

If you are sick, you are better off staying home and recovering rather than coming in to the office and getting your co-workers sick.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

# Don't be martyr, get better

BY PATRICK MANGION  
Staff Writer

There's one in every workplace: a co-worker who selfishly imperils his health and that of his colleagues by coming to work sick.

Raising the ire of those in surrounding cubicles, the workplace martyr coughs, sniffles and wheezes his way through an otherwise unproductive workday for any number of reasons, studies suggest.

Some people drag themselves out of bed, on days better spent catching up on daytime TV, to avoid any potential stigma that often comes from missing work.

Other "sickies" feel their place within the organization is so important the business couldn't possibly function without them.

Or, quite simply, millions of working Canadians won't get paid if they call in sick.

Whatever the reason, the phenomena, now has its own name: presenteeism. Data presented at a Canadian Immunization Conference last month showed 76 per cent of Canadian bosses want sick employees to stay home.

Signs you should stay home include fever, persistent cough, severe sore throat and diarrhea.

However, 46 per cent of Canadians said they haven't taken any sick days in the past 12 months.

And while there is always going to be a few people who refuse to stay home, there are ways for the healthy set to protect themselves, said York Region public health nurse

Catherine Edl.

In workplaces where a large number of employees share a small space or computer, telephones, desks and keyboards should be cleaned two to three times a week.

More often if you share a workspace.

While he appreciates the effort, sick employees of Gem-Sen in Vaughan are instructed to stay home, said president Sal Riina.

"As a business owner you love the martyrs, but, by the time it's all over, you have eight more people sick. So I'm more inclined to have sick people 'stay home,'" he said.

"They want to prove something to their co-workers or themselves. (Employees who come to work sick) want to advance their position in the company through extraordinary effort," Mr. Riina said.

He knows, because when he was full of gumption early in his career with a large electronics chain, he can recall taking few sick days during his ascent up the corporate ladder from buyer to manager and, eventually, vice-president of sales.

"I didn't want to lose my spot."

Meanwhile, the spectre of a flu pandemic has also helped bring presenteeism to the forefront.

So serious is the threat, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 57,000 businesses provincially, has taken the unprecedented move of making flu pandemic kits available.

## New? Demo?

Only you'll know how little you paid.



# DEMO CLEAROUT



## 3.8% Financing available up to 48 months.



**2006 ACURA CSX**  
Black on tan, touring, automatic, 631kms ..... Stk#E3920  
**\$23,800** **SOLD!**

**2006 ACURA CSX**  
Black on tan, touring, roof, automatic, 561kms ..... Stk#E4126  
**\$24,600**

**2006 ACURA TL**  
Graphite grey on black, 9,324kms ..... Stk#T4103  
**\$37,800**

**2006 ACURA TL**  
Graphite grey on black, 9,324kms ..... Stk#T3746  
**\$37,300**

**2006 ACURA TL**  
White with Navigation, 20,572kms ..... Stk#T4341  
**\$36,500** **SOLD!**

**2006 ACURA RSX**  
Silver on black Premium pkg, 892kms ..... Stk#R4116  
**\$27,900**

**2006 ACURA RSX**  
Silver on black Premium pkg, 217kms ..... Stk#R4096  
**\$27,900** **SOLD!**

MORE THAN  
**60**  
CERTIFIED  
USED VEHICLES  
IN STOCK

Just a few of our Pre-Owned selection. Come in or view them online.

# ACURA IN MARKHAM

5201 Highway 7 East  
across from Markville Mall

9-05-948-8866  
AcuraInMarkham.ca

\*Prices are plus taxes, license & admin. fee. Finance example 20,000 at 3.8% (TLCSX) and APR for 48 months, monthly payment is \$449.79 per month, C.O.B. \$1,589.98. Total obligation \$21,589.98. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. Please contact Acura in Markham for full details.

## Snedden's Landing Chronicle

# Neil Simon's RUMORS

Produced and arranged by Samuel French & Co



**WHO?**  
Audrey Bain  
Jeff Broughton  
Kirsty Campbell  
David Cardinal  
Ed Daigle  
Anna Ioannou  
David Mutton  
Douglas Tardif  
Carmel Warnan  
Graham Wilson

Directed by Kathy Bridgeman  
Produced by Mike Bridgeman  
A Ryleepuss Production

**WHEN?** February 8-10, 15-17 & 22-24 @8pm  
Matinee Feb. 18 @2pm doors open 1/2 hr before

**WHERE?** Uxbridge Music Hall

**HOW?** Tickets available at Presents, Presents 905-852-9544  
\$14-\$16 - Reserved Seating

**WHY?** A Fundraiser for the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation

**WANT MORE FACTS?** Call Michael Bridgeman 905-852-1836

