

Sun-Tribune

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York Region Media
Group community
newspapers

The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 100 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Media Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Newmarket Era, Aurora Banner, Vaughan Citizen, Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Georgina Advocate, Bradford West Gwillimbury Topic, beingwell and yorkregion.com

**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.

Letters to the Editor,
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Divide small, large dogs at leash-free park

First, I would like to say thank you to the Town Of Whitchurch-Stouffville for bringing an off-leash dog park to our community. It was very much needed.

I attend the park, near the Walmart super centre, once a week with my dog, usually on Sunday mornings and have had good experiences so far.

The only concern I have, along with other large breed dog owners, have is that there seems to be a lot of very small dogs at the park.

When large-breed and small-breed dogs play together, sometimes the smaller dogs can't handle it and get hurt. This results in confrontation between dog owners. And, unfortunately, it seems to be the fault of the larger dogs.

I am writing this letter to suggest the dog park be

HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH- STOUFFVILLE

► What do you think of these issues or others? E-mail letters to the editor to jmason@yrmg.com

divided into two, one for the big dogs and the other for the small dogs.

If an owner feels their small dog can handle playing with the big dogs, then it is their responsibility.

The park is quite large and has plenty of space to divide it. I have seen other dog parks with this set-up and it works very well.

People should also be reminded their dogs should be socialized, well mannered and obedient.

Once again, my dog thanks you.

PAT POSA
STOUFFVILLE

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Sun-Tribune**

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How to become an environmentalist

Young people often ask me what they have to do to be environmentalists.

They want to make a difference. My answer is, "Follow your heart. Do what you love most and pursue it with passion."

You see, environmentalism isn't a profession or discipline; it's a way of seeing our place in the world. It's recognizing we live on a planet where everything, including us, is exquisitely interconnected with and interdependent on everything else.

Life-giving water moves from ocean to air to land, across the globe, linking all life through the hydrologic cycle. Every breath we take contains oxygen from every plant on land and in the sea, as well as whatever billows from every factory chimney and vehicle on Earth.

The web of all living things constantly partakes of and cleanses, replenishes and restores air, water, soil and energy.

In this way of seeing the world, we are not only recipients of nature's most vital gifts - we are participants in her cycles.

Whatever we toss without a thought or deliberately dump into our surroundings doesn't simply vanish or dilute away. Our use of air, water and soil as garbage



David Suzuki

dumps means those pollutants move through the biosphere, ecosystems, habitats and, eventually, our own bodies and cells.

Environmentalism is recognition of this. We need all people — plumbers, teachers, doctors, carpenters, garage mechanics, businesspeople, artists, scientists — to see and understand the world that way because once we "get it", we treat our surroundings in a radically different way, with the respect that we should have toward our own bodies and loved ones.

For most of human existence, we were hunters/gatherers who understood how deeply embedded in and utterly dependent on nature we were. Until we

underwent the massive transformation from agrarian life to big-city dwelling, people knew we were part of nature and needed nature for survival.

We watched the skies for hints of a change in weather or for the first sighting of migrating birds. We welcomed the first signs of spring thaw or indicators winter was on its way.

Today, we spend less and less of our time outside. I have a friend who lives in the north end of Toronto in an air-conditioned high-rise building. On weekdays, he goes down the elevator into the basement where he climbs into his air-conditioned car to drive to the air-conditioned commercial building where he works. That building is connected through a series of tunnels to vast shopping malls and food marts.

"I really don't have to go outside for days," he once told me.

Ours is a shattered world, with torrents of information assaulting us from every angle.

Reports about floods and droughts and sea ice and climate change get sandwiched between clips about scandals and celebrities, so we view them as isolated events.

We tend to think of environmental-

ists as folks concerned about nature or an endangered species or threatened ecosystem.

Environmentalists are accused of caring more for spotted owls or trees than people and jobs. That's absurd.

Environmentalists are accused of caring more for spotted owls or trees than people and jobs. That's absurd.

In seeing a world of interconnections, we understand people are at the heart of a global ecocrisis and that genuine sustainability means also dealing with issues of hunger and poverty, of inequity and lack of justice, of terrorism, genocide, and war, because so long as these issues confront humanity, sustainability will be a low priority.

In our interconnected world, all of these issues are a part of the unsustainable path we are on. If we want to find solutions, we have to look at the big picture.