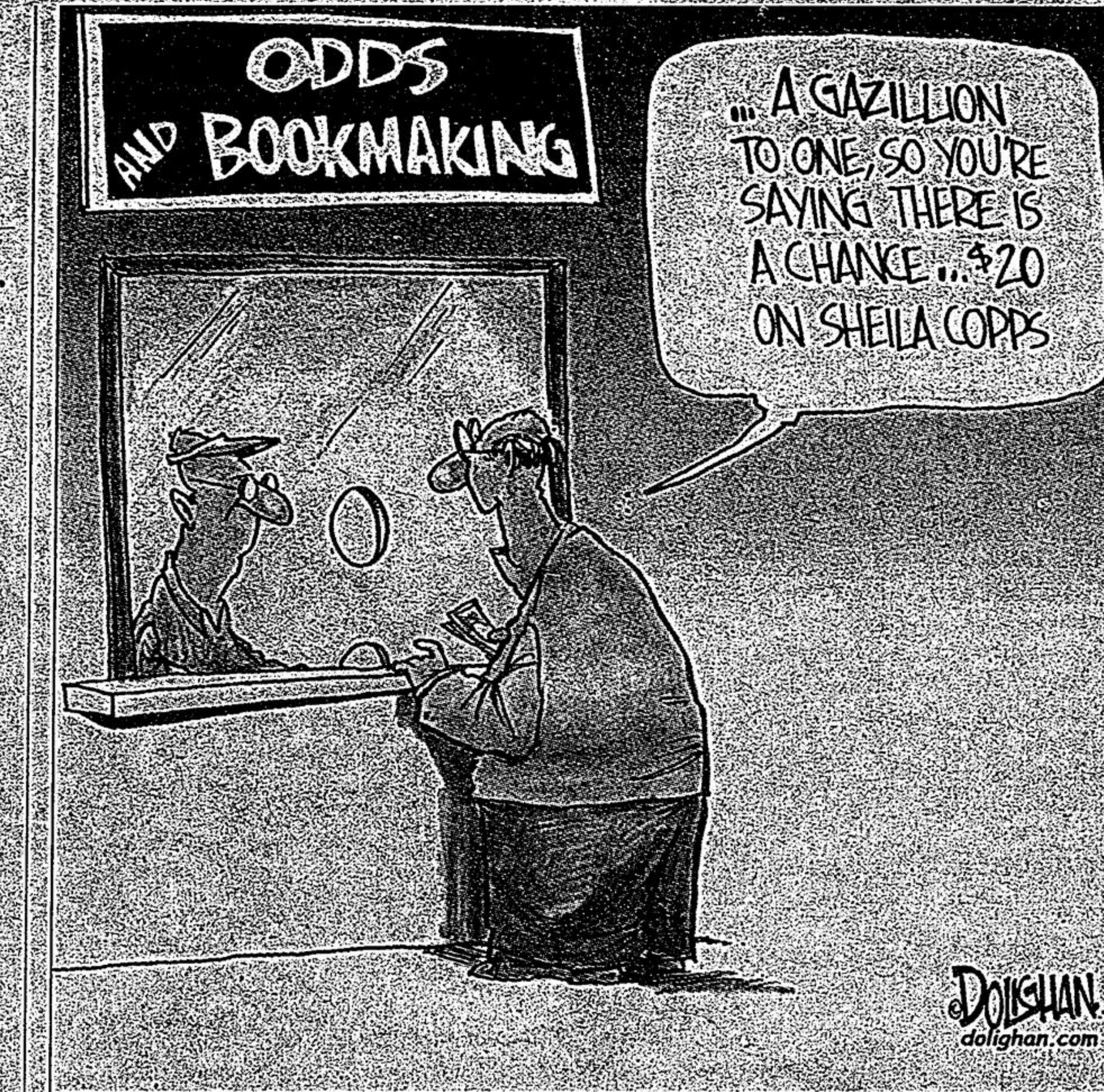
R. GREENWOOD
STOUFFVILLE

Opposing pay hike doesn't mean Kennedy an NDP supporter

Re: Kennedy should cross floor, letter to the editor, Nov. 1

Like many readers, I am regularly amused by J. Shaw's reaching to make a point.

I have never supported the NDP, but I cannot understand how J. Shaw can point to Gerrard Kennedy's decision to vote against



DOLGHAN
dolghan.com

giving himself a pay increase as evidence of anything other than integrity and principle, especially since he voted against the wishes of his own party.

Is it no longer possible for an elected official to vote the way he thinks without, in this case, a J. Shaw using that vote as evidence of an NDP heart still beating?

Come on, J. Shaw, sometimes there is no evidence for your position so you should just put your pen down. Trees will be saved... oops, I sound like an NDPer now.

J. VERNON
MARKHAM

Stouffville BIA manager big help to community teenagers

Some people take, some give and, occasionally, you may have the good luck to come across someone who does both and gets results that make almost everyone happy.

With that perspective, I'd like to thank Stouffville Business Improvement Area (BIA) manager Ruth LeBlanc for always being there for her community and for the many kids she has recruited to help out at BIA functions.

She also befriends, helps to keep them on the straight and narrow, has dried tears,

cooled tempers and mediated between parents and teens.

Hopefully, out of this we will see a generation of young people who realize the importance of volunteer work.

I know of what I speak, as Ruth has been there for my two sons as well as myself. I am proud to call her my friend and proud of the great job she does for the community.

I see high school students helping out more than the required 40 mandatory hours, as they have come to enjoy it. Keep up the good work, Ruth.

KATHI GRAY
MUSSELMANS LAKE

Controls needed to prevent dog maulings

I am deeply concerned about the number of young children being mauled by dogs. I think there should be a law banning the ownership of certain types of dogs that are known to be vicious and dangerous.

I love dogs, they are great pets and companions.

But we need to have controls in place to protect our children and prevent any re-occurrence.

ALBERT QUAN KING
MARKHAM

Is pig iron the way to a better planet? The Canadian government apparently thinks so.

It's funding a bizarre project in Brazil to plant vast farms of eucalyptus trees, which will eventually be made into charcoal to produce pig iron — a low-grade iron. Somehow along the way, this is supposed to slow global warming. It won't.

Canada's investment in the project grew from a feature in the Kyoto Protocol that allows developed countries to invest in projects in the developing world to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The developed country then gets what are called "carbon credits" for the project as though the emissions had been reduced at home. That makes sense, since the climate is a global system and, in some ways, it makes little difference where reductions to heat-trapping gases take place.

What doesn't make sense is if the project is so convoluted and contrived, the reductions are negligible and the project actually causes more problems than it solves.

Such is the case in Brazil. There, a company called Plantar bought a massive piece of land and began displacing the area's indigenous people so it could plant eucalyptus trees, which are destined to eventually become charcoal. This was the company's plan from the outset.

So when Plantar found out about the carbon credit system, it was like finding money. It moved to be the first in the developing world to have a project accredited as a "carbon sink" and thus qualify for funding.

In theory, the fast-growing eucalyptus trees will extract carbon from the air and store it in wood, which will reduce the burden of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and slow global warming.

But the project was already underway and the whole point of the credit system under the Kyoto Protocol is to achieve emission reductions that would not otherwise have been made. Surely, this project should not qualify.

Furthermore, the plantation has been depleting water resources of local communities and compromising water quality due to the extensive use of chemicals.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org



David Suzuki

Better living through pig iron

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
newsroom@econsun.com

ADVERTISING
Retail Sales Manager
Steve Kane
skane@ymg.com

Sales Manager, New Business
Development & Distribution
Dauna Andrews
dandrews@ymg.com

Classified Manager Anri Campbell
acampbell@ymg.com

Real Estate Manager
Mike Rogerson
mrogerson@ymg.com

PRODUCTION
Production Manager
Pam Nichols
pnichols@ymg.com

DISTRIBUTION
Distribution Manager Barry Black
bblack@ymg.com

ADMINISTRATION
Office Manager Vivian O'Neil
voneil@ymg.com

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

Shows Manager
Stacey Allen
sallen@ymg.com

York Region Printing
General Manager Bob Dean
bdean@ymg.com

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

ADVERTISING
905-294-2200 / Classified: 1-800-
743-3553 / Fax: 853-4626

DISTRIBUTION
905-294-8244

CCAO
Canadian Circulation Audit
Ontario Press Council
Board Member

Sun-Tribune

A York Region Newspaper Group
community newspaper
The Stouffville Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a member of the Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Metroland is comprised of 70 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Newspaper Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Vaughan, Citizen, Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, yorkregion.com and York Region Printing.