

# Admit it, haven't we all sneaked in a snooze?

I'm a homebrew columnist who prefers to keep penned ponderings within the boundaries of the vicinity where I reside.

That's Whitchurch-Stouffville. However, on occasions, I'm prompted to extend my discernments beyond municipal frontiers. This is one of those weeks.

My concern relates to a Toronto parks employee allegedly caught sleeping on the job. While the photo, published on page 6 of the Oct. 17 Toronto Sun is, on the surface, reproving evidence, who's to know what perpetrated the prone position of the wearied worker or if, in fact, he was sleeping at all.

Perhaps he had a headache, a toothache or merely relaxing during a mid-morning coffee break. Only he, whoever he may be, really knows. While pictures seldom lie, neither do they always tell the truth. For want of certainty, let's give the guy a break.

Regardless, if the employee had, momentarily, drifted into dreamland, was this a horrific occurrence? With all other current and more perilous problems plaguing

Toronto's city hall, this one, in my opinion, hardly warranted the reverberations that resulted. I call it comic relief.

Before lowering the boom on the party in question we should look within ourselves. Have we, while on the job, not become so overcome with exhaustion as to seek a little shut-eye? I have. And likely you have, too.

However, with hand-held camera technology being what it is today, a quiet and seemingly private siesta can quickly become a public and condemning nightmare.

As for personal experiences, we can vividly recall a Township of Uxbridge official dozing off during a mid-afternoon meeting. No one appeared to notice or, if they did, appeared to care. Not until the usual adjournment vote did someone bother to wake him up.

To my knowledge, town Mayor Wayne Emmerson's can never be accused of sleeping at the switch. That's not to say he hasn't occasionally wiped sand from his eyes when debates over minor regional issues extended past his powers of concentration.



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

Let's face it, there are limits to what anyone can endure. Including me.

I well remember sitting in a semi-conscious state while my third form math teacher attempted to penetrate my mind with the essence of the Pythagorean Theorem. But I wasn't alone. Half the class was similarly comatose.

Years later, while seated in the editor's chair of this newspaper, I'd often be overcome by the intensity of slumber supremacy, particularly near the end of a 15-hour day.

Pat Wheeler once did a characteristic cartoon. She had me totally

flaked, surrounded by a camera, typewriter and telephone with five Zs above my head. An accurate 3 a.m. portrayal. Fortunately for me, my publisher wasn't privileged to see it.

While en route home after working the security night shift at Newmarket's Upper Canada Mall, I was often incapacitated by sleep. Rather than endanger my own life or the lives of others, I would redirect the car from the road into the parking lot beside Whitchurch Highlands school where I'd catch a few winks.

Several times, my rest was unceremoniously interrupted by curious York Regional police officers. But better safe than sorry I said. And they agreed. No trespass charges were ever laid.

Again, while doing the night stint at Markham's AMICA, Swan Lake, it was always an ongoing struggle to stay awake. With only the tweets of a caged canary to break the silence, remaining alert wasn't easy. But I did, realizing falling asleep was a probable reason for dismissal.

It was much the same while employed at a Hong Kong bank in

downtown Toronto. I commuted to and from by GO train, sleeping all the way down and all the way back. Certainly not enjoyable company for the passenger seated next to me.

While loathe to acknowledge, church can be the worst sleep initiator should the sermon last longer than 30 minutes, the hymns surpass six verses or the service exceeds two hours. Little wonder many worshippers crave cushions for their chairs. Perhaps, in some cases, pillows in the pews would be even more appreciated.

This being said, what action should Mayor Rob Ford and Councillor Giorgi Mammoliti take in penalizing the parks employee office-napper?"

My New World dictionary sleep as: "A natural, regularly recurring condition of rest for the body and mind."

So why not give the self-effacing slacker the benefit of the doubt and do nothing. To me it would seem he's already suffered enough.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

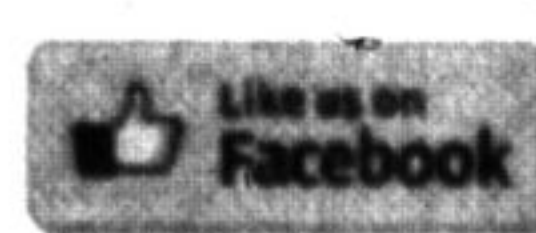


**Preventing the flu is everyone's responsibility**



**Get the Shot!**

Everyone aged 6 months and older who live, work or attend school in York Region should get the flu shot. The flu vaccine is available at no cost to all Ontario residents.



## 2013 Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics

### Aurora

The Royal Canadian Legion  
89 Industrial Pkwy. North  
Aurora  
October 29, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Newmarket

The Regional Municipality of York  
- Administrative Centre Great Hall  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket  
October 28, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### East Gwillimbury

Ross Family Complex  
- Gymnasium  
19300 Centre Street  
Mount Albert  
November 18, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Holland Landing Community Centre  
- York Trillium Room  
19513 Yonge Street  
Holland Landing  
November 4, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Georgina

Georgina Pool Leisure Complex  
- Multi-Use Purpose Room  
5279 Black River Road  
Sutton  
November 29, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Georgina Ice Palace

- Hall  
90 Wexford Drive  
Keswick  
November 12, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### King

King City Arena  
- Arena Hall  
25 Doctors Lane  
King City  
November 25, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Trislan Centre

- Multi-purpose room  
25 Dillane Drive  
Schomberg  
November 20, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Richmond Hill

The Royal Canadian Legion  
233 Centre Street East  
Richmond Hill  
November 22, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Oak Ridge's Community Centre

- Program Room 1  
12895 Bayview Ave.  
Richmond Hill  
November 26, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Markham

Angus Glen Community Centre  
- Activity Room 1  
3990 Major Mackenzie Drive E.  
Markham  
November 5, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Cornell Community Centre

- Rehearsal Hall  
3201 Bur Oak Ave.  
Markham, ON  
November 21, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Thornhill Community Centre

- Centre Hall  
7755 Bayview Ave.  
Thornhill  
November 19, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Vaughan

Vaughan Mills Mall  
- Bass Pro Court  
1 Bass Pro Mills Drive  
Vaughan  
November 2, 2013 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Vellore Village Community Centre

- Activity Room 1  
1 Villa Royale Ave.  
Woodbridge  
November 23, 2013 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Whitchurch-Stouffville

Lebovic Leisure Centre  
- Large Multi-Purpose Room  
30 Burkholder Street  
Stouffville  
November 7, 2013 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.