

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

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

PUBLISHER **Ian Proudfoot**

LETTERS  
to the  
EDITOR

## Rouge River too stinky to enjoy

Re: *Creek stinks, so does response, residents say, July 13*

My friends and I enjoy mountain biking and trail riding and when we can't get to the Seaton trail or Durham forest, we would ride the trails along Rouge River.

We first noticed a smell on one of our rides about 18 months ago and we didn't know where it was coming from, so we ignored it, thinking it would go away.

We kept riding and about 15 minutes down the trail the smell was still there and we were starting to get headaches and couldn't stand the stink anymore. We can't ride these trails when the river is like this. It is literally unbearable.

The smell is also present when driving along Hwy. 48 at the bottom of the hill just north of Hwy. 407, even with the windows up it is still awful. I think the smell is there whether it rains or not, but rain makes it considerably stronger.

I never took action about this smell because I thought it was just temporary, but months went by and it's still there. Like the woman in the article and many other Markham residents, I did not know who to call or that a spill hotline even existed. Something needs to be done about this.

DANIEL READY  
MARKHAM

## Many offered assistance

Sometimes, kindness comes when we least expect it.

I had a mechanical problem with my car two weeks ago. I pulled on to the shoulder of the road, put on my four-way flashers and raised the trunk, not knowing what to expect.

As it happened, I did not have my cell phone. I did, however, have two small grandchildren, five and six years old, stranded with me on Durham Road 30.

A number of people stopped to offer assistance or to check if we were OK.

One was a young mother from Stouffville who had her little one asleep in her van. She offered the use of her cell phone and refused any payment. Another was a grandfather, with his grandson in the back seat. He tried, without success, to call our dealership in Pickering.

A third individual was an Aussie who checked to see if help was coming, then suggested we would be much safer if we stood well in front of the car rather than behind it. Another was a farmer, on whose property we were stranded.

In the southbound lane, a young woman offered the use of her cell phone. Still another was a man from Sleepy Hollow who suggested we lock up the car and leave it for the tow truck driver and he would drive us home. Eventually, the truck arrived and took us to the dealership.

## 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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# OPINION

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Suddenly, it occurred to Ken Jennings  
that the party might be over.

NEASE '04

To all who stopped to offer assistance I would like to express my thanks.

I reminded my grandchildren Grandma had learned a hard lesson: the cellphone should not be in the cubby of the desk at home, but in my purse when I go travelling, especially when I have little people with me.

LOUISE BEAUCHAMP  
STOUFFVILLE

## Vandals can't destroy pride

Is there no pride in our flag?

My family has resided in Markham for several years and we have always proudly flown the Canadian flag outside our home. Sadly, not everyone shares our values.

Our daughters are just seven and 10, but already understand the pride of being Canadian. We took them with us to the federal election polling station when voting and stressed the importance of civic responsibility.

It was our seven-year old who noticed the absence of not one but two flags from outside our home one morning.

The flagpost was missing; the flag, post and anchor were ripped from the brick of our garage. But that was not enough; the flag attached to one of our car windows was snapped off and discarded in our bushes.

It is not that our home was vandalized, it's that, at a time when we were celebrating our great country and the freedoms we enjoy, our flag has no meaning to these vandals.

I know this has taught a difficult lesson to our children, but I believe it has made them prouder still of the new flag and post we have installed.

DEIRDRE BROUGH  
MARKHAM

## Taxpayers shouldn't pay consultants to lobby

Re: *Stakes high in sewer battle, July 10*

Prime Minister Paul Martin and Premier Dalton McGuinty, I require an answer from both of you.

Why do York Region chairperson Bill Fisch and regional council have to resort to hiring consultants with vast political connections to get things done with the provincial and federal governments?

Has your government created an intermediate consultants-only tier between you and municipal taxpayers?

Again, York Region is hiring a politically connected consulting firm, Navigator PPG, whose personnel are well connected with federal and provincial officials. I believe the term is "high-powered lobby organizations". This is to deal with the handling of crucial trunk lines to the Big Pipe and the consequences with eco-groups.

This is not the first time Mr. Fisch and York Region have hired politically connected consultants. By hiring a so-called government

relations consultant, York Region helped secure \$150 million from Ottawa and Queen's Park for rapid transit. Mississauga, which didn't hire a politically connected consultant, and made the same rapid transit request, received zero dollars.

Why are Mr. Fisch and York Region councillors, who are very generously paid and elected to negotiate for the regional taxpayer, all of a sudden not competent to deal with higher levels of government?

Instead, the region resorts to costing the taxpayer sinful amounts of money by hiring consultants to do the job for which councillors were elected.

In a nutshell, this whole scenario smacks of under-the-table deals, better known as pay-offs. Hire a high-powered politically well-connected consultant and things will be looked after.

Have we now introduced an additional level of non-elected government called politically connected consultants? Use them or get nothing.

And Premier McGuinty, since regional government is under provincial jurisdiction, if non-elected, politically appointed Mr. Fisch and the elected council can't do the job, let the province step in and obliterate York Region council before it squanders taxpayer dollars with abusive consultant fees.

PETER K. MACLEOD  
THORNHILL

## Monetary theory beyond Martin

Re: *Election offered clear choices, letter to the editor by S. Buntin, July 10*

In his critique of the column by Debora Kelly, the letter writer asked, "Where are the facts to prove Mr. Martin lacks crucial leadership qualities?"

If this person requires facts regarding Paul Martin's leadership abilities, I suggest he read *One Big Party to Keep Canada Independent*, a book by Paul Hellyer, a cabinet member in the Pearson and Trudeau governments.

Mr. Hellyer points out after 10 years in Ottawa, Prime Minister Martin still doesn't understand monetary theory and his hope for Mr. Martin as finance minister was "devastated" with the 1995 budget, which he wrote was a disaster for Canada.

Mr. Hellyer sets out the causalities of Mr. Martin's cutbacks: health care, Canada's crown jewel, education and high tuition for university students. Cuts also reduced environmental programs, rocked the arts and weakened the Armed Forces.

Mr. Martin's budget slowed the economy and increased unemployment.

Mr. Hellyer goes on to point out Mr. Martin is a firm believer in globalization, even though he voted against the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Does anyone deserve to be prime minister when they are hell bent on spending our taxes to get elected, but not the tax-free profits from his offshore shipping company? Me thinks not.

J. SHAW  
MARKHAM

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