

Stouffville
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 Lazaruko
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
John Futey

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

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Cellphone etiquette lacking

I don't need more rules in my life, but leaving courtesy as a natural choice doesn't seem possible for some people.

Why, for instance, do certain people with cellphones insist on having their supposedly private conversations in public places and at full volume?

A quick hello "see you soon" pick-up the kids is understandable. But talking at length indoors, where other people are trying to conduct business, is inconsiderate and childish.

The other day, at a local bank, an older man answered his cellphone and then continued, for almost five minutes, to speak to a business associate, so everyone could hear.

While he was speaking, I found it difficult to concentrate on my own business and I told the teller he was getting on my nerves. She said, "Tell me about it, this happens all the time."

I couldn't believe a staff member hadn't asked him to take his conversation outside. I very nearly did. And will, next time.

What is the matter with these people? Do they not get enough love? I bet they were once school yard bullies. Whatever their hang up, I wish they would hang up. I guess there's going to have to be a rule.

HELEN WALTER
MARKHAM

Public paid to keep meeting safe

Re: Newcomer beats Emerson, March 13. Congratulations to Lui Temelkovski for defeating former Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emerson in the race to represent the Liberal Party of Canada in the new Oak Ridges-Markham riding.

The nomination meeting must have been quite an affair.

Several hundred Liberals arrived at the Parkview Village senior citizens facility in Stouffville.

It was mayhem. Packed into the auditorium like sardines, they were unknowingly endangering not only their own lives, but should anything happen, the lives of others in attendance.

According to the fire regulations, the maximum number of people Parkview Village auditorium can hold is 200.

Then there was the illegal parking of cars. That alone presented an unsafe situation.

Frankly, a call went out for help. Whitchurch-Stouffville fire and emergency services arrived, Chief Tim Beckett amongst them. He assessed the situation and determined the law was being broken.

Chief Beckett ordered everyone out of the auditorium. Nobody budged. So the police were called in and remained after to disperse the crowd.

Voting eventually took place, with police ushering people in as a means of crowd con-



DOLISHAN
dolishan.com

rol and, before you know it, the Liberals had a candidate.

But wait a minute, was there something rotten in Denmark?

Who paid the costs incurred by the fire and emergency services and the police?

Of course, I almost forgot. It was us, the taxpayers.

OWEN CRAIG
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
MEMBER OAK-RIDGES-MARKHAM
CONSERVATIVE RIDING EXECUTIVE

Performance did school proud

I had the pleasure of attending a performance of the musical Annie at William Armstrong Public School in Markham last week. It was a smashing success for the entire educational community.

The production is the result of many hours of work beyond what is defined as the formal school day. Two dynamic young educators, Sarah Wylie and Tara Lacasses, gave freely of their time and diverse talents to ensure its success.

They were supported by committed teachers and staff, many talented parents and several kind and generous volunteers from the community. As well, several local businesses stepped forward to contribute their support.

In addition, Tyler Murphy, Ian Norris and the tech crew from Markham District High

School redefined the term support for their contribution to this production by one of their feeder elementary schools. Bravo to you all.

The large cast of students performed with both confidence and passion. Briana Renda, in the starring role as Annie, captured the audience with her charm, her voice and the perpetual twinkle in her eyes.

The future is bright for both Markham Little Theatre and Markham High with so many talented students as potential recruits.

I encourage everyone to seize the opportunity to attend a special event at one of your local schools. It will only reinforce your perception of what is good in public education.

BRIAN CHATLAND
MARKHAM

Man showed honour in court

Re: 'Grateful' to go to jail, man refuses legal help, March 9.

While I can't condone Dwayne Utman's criminal actions, I do applaud his honesty and forthright confession of guilt.

The fact he immediately acknowledged his role in the reported felonies and elected to bypass the public expense of a trial and, most importantly, is prepared to do the time for his crime, makes him an honourable individual in my estimation.

Perhaps, when he has paid his debt to society, he can perform another worthwhile duty by coaching and mentoring politicians

and bureaucrats in Ottawa who lack the integrity and candor to own up to their misdeeds associated with the theft of tax payers' money in the sponsorship fiasco.

Bravo, Mr. Utman; you can at least stand tall and walk with your head held high.

TED CHIVERS
UNIONVILLE

Pakistanis enrich community

Our national fabric has been enriched by a multiplicity of cultures. And Markham is one of the most ethnically complex jurisdictions in the country.

Among the town's many cultures is the Pakistani community. Pakistan became an independent nation in 1947 and on Tuesday, Markham commemorates Pakistan National Day with a ceremonial flag raising at the civic centre.

Approximately 4,000 Markham residents were either born in Pakistan or come from Pakistani lineage. Ward 7 Councillor Khalid Usman, who emigrated from that country in 1970, has been a formidable liaison bridging the community of his ancestry to the rest of the town.

In 2002 a committee was formed by Mr. Usman and co-chaired by Mayor Don Cousens to acknowledge National Pakistan Day.

The committee and Markham's Pakistani community have held two gala dinners resulting in donations of more than \$100,000 to Markham Stouffville Hospital. Proceeds from this year's event go to the hospital and the Markham Family YMCA project.

Markham residents should thank Mr. Cousens, Mr. Usman and the Pakistani community for their work and generosity. The repercussions of these efforts will, in part, help lighten the burden of taxpayers.

Prosperity, progress, light and knowledge are the descriptive elements represented on the Pakistani flag. These are words Markham Pakistanis have put into action.

KIRK SUTHERLAND
MARKHAM

No pressure to buy wine

Re: Give gouged patrons wine option, editorial, March 11.

Is it fair to accuse restaurants of price gouging for what they charge for drinks? Sometimes I choose to have alcohol with a meal, often I do not. I have never felt any pressure to buy drinks when I am not interested.

I can think of few businesses that are as competitive as restaurants; they compete on quality, service, price, ethnicity and atmosphere. Many do not survive. I cannot believe the range and price of alcohol is not also competitive.

Just to be clear, I am not, nor ever have been, associated with the restaurant business other than being a satisfied customer content to let market forces set the price of drinks.

HALVOR MOORSHEAD
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@ymg.com

Sales Manager, New Business
Development & Distribution

Dawna Andrews
dandrews@ymg.com

Classified Manager **Ann 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**
vonell@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
294-2200 / Classified: 1-800-
743-3353 / Fax: 853-4626

DISTRIBUTION
905-294-8244

Canadian Circulations Audit Board Member
Ontario Press Council

Stouffville
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 Kestar 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.