

# OPINION

*Stouffville*  
**Sun-Tribune**

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## Editorial

### Ontario's bid to delay adulthood

Is Ontario becoming a nanny state? It may be. But perhaps, in the case of new young drivers restrictions coming this week, that's what needed in an age when many young adults behave like children and many parents indulge their adult children's juvenile behaviour. We are referring, of course, to new restrictions on drivers until the age of 22.

Under legislation to be proposed this week, there would be zero tolerance for speeders and anyone consuming alcohol and a ban on having more than one teenaged passenger in a vehicle being driven by another teen. "Perhaps the most precious thing we have in society is our children, and that includes our older children," Premier Dalton McGuinty said.

The legislation is in direct response to the deaths of three young people in the Muskokas this summer. The 20-year-old driver plunged his Audi into a river after he and three friends consumed 31 drinks over a three-hour period at a bar in Port Carling. One survived. Unbeknownst to the 20-year-old's father, the young man had a history of speeding violations. The father has been lobbying the government to change the laws ever since.

A nanny state is one where those in government believe it is their duty to protect citizens from their own behaviour, be it with junk food or trans fats, smoking, drinking or cellphones.

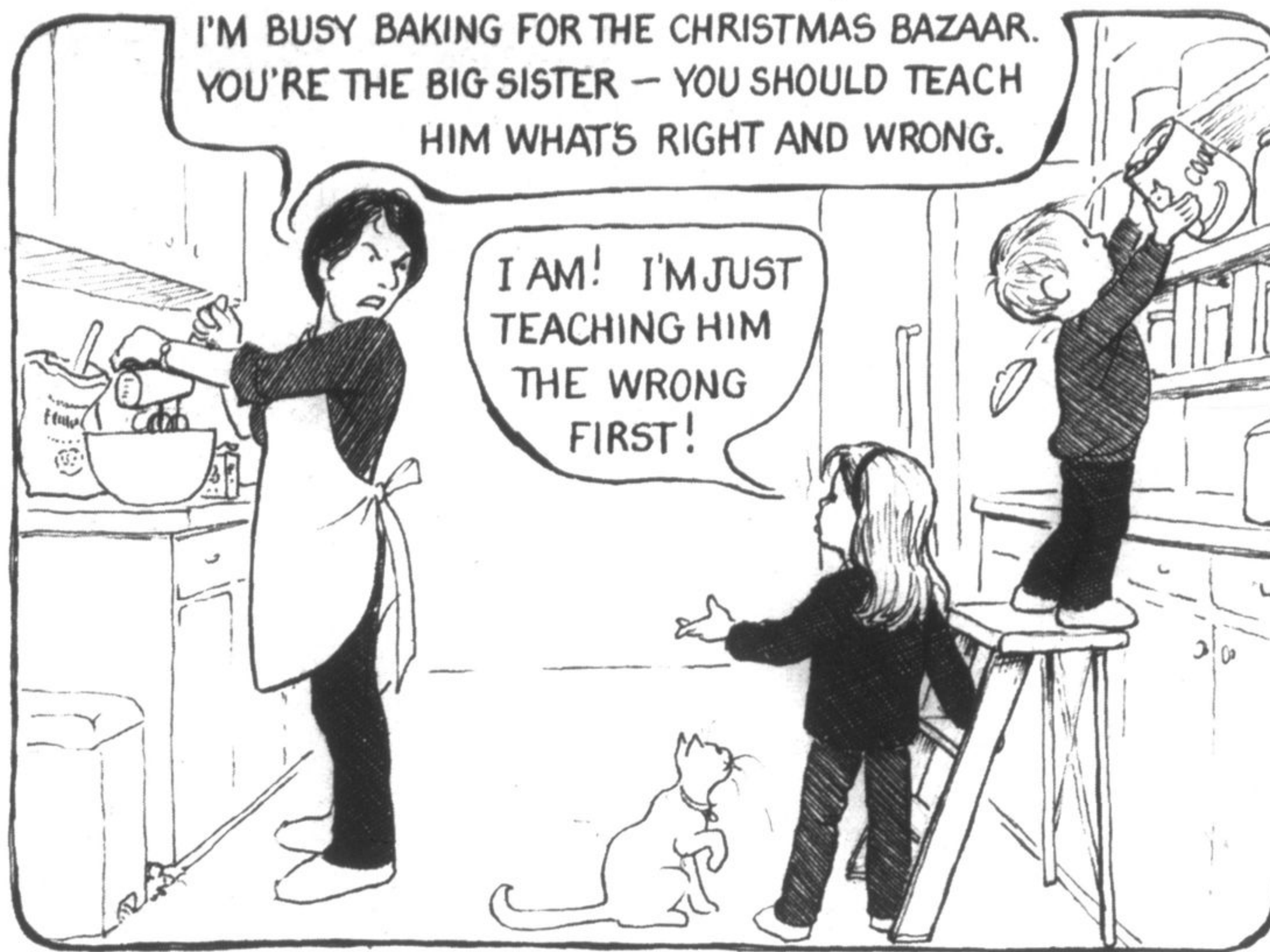
One can see how certain laws are in place to protect children when their parents don't have the good sense to make the right decisions for them. But eventually, our children are no longer children.

In this province the age of majority is 18 (even though the drinking age is 19), when they can marry, vote, go off to war, sign contracts and make decisions for themselves. Sadly, that does not mean they necessarily behave like adults or make good decisions. Thus, the legislation, which in effect will put off the age of adulthood in Ontario to 22.

These changes may save lives. But it will be at the expense of the rights of the responsible young adults out there, who once again are punished for the reckless behaviour of a few.

While the goal of the proposals may have merit, their practicality is questionable. It may be a long time since most MPPs attended their last teen bash, but surely they can see restrictions on the number of teens in one vehicle could simply result in more teen-driven cars on the road on a Saturday night.

If we don't trust them to drive sober and obey speed limits to begin with, that's hardly an improvement in terms of public safety. If you're a parent whose kids aren't yet 22, you'll have to keep the word 'chauffeur' on your resume for a few more years.



## Letters to the Editor

### What's next? Whitchurch-Lebovicville?

Re: \$500,000 gift for new arts centre, Nov. 6.  
Let me get this straight.

We have the Lebovic Leisure Center, and the soon to be Lebovic Arts and Cultural Center, with the 124 seats that are similar to the gym seats in any high school, benches.

What was wrong with "19 On The Park" or better yet "Mistake On The Park". What's next, Whitchurch-Lebovicville?

Does Mr Lebovic have to have his name on everything that's for sale in town or can't he just donate his development money out of the goodness of his heart?

Also, has anybody noticed the driving habits of some of the people in town. I wonder, is it the new residents bringing their habits with them or established residents frustrated with the congestion.

I can't wait to see what it's like when we hit 45,000 residents. I wonder if there is something to cover that in the secondary plan?

T. ARTHUR ARNOTT  
STOUFFVILLE

### Applauding Canadian patriotism

Re: letters to the editor, Canada of 1900 is history, by Ismenia Silveira, Nov. 8, and Stand up for old Canada, Rick Upton, Nov. 1.

Remembrance Day has now passed for another year. A time when we reflect on the sacrifices of those who considered themselves true Canadians in a country they were proud of.

But where are we today?

Mr. Upton, a man I've never met to my knowledge, shares his feelings and pride of a Canada

once known, to a Canada of today. It's an opinion shared by many, as acknowledged by Ismenia Silveira, who out of ignorance labels Mr. Upton as being "racist" and having "hatred".

Ms Silveira, you say that Canada is a place of tolerance, but aren't your own comments a form of intolerance, prejudice and hate? Where is this tolerance you speak of if one cannot voice their concerns without being attacked or defamed with such malicious labels?

In no way do I believe Mr. Upton to be either of what you claim. Like many Canadians, he has shown great tolerance; but we must acknowledge that being tolerant does not mean being passive or that anything goes. I understand not everyone is able to distinguish the difference, but there is a difference. We have a great country and I applaud his patriotism.

For you to suggest, Ms Silveira, that because something is history, it must be bad, is ridiculous. Fresh air and water are history, too.

D. CATERER  
STOUFFVILLE

### No way to contact our new MP

Today we went to the Government of Canada website to get contact information for our Member of Parliament, Paul Calandra.

To our astonishment there was no e-mail address or an address or phone number for the riding office. The link to the site of the Conservative Party was no more helpful.

How can we expect these guys to fix the economy if they can't even manage a simple website?

DON & JOANNE CAMERON  
STOUFFVILLE



### Off The Top

with *Jim Mason*

### How much for a Stouffville taxi ride?

So, how much do you think it costs to take a cab round-trip from one side of Stouffville to the other?

Say the Stouffville Country Market to Canadian Tire and back.

Brace yourself. And pull out \$27.20, plus tip, as you exit the back seat.

And no, you're not buying the cab with that payment, either.

We know the pain. Our son did the trip this autumn from his part-time job.

Paying the fare puts a big dent in a kid's minimum-wage cheque and makes walking in the fall rain or snow more appetizing.

You can buy a lot of hot chocolate and warm gloves with \$27.20.

It sure can't be a joy ride for folks on fixed incomes, including seniors and single parents, who have to call a cab.

But, don't blame your driver or the cab company. They're just working with rates legislated by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Even some town officials were surprised by the actual cost of a cross-village taxi trip using their rates. (And there are higher per-kilometre rates elsewhere in York Region.)

Join the club of the duly shocked. I think it cost us \$65 for a limo to Pearson International from Stouffville early this year.

GO and YRT offer lower-cost alternatives, providing your schedule matches up with the bus schedule.

And qualifying Stouffville seniors can get rides for a lot less. As in a \$6 round trip to Markville Shopping Centre in Markham.

It's all important, if we are to become more European, with fewer cars in our driveways and a greater dependence on public transit in our heads.

But, old habits are hard to break. And with gasoline under 80 cents per litre yesterday, we've got a bargain.

Not so for our taxi rates, Whitchurch-Stouffville.

*Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.*

### LETTERS POLICY

The Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

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