

**Stouffville**  
**Sun-Tribune**

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# OPINION

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## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### Give NDP chance to govern

The provincial health premiums introduced by the McGuinty government will bring more hardships to the vulnerable of our society. Three hundred dollars could make a world of difference to those who make \$20,000 while \$900 would mean anything to those who make \$200,000.

Even the Conservatives had the compassion not to tax those making less than \$52,000 when they introduced the Fair Share health care levy in 1996. However, to be fair, we should be grateful to the McGuinty government for not taxing those making less than \$20,000.

Dalton McGuinty cannot be trusted. Nor can we trust the Martin government in Ottawa. While working to eliminate tax havens for big corporations as finance minister, Paul Martin chose not to close all of them. His huge shipping corporation is now registered in one of those remaining tax havens, so it does not pay Canadian taxes.

After they came into power, the Liberals made the deepest cuts into our health care system and the devastating impact can still be deeply felt today. Whatever money he has promised is the money he has been withholding from us for all these years.

While the Canada envisioned by the Conservatives is a less caring, American-style society ridden with crime and other social evils, the NDP has offered a better alternative.

It will invest in social programs gutted by the Liberals and due further gutting by the Conservatives. It will invest in cities and public transit. It will invest in alternative energy. This is especially important in light of the current skyrocketing gas prices.

What could be worse after all these years of Liberal rule? Let us give the NDP a chance. Let us elect the NDP.

YI YANG  
UNIONVILLE

### MDHS reunion big success

We would like to express sincere thanks to the volunteers, school staff and current students for creating a fantastic gathering of five decades of students and staff who attended Markham District High School.

When one contemplates attending a reunion there are many things to consider: costs, time, will it be well attended and will it be enjoyable.

In our opinion it was more than worth the flight from Vancouver, we wish it could have gone longer, we still cannot believe the attendance and it was more than enjoyable, it was a lifetime memory.

If you didn't attend, you missed a great event. In particular, we want to thank:

- Past teachers, for being there years ago and still being there today;
- Current staff and students, one could



only imagine the time and effort they spent preparing for this event.

- Bushwood Golf Club, for putting up with the golfers of dubious abilities, who talked 36 holes and golfed 18;
- Local pub owners who were swamped by busloads of old fogies re-acquainting in your premises;
- Leadbetter's Meats, for serving masses of people with quality at Saturday night's dinner-video dance;
- The website people, your work allowed us to connect with long-lost friends who are now all over the planet;
- The reunion committee and volunteers, thanks for your time, effort and ideas and;
- Alumni, just the fact we came in the numbers we did, from the distances we did, indicates what that building meant to us.

CHRISTINA AND GREG HOOVER  
DELTA, B.C.

### Supporting family not homophobic

Re: Ad shows paper homophobic, letter to the editor by John Andrews, May 22.

Since when is it homophobic to support the family? Surely, our society hasn't slipped that badly.

Given Mr. Andrews' logic, and since the vast, silent majority also supports the family, they, too, must be homophobic and narrow minded. Well, count me in.

Similarly, since I and the vast majority also

believe sex outside of marriage is wrong, that must make me adultery-phobic, or something in the narrow-minded range.

Mr. Andrews should also have hurled today's ultimate epithet, that people who support the family must also be bigots.

As a supporter of Focus on the Family I believe it made its point respectfully and helpfully. It's too bad when name calling instead of thoughtful dialogue is the ultimate solution.

JIM BOEHMER  
STOUFFVILLE

### Homophobia charge ignorant

Re: Ad shows paper homophobic, letter to the editor by John Andrews, May 22.

I was amused to read comments that The Economist & Sun is homophobic and anti-gay because it published a paid advertisement for Focus on the Family Canada.

John "I am all for freedom of speech" Andrews, apparently places Focus on the Family, white supremacists and neo-Nazis in the same category.

Only the willfully ignorant would accept such an appraisal. However, I believe the community should not react with anger or hostility to his diatribe, rather we should shower him with laughter befitting such nonsense.

After all, a rose by any other name is still a rose and an extremist in any other sheet is still a redneck. Mr. Andrews did conclude with the

thought, "Canada was a place that was open to different lifestyles", but I note he carefully omitted differing opinions.

Pardon me while I chuckle; just whose Canada is Mr. Andrews writing about? His? I don't believe he is speaking for the majority of Canadians, but I do suggest you continue publishing differing views such as Focus on the Family and opinions contrary to their position; even ones like Mr. Andrews.

Canada is for freedom of speech, even when it comes from a "paper tiger". We will leave the censorship issue to those with a bent for totalitarianism and what Mr. Andrews calls "narrow-minded special interest groups".

HUGH THOMAS  
MARKHAM

### Tax story lacks details

Re: Ratepayers pay more for less, May 15.

This article is typical of modern attitudes toward the pooled buying power that we call taxes. I find the tone of the article is inflammatory and unhelpful.

I don't see this kind of treatment of other groups that take my money. For example, even though I know house prices are much higher in York Region than in other parts of Ontario, I don't see constant headlines about the "developer burden".

It would have been much more helpful to analyse why our taxes are higher than in Manitoulin (as the article indicated they are).

I can speculate it is because the population in Manitoulin is small and spread out and thus more money needs to go to those regions to pay for the same (often a lower level) of service.

I have done research on services in the north and can assure you although the dollars spent per person there for services are high, actual services received are often lower than in the central region simply because of economies of scale.

It is not clear from the article how they were measuring services received. Do Manitoulin residents actually have more hospitals or doctors than we do? Are the residents closer to the nearest hospital than we are? Do they get higher quality care? Or does it just mean more money is spent (per person) in Manitoulin to provide hospital care?

Without an analysis of why we pay more and receive less or even what is actually measured, this article is simply propaganda designed to get citizens upset about paying taxes.

After more than 10 years of an Ontario government that did not collect and spend enough money on services and wasted money on tax rebates, I am not interested in hearing about our pooled resources as a burden.

Instead, I want to talk about the society we envision and what it would reasonably cost. When I go to buy a toaster or a house, I know if I don't spend enough money I will simply not get the product/service I need. Why don't we apply the same logic to our taxes?

BARBARA HERRING  
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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