

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

Businesses, homeowners pay too much taxes

Re: *Businesses should pay fair share of tax pie, editorial, March 18*

As the owner-operator of a small service company operating out of an industrial condo in Stouffville, I'm very upset with your editorial. You stated the 3-per-cent cap was not enacted in York Region, but continued the editorial insinuating it was.

Fair share? You be the judge. For my 1,150-square-foot industrial condo, the 2002 assessment was \$69,000. The 2003 assessment was \$84,000, up more than 20 per cent. Final 2003 taxes were \$2,366.65. Apply this ratio to your \$300,000 home in Whitchurch-Stouffville and the tax would be in excess of \$10,000, not \$3,422.

I'm not knocking homeowners, as they pay far too much tax in this area, also. In the 20 years I've lived in this town, my residential taxes are up more than 150 per cent.

Unfortunately, my income has not kept up to these increases and I'm getting the message loud and clear. Very soon there will be no place for me in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

PETER CORMACK
STOUFFVILLE

Junior hockey team owner was Good Samaritan

Congratulations to the Markham Waxers Jr. A hockey club. You must be a terrific team even though I live in Thornhill and know nothing of your skills.

I did, however, meet your benefactor March 26 on a lonely stretch of road on Kennedy Road north of Bloomington Road in rural Whitchurch-Stouffville.

It was after 10 p.m., my vision was very limited due to a thick fog and I drove my car off the road into a ditch.

After a period of desperation, I saw the headlights of a car appear. The driver stopped and within minutes had my car chained to his and towed back on to the road.

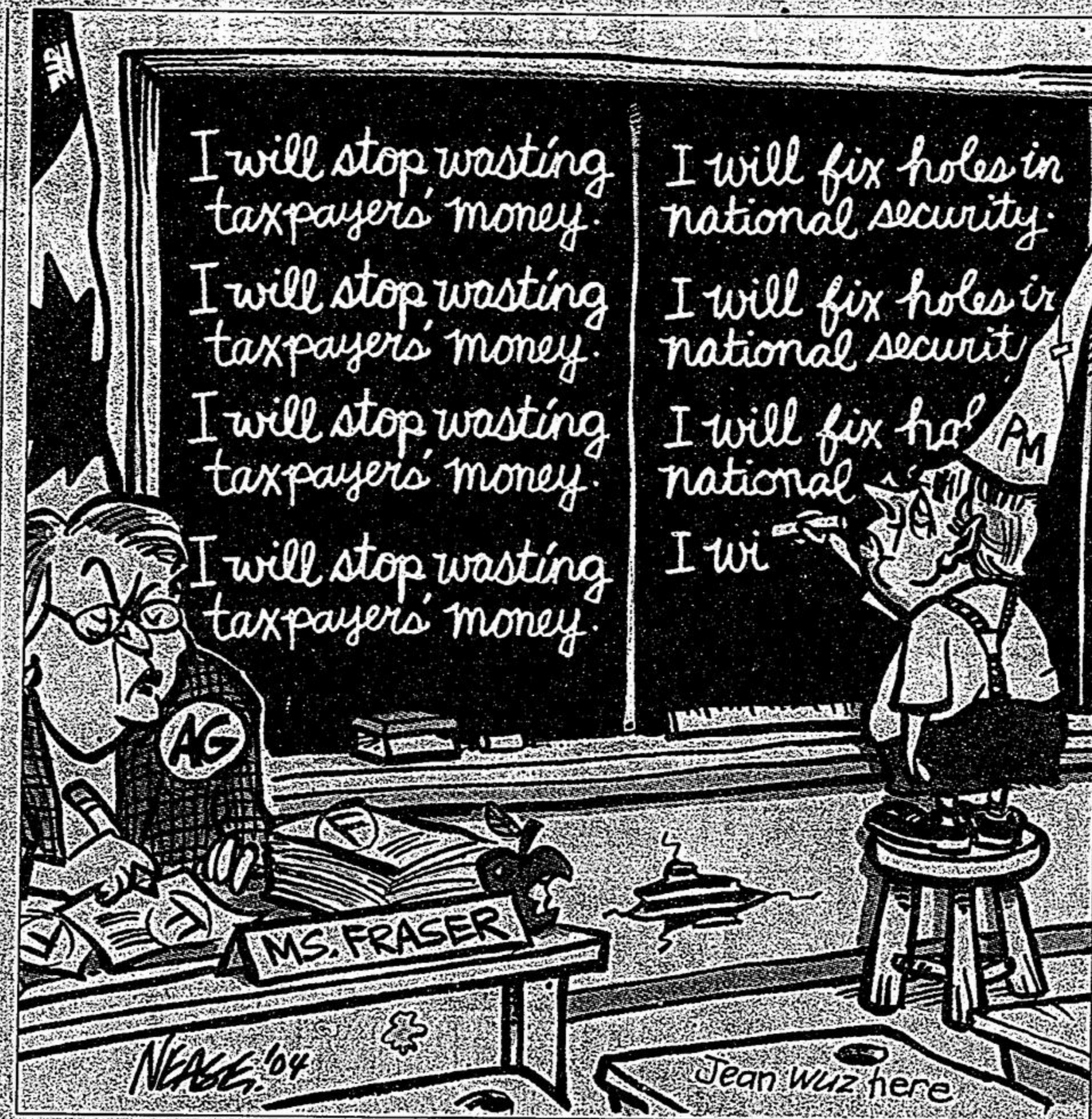
As an aging senior, I was still in shock over the accident and omitted to ask the name of my Good Samaritan; however, he did mention his attachment to the hockey team.

I'm writing this letter in the hope he will see it and again accept my heartfelt thanks for his kindness.

My best wishes to him and to the team.

NORMA'S CHEETAM
THORNHILL

(Editor's note: the Good Samaritan was Waxers owner Don Bremner.)



Good move by councillors

Re: *Council meetings moved to evenings for residents, letter to the editor, March 25*

I was impressed by the letter signed by five Whitchurch-Stouffville councillors. As far as I know, this type of appeal to the public has never been made before in Whitchurch-Stouffville. I believe it is an indication our councillors are prepared to respond to the will of the people.

MARGARET L. MAY
STOUFFVILLE

School staff made difference

Re: *Compassionate teacher took grieving child under wing, letter, March 13*

I would like to thank Ms. Tricia Hall from Stouffville for her letter. I have a similar story to tell about the school my son goes to.

When I arrived in Markham in 2000, I registered my children in a school. My children went to this school for a few years until my oldest was going into high school.

My son did not want to attend this institution anymore because of the inappropriate conduct of a specific teacher as well as the school board. I was in agreement with him. He missed school on different occasions because of what was happening there and on the bus.

We started to look for another school clos-

er to home. We chose St. Joseph Catholic School on Parkway Avenue in Markham.

I am so thankful my son is in this school. You wouldn't believe what a different child he is now. My son has been there since last September. He comes home singing and always has a positive attitude.

His classmates are close to home and the fact there are 22 boys in his class makes a big difference. I would like to thank the school and let everyone there know you have made a difference in my child's life.

L. POULIN
MARKHAM

Finger licking health concern

About a year ago, after the fearful SARS scare and the flu epidemic news, I became more observant and noticed a few cashiers in a big food store were (and are) licking their fingers to facilitate opening the plastic shopping bags. I think this is highly improper and very unhygienic.

I have told the cashiers and managers of the store of my concern and nothing has been done. I had even switched to another cashier during the paying process to show my objection to the habit.

If this continues, I think it is a case for health inspectors to investigate and lay charges if necessary.

Why should I bring home somebody else's germs and take the risk of infecting my whole family?

A solution: Use a wet sponge

W. WONG
STOUFFVILLE

Video games too violent

Children playing inappropriate video games is a massive issue in our society.

There are numerous factors contributing to the development and behaviour of children and video games are a primary influence.

The violent games they play are subconsciously manipulating their minds, allowing them to think that it's OK to be aggressive.

Parents need to know what their children are up to and be more involved in their lives. Unfortunately, some tend to have little concern over what their children are doing. These are the children who are most susceptible to being influenced.

Many of the problems our society sees come from these types of games.

Most parents need to be stricter with their children and the amount of freedom they have so these problems can be minimized.

ROSE NOORDEH
MARKHAM

Trees infringe on farmland

While I applaud Mayor Don Cousens' move to include southeast Markham in the Rouge Park, I only hope park managers don't go mental with tree planting like they are south of Steeles Avenue.

Don't get me wrong, I love trees. But in the south end of the park, thousands of trees are bumping farmers off fields producing precious crops.

Furthermore, these trees are being planted far too close together. When maturity approaches, they will suffer.

The trees seemed to bring on weeds, too. One in particular — I've heard it called dog strangle vine — is most notorious and will take over the land in no time. In fact, it has a strong hold in most of northeast Scarborough.

In Markham, would it be possible to keep most of the farmland in production and plant trees in bands, along fence rows? This will still give a corridor effect for wildlife.

While commuting to and from Toronto, I frequently see small herds of deer taking advantage of last year's corn spillage from harvest time. I'm sure the cats are meagre in the Scarborough weed patch.

I know the park will be just as wonderful with acres of farmland framed by lines of trees. After all, we are also supposed to be preserving our heritage. My ancestors farmed in the area as did (and do) many of my neighbours and friends.

GARY MOUNT
MARKHAM

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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